

WOMEN IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

PHOENIX, AZ

In the nation's southern border state, a place that was supposed to reap the benefits of free trade with Mexico, workers explained how ill-conceived trade treaties like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) have not lived up to the promise of a better life for workers in the US and other countries.

CLUW members held a special conference here to link women globally. The goal, according to CLUW President Gloria Johnson, "Is to support trade that improves wages, living standards and working conditions and to expose the exploitation of workers and women that is being promoted



AnaElsa Aviles of the AFL-CIO
Solidarity Center

by US multi-national corporations."

In Arizona, a state that was promised more jobs through NAFTA, the economy is sputtering. "NAFTA is a failure," said Carrie Biggs-Adams, International Affairs Representative, CWA. "A Mexican consumer market for goods produced by U.S. manufacturers never materialized because the multinational companies that were producing goods in Mexico deserted the maquiladoras for cheaper labor in China."



CWA's Carrie Biggs-Adams

www.cluw.org



CLUW RELEASES HIT AND MS LIST

For pushing America into war against world public opinion and the will of the United Nations and endangering the lives of thousands of innocent women and children, **President George Bush** and **US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld** top this year's list of CLUW "Hits," or people who have stood in the way of progress for women and minorities.

Each year, as part of Working Women's Awareness Week, CLUW publishes a "Hit and Ms." List of those who have helped and hindered the progress of women over the past twelve months.

"The President is a leading hinderer or 'Hit' for the second year in a row not only because he is putting millions of people in harm's way due to his policy toward Iraq, but he is endangering our livelihoods too with his

continued on p. 3

continued on p. 8

Don't Forget

April
Holocaust Remembrance Month,
Sexual Assault Awareness Month

April 15, 2003
Equal Pay Day

April 28, 2003
Workers' Memorial Day

May
Asian-Pacific American Heritage
Month

May 1
May Day (International Worker's
Day)

May 11-17, 2003
Working Women's Awareness
Week- Women Together: Fighting
Back*

May 15
CLUW Chapter Annual Reports Due

June
Gay Pride Month

June 5-8, 2003
National Executive Board Lobby
Day, Conference and Meeting
Hilton Crystal City
Arlington, VA 22202
703-418-6800 x5799 (reservations)*

12th Biennial Convention
October 9-12, 2003
The Westin
Seattle, Washington

*(see www.cluw.org for details)

CLUW NEWS

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C L U W P O I N T

Was This the Time for a Tax Cut?



Gloria T. Johnson, CLUW President

CLUW members are deeply concerned about the safety of American and British troops in Iraq and hope for their speedy return. We also prayed that the lives of innocent Iraqi civilians, especially women and children, were spared in the conflict. For the friends and family of those in the military

who are deployed in the Middle East, our prayers are with you and your loved ones.

CLUW wholeheartedly supports our troops, but we don't support this war. Nor did we believe it was prudent for the President to push another huge tax cut for the rich at a time when we will have to pay for the war effort and struggle to preserve important programs that help women, children, elderly, poor and other vulnerable populations.

To help pay for the war, Bush initially requested over \$74.5 billion dollars for short-term expenses. This will not begin to pay the entire bill, but is a down payment for an effort that is getting little financial support from other nations. At the same time, the President proposed a new round of tax cuts that would total \$700 billion. Add this to his \$1.35 trillion tax cut package that was passed two years ago and today's sputtering economy and we were bound for long-term deficits.

Due to the weakened US economy, federal and state budgets are shrinking. Congress needs to add a drug benefit to Medicare, provide some health insurance coverage to the 41 million Americans who are uninsured, and shore up the future solvency of Social Security just to mention a few of the huge domestic issues it must solve.

With less money, states are fighting hard to preserve important programs that provide health care, child care, education, training and other services aimed at working families.

The idea of tax cuts to stimulate the economy is based on the theory that the money saved on taxes will be spent. But the President's tax cut proposal only gave long-term tax breaks to the wealthy who are more likely to save the money.

According to the National Women's Law Center, nearly half (49%) of women who are heads of households would get nothing from this plan. In addition, half (49 %) of women will receive less than \$100. Over half of the tax cut benefits (54%) would go to the top one percent of income earners.

CLUW opposes any plan to cut taxes for the rich that will drain federal and state coffers, inflate the national debt, and make it harder to preserve and expand important programs that help women and working families. We need to make sure members of Congress know that the Bush tax plan is wrong for workers and wrong for America.

Moving?

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Union Affiliation _____

Please, Let us know your change of address. Send this coupon to: CLUW, 1925 K Street, NW, #402, Washington, DC 20006

ECONOMY, CONTINUED

AnaElsa Aviles of the AFL-CIO Solidarity Center, has spent the past 15 years helping workers in the US and Mexico. Her facts are gruesome. "In Juarez, Mexico, home of 300 US manufacturers, women are being murdered in droves. Last year, 300 women were killed. Scores more were raped, bound and left for dead in ditches. The Mexican government and President Fox are doing nothing to protect this vulnerable population." (see postcard, right)

Most workers in the US-owned plants in Juarez are women ages 16-25. At a time of rising unemployment and crime in the border towns, the well-being of women workers is not even an afterthought. "Many young women are forced to walk miles home in the dark," Aviles explained. "This has led to an open season on their safety."

According to a March 22, 2003, Washington Post story on NAFTA, 19 million more Mexicans are living in poverty today than 20 years ago. The story also cited that Mexico's inability to enforce the rule of law also discourages the investment needed to create jobs.

With the U.S. Government now in speedy negotiations to extend free trade to Central and South America, CLUW members listened to the challenges and human rights violations workers in these nations face.

Columbia is one nation that receives much financial assistance from the US, but is an abysmal violator of workers' rights. Ibeth Vergara, a school teacher in that nation, shocked CLUW members with violent stories about an open-season on those who want to improve the lives of Colombian workers. Vergara said, "Last year there were 30,000 homicides in

Columbia. Of those, 172 trade unionists were assassinated, 164 received death threats, 26 were kidnapped, seven disappeared and 50 families were forced to flee into exile."

Vergara's own life was threatened when funeral flowers arrived at her family's doorstep with a sympathy card on Ibeth's passing. Being hosted in the US by the AFL-CIO Solidarity Center, Vergara has taken huge risks to educate the American public and learn from labor leaders. Last year, the Solidarity Center hosted 28 Colombian trade unionists to develop their organizing skills, teach them English and take them out of life-threatening situa-



Help Workers in Juarez

Postcards to Mexican President Vicente Fox are available by contacting the AFL-CIO Department of International Affairs.

tions for a period of time. In addition, a unique fund by the CWA donates ten cents from workers paychecks to bring Colombian labor leaders to the US for six months of training. This is one way unionists are showing their solidarity.

Cathy Feingold of the AFL-CIO outlined several other ways concerned women can make a difference in Ibeth's life and in the world economy. "Host a trade unionist, learn to speak another language, don't buy goods produced in sweatshops, support the Wal-Mart campaign. These are simple and effective ways to help change people's worlds and our own."

Ways union women can support Colombian workers:

- Organize a delegation of women to accompany Ibeth back to Colombia to ensure her safe return.
- Develop a sister city program.
- Put information on local websites about the Colombia program.
- Share information about the program with universities and labor study programs.
- Educate Congresspeople-write letters asking them to stop military aid to Colombia.
- Ask for speakers from the Colombia program to participate in women's summer institutes.
- Organize internships at unions for Colombian participants.
- Connect with Latino organizations doing this work in your community
- Develop factsheets on Columbia for CLUW lobby day.

Ways to help workers in Mexico:

- Educate workers who have lost their jobs due to NAFTA about why this is happening.
- Educate people about migrant workers in US.
- Educate about conditions of women workers in Mexican sweatshops.
- Participate in the Juarez postcard campaign.
- Organize worker-to-worker exchanges.
- Participate in international union summer.
- Organize delegations to Mexico.
- Use media and popular education to educate people about the situation of women workers in Mexico.
- To learn more about how to support workers rights in Columbia and other nations, go to www.solidaritywithcolumbia.org, or www.aflcio.org.



Our Best Homeland Security

Government employees are proud to make America work. They are always on the job for our nation. But if the Bush administration has its way, the transfer of

billions of taxpayer dollars—and control of public services on which citizens rely—will go to corporations like Halliburton, Enron and other big-business campaign donors and profiteers. The administration has already announced its intent to privatize more than one million federal and postal jobs in the next two years. Plans are afoot to outsource some 850,000 federal jobs to private corporations, and the president has appointed a Commission on the U.S. Postal Service, apparently concocted to justify the farming out of postal workers' jobs to corporate contractors.

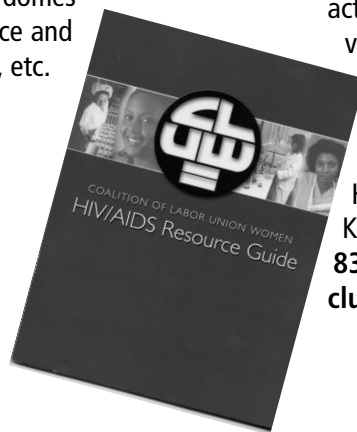
To learn more about how AFGE is fighting privatization that threatens quality public service and its campaign to keep our skies safe by organizing airport screeners call AFGE at 1-866-392-6832.

■ HIV/AIDS PROGRAM UPDATE

CLUW and New Perspectives Consulting conducted HIV/AIDS focus groups in Chicago, Philadelphia, and Detroit. Each chapter proposed several activities they could do to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and the resources they would need to make it happen. Some of the suggested activities include a one-day conference, educational events targeted to women and youth and union workshops. The following new materials are now available to help chapters plan their own activities:

HIV/AIDS Resource Guide

The Resource Guide was developed to help chapters with their program activities. The guide includes fundraising tips, how to select and conduct activities, how to work with different groups, and fact sheets on women and HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, domestic violence and HIV/AIDS, etc.



Posters

Two new posters are available in English and Spanish to help chapters promote their HIV/AIDS programs. One poster is targeted to women to alert them to their increasing risk for HIV/AIDS. The other poster has a general message that includes three activities that unions/chapters can do to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS.

HIV/AIDS Lapel Pin

Now you can show your solidarity and commitment to HIV/AIDS by wearing the CLUW AIDS pin as shown here.



Coming Soon

An HIV/AIDS Project video that will feature CLUW leadership and AFL-CIO labor representatives discussing the global and domestic impact of HIV/AIDS on the labor movement and why it is important for labor to maintain an active presence on this issue. The video will be available Spring 2003.

For free materials and more information about the CLUW HIV/AIDS program, contact Karen McMillan at 202-223-8360, ext.7 or kmcmillan@cluw.org.

■ EQUAL PAY DAY

Women continue to earn only 76 cents to each dollar earned by their male counterparts. CLUW helped raise awareness during Equal Pay Day on April 15. CLUW is also an active participant in the National Committee on Pay Equity (NCPE). Founded in 1979, NCPE is the national membership coalition of over 80 organizations — including labor unions, women's and civil rights organizations, religious, professional, education and legal associations, commissions on women, state and local pay equity coalitions and individual women and men — working to eliminate sex- and race-based wage discrimination and to achieve pay equity.

■ HEALTH TIP: BIPOLAR DISORDER

Brought to you by the Women's Health Task Force

Mental illness is a common human malady. It can be minor or severe, chronic or acute. Many people have mental illnesses that can be well controlled with appropriate medication and treatment, just as persons with diabetes, asthma and other chronic health conditions.

Bipolar disorder used to be called manic-depressive illness. An estimated 2.5 million Americans have this condition. When a person has bipolar disorder, their mood swings go from one extreme to the other. Feelings and energy are extremely high during the mania phase, and very low in the depression phase. While all persons have mood swings as they go through different life experiences and phases, these mood changes are greatly exaggerated in persons with bipolar disorder and can have a profound effect on the functioning of these individuals.

Bipolar disorder often starts during adolescence, but it can also begin later in life. The cause of this condition is unknown but may include chemical changes or imbalances in the brain. Experiencing

very stressful or disturbing events can cause mood swings. Genetics may be another factor, as close relatives of persons with bipolar disorder are up to 20 times more likely to have depression or bipolar disorder than other persons. More than half of the people diagnosed with bipolar disorder have a history of substance abuse. With some persons, alcohol or other drugs are used as a form of self-medication. With other persons, substance abuse occurs before bipolar disorder is diagnosed.

Symptoms of depression include poor appetite or eating too much, difficulty sleeping or sleeping too much, loss of interest in activities, withdrawal, feelings of sadness, fatigue and lack of energy, feeling worthless, guilty, nervous or worried, inability to concentrate, risk-taking behaviors, chronic pain, and repeated thought of death or suicide. According to the National Mental Health Association, one-of-five people with bipolar disorder commit suicide.

Symptoms of mania include racing thoughts, rapid talking, restlessness, excessive energy, little need for sleep, very happy feelings,

irritability, denial that anything is wrong, exaggerated notions of one's ability, poor judgment, unusual behavior over a period of time, increased sex drive and substance abuse, aggressive and paranoid behavior.

Bipolar disorder can be controlled with medical treatment. Any person with symptoms of a mental disorder should seek treatment. Continued misunderstanding and stigma about mental illness often prevents people from seeking the care that they need. Medical insurance should cover mental illness as well as physical illness. Persons with bipolar disorder can be helped with treatments that include medication, counseling, advice and support of others with this disorder, stress reduction classes and other activities that complement medical treatment. It is important that persons with this disorder receive support and understanding of friends and family. For more information, contact the National Mental Health Association at www.nmha.org or 1-800-969-NMHA.

Thank You

To become a contributing (\$50), supporting (\$75), or sustaining (\$150) member of CLUW, please make checks payable to CLUW Treasurer Susan Phillips at the National CLUW Office.

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STOPPING THE WAR



Gloria Johnson at the Code Pink rally.

CAPITOL-AREA CLUW

CLUW helped lead protests against President Bush's war in Iraq on International Women's Day on March 8, and April Fools' Day. CLUW also passed an anti-war resolution at the March NEB (see www.cluw.org for full text of the resolution).

At a Code Pink organized protest that drew thousands of women to the nation's capitol, CLUW members joined the march to the White House with one thing in mind, stopping a war in Iraq.

"Women question why the Bush administration is pushing a



Above: DC CLUW urged Whole Foods workers in Falls Church, VA to join UFCW Local 400.

multi-trillion dollar tax cut and a \$75 billion war chest, when working families here at home need good jobs, health care, schools and pensions," said Gloria Johnson.

At the Code Pink Rally in March, Johnson shared the stage with Alice Walker, Amy Goodman, Janeane Garofalo, Michelle Shocked and many others. On April Fool's Day, CLUW joined other union members to tell President Bush to stop the war, create jobs and lift the economy!

DC CLUW

DC CLUW held its annual Gloria Johnson Awards luncheon to honor some outstanding leaders. Recently retired AFT Human Rights Director Barbara Van Blake received the chapter's "Gloria Johnson Award." AFGE Local 3407 President Marilyn Merry received the "Lifetime Achievement Award" and a Special Award was presented to Maryland State Vice President Veronica Turner who was elected to the Maryland General Assembly last November.



DC CLUW Chapter award winners Barbara Van Blake, Marilyn Merry and Veronica Turner at the Awards luncheon.

TWIN CITIES

To educate people about pay equity, this chapter developed an "Equal Pay Day" packet of information, sent letters to the editors of smaller community papers and asked the Twin Cities Religion and Labor Network to publish information in church bulletins.



Above: l to r Janet E. Nelson (AFSCME) National Vice President; Selene McCoy (UAW) National VP; Bev Hall (UAN) State VP MN; Nancy LeMont (IAM) ASVP MN; Jeanette Davis (IUE-CWA) Chapter President Greater Miami Valley, Ohio; Ellen Wakefield (CWA) Chapter President Ft. Worth, Texas; Cindy Fitch (CWA) Chapter President, Dallas, Texas.



Above: Newly-elected National Vice President Janet Nelson (AFSCME).

LOCAL NEWS, CONTINUED

METRO DETROIT

This Chapter is deeply saddened by the passing of its Second VP, Bernice Price (UAW). Price was a founding member of CLUW and served as Chapter VP since 1976. Price had a lifetime of commitment to union activities, political action and women's rights. She served as a precinct delegate in Detroit for over 20 years. In addition to being Chairperson of the Retiree Chapter of UAW Local 51, she also served as chairperson of its Women's Committee.

In commemoration of Women's History Month, Metro Detroit CLUW and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom held an evening with Detroit City Council President Maryann Mahaffey.

The Chapter also joined a Labor for Peace rally in February to speak out against the war.

RESOLUTIONS

CLUW OPPOSES BUSH'S COURT PACKING

In his most recent move to infuriate union members, President Bush nominated Miquel Estrada to the US Court of Appeals, DC Circuit, the second most powerful court in the country. Backed by ultraconservatives staunchly opposed to the AFL-CIO and its allies, Estrada is yet another Bush appointee with a track record of insensitivity to the needs of workers, seniors and the poor.

PUTTING WOMEN'S HEALTH FIRST

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the primary cause of cervical cancer that claims over 4,000 US women's lives each year. Early detection not only saves lives, but it can save health plans which would be forced to pay more for the cases not caught in early stages.

CLUW is talking to unions and union health plans about the importance of giving women access to the new technology that can provide today's most reliable screening. In addition, CLUW members are working with

their unions to secure full coverage for FDA-approved HPV/DNA testing for cervical cancer and taking part in "Putting Women's Health First," a national partnership program to provide up-to-date reproductive health-care information for women.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

CLUW members were outraged that President Bush weighed in against the University of Michigan's affirmative action program before the case was heard by the Supreme Court in April. This effort undermines CLUW's continuing efforts to win equal opportunity for all.

CLUW OPPOSES WAR IN IRAQ

CLUW members passed a resolution in March expressing their opposition to the war. See story on page 6, and for full text of this and other resolutions, visit www.cluw.org.

These resolutions were adopted on March 15 by the CLUW NEB.

CLUW Membership Application

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Enclosed are my CLUW dues for one year.

☐ \$30 ☐ \$15 (retiree)

I am a member of a bona fide collective bargaining organization.

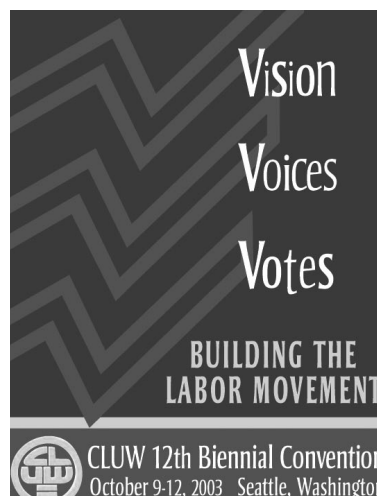
Signature _____

Date _____

clip and send! ✂

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DON'T FORGET!

12th Biennial Convention
October 9-12, 2003
The Westin
Seattle, Washington

Look for the CLUW Convention Call in June. Find out more about a special health conference and health fair, workshops and speakers.

HIT AND MS, cont'd

policies toward working women and families," said CLUW President Gloria Johnson.

Johnson said, "Bush's tax cut proposal that favors the rich and gives little to working Americans is unfair, will jeopardize important state and federal programs that help women and workers and will not stimulate the economy. His proposal is a failure for average American families."

In addition, Bush is attempting to privatize thousands of federal jobs and deny collective bargaining rights to others and has become the focus of campaigns by AFGE to provide workers collective bargaining rights and to improve the quality of public services.

Another tie to the President, **Dr. W. David Hager**, an appointee to the Reproductive Health Drugs Advisory Committee received a "Hit" for denying unmarried women access to mainstream reproductive health drugs and medical technology because of his personal religious beliefs.

On the other hand, **CWA Local 1096** was named a "Ms." for filing legal charges against Dow Jones to win contraceptive coverage in their employer-sponsored health plan. This has helped open the door for many other unions seeking similar coverage. (see Contraceptive Equity Honor Roll on www.cluw.org)

US Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) was awarded a "Ms." nomination for becoming the House minority leader in January. By doing so, Pelosi holds the highest position of a woman in either party.

Another California **Representative Barbara Lee** (D) received a "Ms." nomination for being the only member of Congress to vote against the open ended resolution authorizing President Bush to declare war on any persons, organizations or nations deemed responsible for the September 11 attacks.

For all of their dedication to working Americans, **Paul Wellstone** and **Sheila Wellstone** were also "Ms." Nominations for advancing the rights of working people. The Minnesota Senator, who was tragically lost last fall, was a

champion for working people everywhere.

One more champion for workers and civil rights, **Nancy Wohlforth** received a "Ms." Nomination. Wohlforth became Secretary-Treasurer of OPEIU this year and is co-chair of the labor-sponsored "Pride at Work," an organization that protects the rights of gay and lesbian workers. Her post at OPEIU is a remarkable achievement for a leader of an important constituency group.

Head of the National Council of Women's Organizations **Martha Burk** was named a "Ms." for taking on the stodgy leadership at the Augusta National Golf Club for its' "no women" policy.

Coleen Rowley, Cynthia Cooper and **Sharon Watkins** each received "Ms." nominations for blowing the whistle on FBI intelligence failures and the faulty accounting practices of Enron and MCI Worldcom, two companies that defrauded both their employees and investors.

A number of US-based corporations were named "Hits" this year for anti-worker, anti-union policy. **Wal-Mart** continues to lead the pack and is the target of union protests for the unfair treatment of women and workers. A UFCW-led campaign to draw public attention to the company's poor behavior is one priority of CLUW.

This year **Cintas** was added to the list of "Hits." UNITE is spearheading a public awareness campaign against the largest uniform rental provider and industrial launderer in North America. This company has prospered at the expense of its employees, crushing their attempts to organize unions and is committing countless labor law, discrimination and wage violations.

The investment bank **Morgan Stanley** was also slapped with a "Hit" for advising its clients to pull investments out of heavily unionized industries and businesses.

One more "Hit" this year was the **Independent Women's Forum**, which has been working to oppose Title IX, Affirmative Action, and guaranteed Social Security benefits.



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