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America and race: 318,881,992 shades of grey

By Aaron Matthew

I chose the title because the current population of the United States according to the U.S. Census is 318,881,992 people. However, I choose to call the country in which I live just America. You might say: no, it's the United States of America, but I beg to differ. How can we call ourselves United when we live in a country of such hatred that's filled with racism? Doesn't United mean a people that are together or combined into a single entity? We are neither! So I will call us America, until I am convinced otherwise.

For far too long there has been such racial dissension and oppression in this country. Mostly from the white population. I am from South Alabama where it's far too apparent what white people think about the minority, and I am not just talking about the bigotry shown towards blacks either. Racial bigotry is being shown towards the Mexican, Asian, Middle Eastern, and black people. How can a country as powerful as ours expect to continue its power and longevity when it shows a fundamental weakness in the intolerable hate we show towards each other as a people?

I recently went to a tobacco shop here in Dothan where I walked into a most distasteful conversation among a group of older gentlemen. Eavesdropping on their conversation I heard one of them say, "These damn n-----s are stealing our



tax money because they are all on welfare and receiving government assistance." The Mexicans are stealing everyone's jobs, and all the Arabs are insurgents and terrorists! Being the non-confrontationalist that I am, I hesitated to say anything, but uncontrollable rage got the better of me.

I told the man, "Well, sir, I know just as many whites that receive government assistance as I do anyone. The Mexicans are working jobs that Americans are too prideful and lazy to do, and the

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Arabs wouldn't be over here if we weren't blowing up their homes in our wars." I then told the man that they have as much right to be over here as we do. He kept on using the word n----- and I simply explained to him that the word is used by a person who's ignorant, used as a disparaging term for a

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member of any socially, economically, or politically deprived group of people, and that the way he was loosely using it was just out of ignorance. He became angered with me and left.

See, there are three types of racist down here in the South:

1. There are your generational (or hereditary) racists. They are the ones who have had the seeds of racism passed down to them from family who don't know any better. They keep to themselves about their thoughts and views on anyone that is not of white skin because of the fear of backlash from the community or fear that they might work for or with someone of a different ethnic background.

2. You have your Klu Klux Klan racists who hide behind their racism but will cause harm to any minority if they have the chance and know they can get away with it.

3. You have your fascist (or Third Reich as I like to call them) racists, who will openly admit their ways and cause harm or malice to anyone despite the consequences.

To me all three forms are despicable and in-

tolerable. This country will never gain ground in any way, shape or form if we can't simply walk hand in hand and learn to love one another. I think of all the great leaders of racial equality through the years like Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, John Brown, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Frederick Douglass, Thurgood Marshall, Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, Russell Means, Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm Little (or Malcolm X) and many others who have defended social equality and justice. I think that it will not take just one great person to overthrow the bigotry and racism in our nation, but that we will all have to see 318,881,992 shades of grey in order to finally put the past behind us and move forward to a future that's bright and filled with possibility in order to achieve true success as a country.



Aaron Matthew writes for Peoplesworld.

Sen. Bernie Sanders' momentum continues to surge

By Stewart Acuff

A straw poll conducted at the Wisconsin Democratic Convention Gives Sanders 41 percent support.

Yes, it's only a straw poll in one state but with each bit of news like this--doubling his support in Iowa, Sunday morning talk shows every weekend, huge and overwhelming crowds at his rallies including 4,000 people at a rally in Portsmouth, NH, raising well over \$4 million in two weeks from small donors, signing up 200,000 supporters and volunteers; with every bit of news like this Bernie Sanders becomes more viable as a candidate for president of the United States.

The reason more and more Democrats are drawn to Bernie's candidacy is not ideological. It is common sense to Save America and her people.

He knows the top .1 of the top one percent are taking any and all gains from growth in the economy.

Bernie knows the mega Trans Pacific Partnership trade deal is a disaster for working people here and around the world just as every mega

trade deal negotiated in secret by corporate attorneys and passed by a Congress that doesn't know what's in it has been.

Bernie wants to get off defense and start playing offense on benefits for our elders. He refuses to debate cutting Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. He will fight to expand them.

He wants public college and university to be free for students who work and keep up their grades - not just so those individual students do better but so America does better with a better trained work force - an educated citizenry necessary for democracy.

And perhaps most importantly because it is a prerequisite for everything we want to do to better the lives of average Americans, Bernie Sanders wants to change labor law to open up the opportunity to form unions and bargain collectively to more and more people. And he wants to make sure workers are not intimidated, retaliated against or terminated for exercising the First Amendment on the job.

The more people who support Sanders, the more who are drawn to his candidacy.

Unions ramp up pressure ahead of Fast Track vote



Special to Peoplesworld

The AFL-CIO is ramping up efforts to stop Fast Track with a targeted advertising blitz against undecided members of Congress.

The ads reflect the sentiment of working families who are vehemently opposed to giving Fast Track authority to another bad trade deal that costs American jobs.

The Coalition to Stop Fast Track, which the AFL-CIO is a part of, is up with a TV ad in DC and across California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nebraska, North Carolina, Texas and Washington.

The ad focuses on how fast track will stifle America's ingenuity and cost jobs by stacking the deck in favor of multinational corporations, driving down wages and undercutting our nation's competitive edge.

The AFL-CIO is also running a TV ad in Sacramento criticizing Rep. Ami Bera for his support of fast track and posted a classified ad in the Sacramento Bee, on Career Builder and on Sacramento Craigslist, looking for a Congressman in CA-7 with a backbone.

This evening the New York State AFL-CIO will rally to hold Congresswoman Rice accountable for her fast track flip flop.

On the digital front, the AFL-CIO purchased a digital ad buy in The New York Times, Washington Post, Politico and The Hill. The message: Fast Track Kills Jobs, Drives Down Wages, & Weakens Competition. The ads ran through June 14.

"The urgency of these actions highlights the commitment working families have to defeating Fast Track. Their actions clearly show that they will not stand for another trade deal riddled with unfulfilled promises," said AFL-CIO Strategic Advisor and Director of Communications Eric Hauser.

Since March, union members and our allies have organized more than 650 events against fast track and thousands of workers have traveled to D.C. to rally and lobby Congress. Unions have made two million phone calls to union members warning against fast track, generated more than 161,000 phone calls and nearly 18,000 handwritten letters to Members of Congress and gathered more than 40,000 petition signatures. Digital advertisements targeting dozens of Members of Congress have made more than 25 million impressions.

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El Che Guevara: Cuatro Facetas

TeleSur

Pese a que provino de una clase argentina bien posicionada, la historia del Che evidencia que desde muy joven quería instaurar cambios. Padeciendo asma desde niño, en la juventud mostró especial interés por investigar posibles curas y hacer menos difícil la vida a las personas que sufrían esa enfermedad. La adolescencia del Che estuvo muy marcada por su convicción transformadora. En esa época, hizo el memorable viaje en motocicleta por América Latina, donde conoció algunas provincias de Argentina, Chile, Perú, Colombia y Venezuela. “Ese vagar sin rumbo por nuestra Mayúscula América me ha cambiado más de lo que creí”, relata una de las crónicas posteriores al viaje.

En su diario personal, el Che relató que la visita a las minas de cobre de Chuquicamata (Chile) resultó particularmente reveladora, porque en ningún lugar como aquel habían chocado con semejante grado de explotación de los obreros, de discriminación del nativo respecto al yanqui. Tras su segundo viaje, en el que conoció Bolivia, Perú, Ecuador, Colombia, Panamá, Costa Rica, El Salvador y Guatemala, da muestras de su profundo humanismo, destaca su modo revolucionario de pensar y ratifica su firme antimperialismo.

Muchos afirman que la calidad literaria de este revolucionario era superior a la del promedio. Es importante decir que el Che no se limitó solo a lo político, en sus textos hay también deportes y cultura. Antes de comenzar a escribir su primer libro “La función del médico en América Latina” (que nunca salió a la luz

pública), el Che ya había publicado dos notas en la Revista Siete y seis en Tackie (una publicación dedicada al público del rugby). Además de esto, el che fue contratado como corresponsal de Agencia Latina, creó el periódico independiente “El Cubano Libre”, dio inicio a las transmisiones de Radio Rebelde y participó en la creación de la agencia Prensa Latina. Uno de sus textos más celebrados fue “El Socialismo y el Hombre Nuevo”, publicado originalmente en el Semanario Marcha.

Ni más grande ni más pequeña que la faceta revolucionaria y humanista, el Che Guevara tenía un lado poético imposible de ocultar y que empezó a desarrollarse incluso desde muy joven. Gadea ha dicho que “Ernesto, cuando estaba cansado de leer, la alzaba y le recitaba cualquier cosa, en voz alta para que yo también la oyera desde el sitio donde me encontrara”. El sentido cultural del Che estaba bastante desarrollado, incluso en la música. Según muchos estudiosos de su figura, esta es probablemente una de las cosas que más hizo despertar su lado humano. De hecho, en ocasiones, él mismo se enfrentó al papel y escribió sus propias líneas.

Al fallecer, el Che dejó a cinco hijos: Hilda, de su primer matrimonio con Hilda Gadea; y los otros cuatro con su segunda esposa, Aleida March. Aleida, la segunda y mayor del segundo matrimonio del Che, siempre lo describe como un hombre no solo tierno y amoroso, sino muy trabajador.

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