

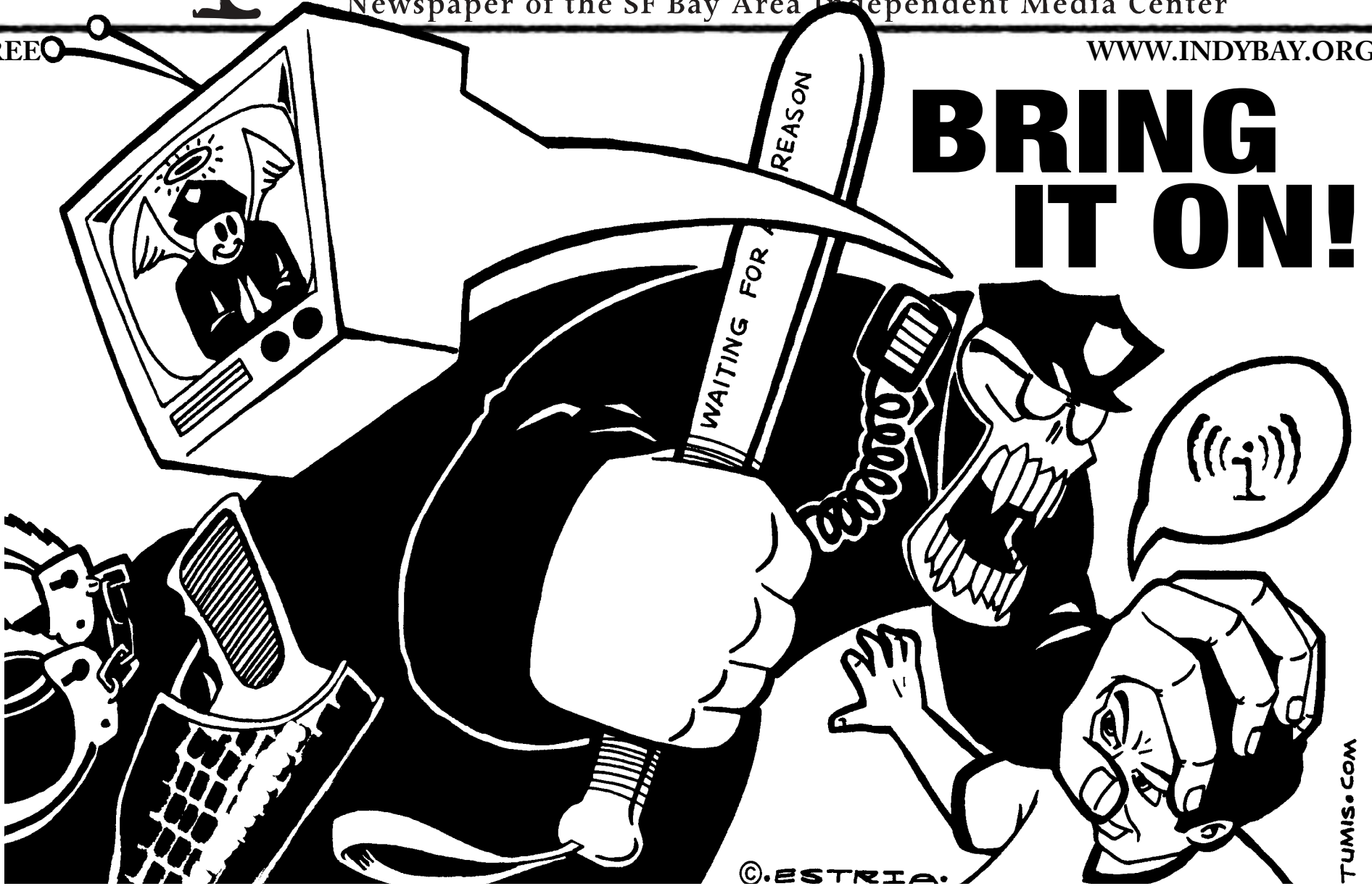
(((i))) Fault Lines

Newspaper of the SF Bay Area Independent Media Center

FREE

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BRING IT ON!



A quick scan through the pages of this newspaper might imply otherwise, but *Fault Lines* does not exist to glorify the spectacle of crowds clashing with police. Our reason for featuring coverage of recent demonstrations in Guadalajara and Georgia and upcoming mass actions planned for New York, Boston and Athens is to expose the corrupt and often brutal tactics that State powers use to punish and deter dissent. This is about repression.

Repression is not only about baton blows and electro-shock, bullets and prison, although these are its tools. As a dual meaning of the word suggests, it has an emotional level below the physical one. Repression is about fear in the service of power.

In any situation where people are living in silence, hiding their identities, or accepting the short end of inequality, repression is just beneath the surface. Just as there could be no slavery without the overseer's whip and the night patrols, there can be no ghettos without prison guards and probation, no occupied territories without gunships and razor wire. When repression strikes you for who you are — for living your life — you are forced to live in fear. You are encouraged to give up equality.

Refuse to be Silent

The people involved with the protests included in this issue converged to oppose injustices ranging from military occupations to less tangible enemies like poverty and sexism. The complexities of any such topic could easily fill an entire newspaper. Constantly evolving, multi-faceted issues can not be accurately debated in the framework of protesters vs. cops, or even the oppressed vs. the oppressors. Subjects like economics, the environment and human rights need to

be dealt with through open discussion, free and creative experimentation and widespread participation. Government policies that affect our society should reflect a just and informed consensus of the people.

By printing resource information and providing a public forum on our website, *Fault Lines* encourages education and debate. But our goal with this issue is to shock you, though we are not presenting these first hand accounts of torture and police brutality to be sensational. These stories are necessary to illustrate the severity of a crisis. Our government does not want us to ask questions; they want us to obey. While government interest in maintaining the status quo is hardly a newflash, the sheer depth and diversity of the repressive tactics described in this issue is perhaps even more shocking than the violence itself. From shady legislation that bestows even more power upon corporate multinationals to open-ended laws that skew university curriculums and curtail freedom of speech, institutional repression is everywhere. We are asking "Why?"

The importance of asking this question became obvious to several members of the *Fault Lines* collective as we were being handcuffed, herded onto armored busses, and locked down in the City Jail last month during a mass arrest in the middle of downtown San Francisco. Although this was a minor incident compared to the grinding, institutionalized repression that disenfranchises entire communities in our own city and across the globe, this example is demonstrative of how swift and unyielding the powers of authority will react in attempting to squash even a small, symbolic resistance. The purpose of the "Reclaim the Streets" gathering at which we were arrested was to temporarily transform a public space into a free

community venue for art and creativity in defiance of the pervasive commercialization of every imaginable aspect of culture. Once the sound system kicked in and the mobile party began dancing down Market Street, toward Justin Hermann Plaza, it was only a matter of minutes before several hundred police in riot gear from various law enforcement agencies surrounded and announced the immediate arrest of the entire group.

The fact that all the charges were dropped within days might suggest that this was pure intimidation to discourage similar actions rather than a legal necessity. But *Fault Lines* doesn't need to promote conspiracies to prove that government repression of non-violent demonstrations is evolving to become more efficient and totalitarian. As an article in this issue about a new Indymedia documentary, *The Miami Model*, illustrates, the rapid spread to protests around the world of this brutal and sophisticated method—and the fact that they already have a name for it—should be proof enough.

The videomakers who produced *The Miami Model* conclude their movie with a scene involving people who came to Florida not only for a protest but also to plant 100 cherry trees in a low-income neighborhood. These people knew that when you are focused only on conflict, you have already been fully repressed. Hope is infinitely more effective than conflict in creating progress. This is why *Fault Lines* also includes articles about a woman who used a police settlement from the shooting of her son to start a community center, activists who rallied around a murder trial to raise money for education, and a woman who refused to let deportation interfere with her solidarity work in the Middle East.

Engaging in acts of optimism and perseverance such as these is an essential component of true activism. If positive social change is the goal, then merely presenting opposition is not enough. In many situations, mass gatherings can be an effective mode of raising awareness and pressuring the target of the protest. In order to be meaningful and not just reactionary, though, opposition and progressive action must depend on the intertwined elements of education and examination. So, as voices and minds everywhere are being repressed, we must continually ask ourselves "Why?" Here's one theory; let us know what you think...

"Historically...those who told the truth about a particular regime have been exiled, jailed, or killed by those in power whose fury has been aroused. To be sure, the obvious explanation is that they were dangerous to their respective establishments, and that killing them seemed the best way to protect the status quo. This is true enough, but it does not explain the fact that the truth-sayers are so deeply hated even when they do not constitute a real threat to the established order. The reason lies, I believe, in that by speaking the truth they mobilize the [psychological] resistance of those who repress it. To the latter, the truth is dangerous not only because it can threaten their power but because it shakes their whole conscious system of orientation, deprives them of their rationalizations, and might even force them to act differently. Only those who have experienced the process of becoming aware of important impulses that were repressed know the earthquakelike sense of bewilderment and confusion that occurs as a result. Not all people are willing to risk this adventure, lest of all those people who profit, at least for the moment, from being blind."

- Erich Fromm, psychoanalyst, author, and activist (1900-1980)



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www.indybay.org**

Office and Mail

2940 16th Street - Suite 216
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 864-1006
Office Hours: MWF 12-5pm

Advertising

faultlines@mutualaid.org

Email

sfbay-print@indymedia.org

Web

Fault Lines: www.indybay.org/FaultLines
SF Bay Area: www.indybay.org
Global: www.indymedia.org

About Indybay

The San Francisco Bay Area Independent Media Center is a non-commercial, democratic collective of Bay Area independent media makers and media outlets, and serves as the local organizing unit of the global Indymedia network.

Fault Lines

Mission Statement

Fault Lines, the newspaper of the San Francisco Bay Area Independent Media Center, aims to give all communities the opportunity to actively participate in a collective process of media production and distribution. By operating with transparency, this newspaper hopes to achieve the goal of allowing the public, not corporate conglomerations, to set the agenda for news coverage. Our mission is to train and empower marginalized voices. This publication was created to be used as a tool for radical change in our communities by exposing the stories and raising the issues that the media plutocracy seeks to suppress. We are the people, we are the media and we are dissenting from the ground up.

Get Involved

The IMC has an open door. You can write for Fault Lines, film events and rallies, self-publish articles to the web, take photos or just help us run the office. As an organization relying entirely on volunteer support, we encourage all forms of participation.

The print working group reserves the right to edit articles for length, content and clarity. We welcome your participation in the entire editorial process.

Fault Lines Volunteers

Lani Riccobuono, Liam O'Donoghue, Ali Tonak, Kelah Bott, jankyHellface, Jamie Hurlburt, David Morse, Upton Sinclair, Carwil James, Pod

Fault Lines Thanks

Balazo Galleria, ACME Independent Media Coalition, The Emma Goldman Archives, Tumi's, The Independent, Howard Quinn Press, (NYC IMC), & the SFPD (for dropping our charges — thanks, boys!)

We'd also like to thank everyone who has donated to Fault Lines, those who have subscribed, and the organizations and small businesses that have advertised within these pages. Your support helps make this happen.

Union Bug

Prisoner of **voices behind bars** Car Culture

International network fights for release of Jeff 'Free' Luers

You can judge my actions, but you can't judge my heart. It can not be said that I am unfeeling and uncaring. My heart is filled with love and compassion. I fight to protect life, all life, not to take it.

*-from Jeff Luers' sentencing statement,
June 11, 2001*

Back in June 2000, a young activist named Jeff Luers, known to his friends as 'Free,' and his friend Craig Marshal set fire to three Sport Utility Vehicles at Romania Chevrolet car lot in Eugene, Oregon, using simple milk jugs of gasoline, incense sticks and matches. Instead of receiving a three-year sentence and fading into the background, Jeff was sentenced to 22.5 years, a punishment usually reserved for the most heinous crimes like rape and murder, not acts of property destruction. While most arsonists in Oregon receive sentences of 50 to 96 months, Jeff got over 230. This disparity of justice immediately alarmed many environmental activists and has remained a rallying point in this community over the past four years.

Since 1996, the Environmental Liberation Front (ELF) and the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) have claimed responsibility for over 200 actions against logging, mining, biotechnology, and animal industries that have caused hundreds of millions of dollars in damage to these companies. Jeff and Craigs' arson was not claimed by the ELF and they have stringently denied involvement in the group. But the vast majority of these actions remain unsolved, leading many to believe that the government was desperate to use a harsh sentence in this case to deter further actions. Although the stated purpose of this action (to raise awareness about global warming and the role that SUVs play in that process) and the fact that they took measures to make sure that no one would be injured as a result, make this a political crime, not a random or self-serving act of violence, the prosecution did everything it could to ensure a trophy conviction.

The prosecution used extremely circumstantial evidence to indict Jeff and Craig for a recent fire at a local gas facility and merged the cases, leaving the defendants with little choice but to plead guilty, in exchange for a lesser sentence, or face the possibility of a lengthy jail term. Craig pled guilty to conspiracy to commit first degree arson and possession of a destructive device and received a five year, five month sentence.

Three days into Jeff's trial, unknown individuals torched 36 SUVs at the same car lot that Jeff and Craig had set fire to a

year earlier, and released a statement proclaiming solidarity with both defendants and criticizing car culture. Worried that this act harmed the possibility of an unbiased jury, Jeff chose to have a judge decide on his innocence or guilt, but he refused to plead guilty to the other arson. He would not let the law force him into a lie, and while he remains in prison, he refuses to give up hope.

Update from Free's Defense Network

This June 12th was an International Day of Action and Solidarity for political prisoner Jeff 'Free' Luers. Supporters gathered in over 25 cities worldwide, holding events which included rallies, community meals, film screenings, concerts and even some street art! Four days prior to June 12, the FBI released their weekly bulletin citing an 'eco-terrorist' alert for June 12 due to the international call for action and solidarity put out by Break the Chains and Free's Defense Network. Despite the fact that this call was not an underground demand for violence or destruction, the FBI continued their campaign to label Jeff the leader of the ELF.

During the week of the 12th, over 50 articles were published in many of the cities that had local events planned. The 'eco-terror alert' only heightened interest in Jeff's case, adding to the media buzz that led to over 20,000 visits to the www.freefreenow.org website on June 12th alone! The International Day of Action and Solidarity truly lived up to its name, as Russian activists spray painted a huge "FREE JEFF LUERS" message on the US embassy in Moscow and activists in Finland, Australia and England held fundraisers and movie screenings.

The main event was held in Eugene, Oregon, and despite a huge forest defense camp and university graduation on the same day more than 200 people showed up. Ramona Africa of the MOVE organization, Claude Marks of the Freedom Archives and Jeff's father, John Luers spoke and music was provided by the Native American band, Blackfire. Hopefully, the funds and petition signatures gathered on this successful day of action will help Free with his appeal, which may go to court as soon as late July.

Dylan Kay contributed to this article and has also written about Free for *Satya* magazine. He can be reached at freefreenow@mutualaid.org. To learn more about this case, visit www.freefreenow.org

Please Take Note

The full story on the Reclaim the Streets arrest mentioned on our cover is available at: www.sfbg.com/38/38/x_life_during_wartime.html

Issue 1 Corrections: • In "Contamination", although the deal offered by Novartis was \$50

million the final agreement signed was for \$25 million. We apologize for misspelling Oaxaca. • Julio Magara-Salugado is the co-author of "Starving for Justice" and illustrated the graphic that accompanied this article.

Dispatch from Jeff Luers May 2004

It feels like it has been a long week but I can't seem to recall doing a whole lot. I think everything just takes longer in here and in the end, I look at it and think "That's all I did? Damn, I feel tired."

I've been having a lot of dialogue with my fellow prisoners about what it would really take to bring change in this country. A lot have different answers and more have no answers at all. One thing is sure— most people want this system gone.

Been writing a lot this week about those talks, trying to develop solutions to our problems. And one thing hit me. We try so hard as a movement to challenge the state, from mass action to clandestine attacks to literature and propaganda. But what do we put back into our communities? There is Food not Bombs. Some cities have guerilla garden projects, and maybe a handful have some squatters or homeless rights actions.

There is not enough happening in the returns department. For change to occur, another viable option has to exist. We are long from creating that, but we can start winning the hearts and minds of our neighbors.

Ever notice how big corporations make big shows at 'giving back' to the community? Honda has an inner city parks programs. Chevron buys land to 'preserve' in the name of conservation. That is valuable propaganda for them. It makes them look good in the public eye.

This is something we can and need to do. Why don't we have our own food banks? I think it would be pretty easy to put together an anarchist/revolutionary/activist (whatever the hell) community service crew. Fixing up folks' leaky roofs, helping people set up gardens, cleaning up parks—anything that shows we want to help our community be a better place. Perhaps, a bike program. Establishing a place to teach people how to read and write. Basically, creating programs that help people.

See, revolution is not about politics—it is about life. This is why we have been so unsuccessful. Most people don't care about the government. They don't vote or pay attention to politics because it doesn't change anything for them. Here we are fighting politics with politics. It doesn't work and we'll never win that way. When we can demonstrate the ability to change lives, we will have the strength we need to challenge the state.

Obviously, it is more difficult than that. But I know real change is going to start in our own streets—not on the streets that the next big protest happens.

Many thanks to all the folks out there holding events and working to get me out of prison. Much love and gratitude to all those struggling to free us all from oppression.

Up the rebels,

Jeffrey Luers #13797671
OSP
2605 State Street
Salem, OR 97310

Contribute to Fault Lines

Fault Lines encourages our readers and members of the community to get involved in making media. Our goal is to train and empower marginalized voices to reclaim our lines of communication and speak truth to power. If you want to write an article, review, or news blurb for Fault Lines, please contact the editors at www.faultlines@riseup.net to begin a collaboration and get our submission guidelines. Submissions of relevant and timely photos and artwork are encouraged as well. Your feedback about what we are (or are not) covering is necessary in creating a news source that truly is a voice of the people. Suggestions regarding our design and readability are also greatly appreciated.

In an age when information and news are so tightly managed and controlled by the corporate media, industry and government, a free, independent and alternative press is essential for any hope of creating a just world.

You can reach us at: sfbay-print@indymedia.org
or
Fault Lines, 2940 16th St Ste 216,
San Francisco, CA 94103.

Keep the articles in Fault Lines alive by posting your comments at www.indybay.org/faultlines/

Torture Continues in Guadalajara

Human rights groups call for release of ALCUE protesters

By MARIA JACKSON

When an estimated 5000 protesters representing farmers' and workers' unions, student groups, and anarchist collectives gathered to rally against the Third Summit of Government and Heads of State of Latin America, the Caribbean, and the European Union (ALCUE) in Guadalajara, Mexico on May 27-29, they were met with tear gas, pepper spray, and an unidentified white foam. 111 protesters were arrested and taken to prisons where many faced extreme beatings, genital electrocution and sexual humiliation. Human rights groups, such as the World Organization Against Torture, have denounced the violent repression of political dissent in Mexico and are now fighting for the release of the remaining detainees, some of whom are still being held on bails as high as \$35,000(US).

The agenda at the ALCUE included many topics (ironically, one major issue was the condemnation of US torture of Iraqi prisoners), but the promotion of expanded free trade agreements was the major focus. Angered by the increased poverty, environmental destruction, and displacement of indigenous peoples (like those in Chiapas, who have armed themselves to prevent their own extinction) caused by such neoliberal trade policies as the North American Free Trade Agreement, demonstrators converged on the barricades surrounding the summit to voice their opposition. The resulting battle between police and protesters spread throughout Guadalajara, Mexico's second largest city, with mainstream radio reporting that police were arresting any young person they found on the streets.

"The police began to beat people randomly," said Marianna, an activist from Mexico City who participates with the collective La Caravana Libertaria. "(They attacked) journalists, women with children, bystanders, and also people who were wearing black, usually young people... they were beating people with cameras and taking the film so that they could have pictures of people who participated in the protest. They even beat foreigners, specifically a Canadian girl, Lalou. Some civilians found her unconscious in a park, totally battered. They took her to the hospital....she has a skull fracture."

During the protesters' retreat, the windows of several commercial businesses and

Marianna said. "There were many undercover police in civil attire, everywhere. We saw groups of people smashing windows randomly, and there were cops right there next to them, but they didn't arrest them."

In addition to the 111 arrests, eight foreigners were deported, and 30 protesters were hospitalized, at least two of whom were in critical condition upon arriving at the hospital. One of them, Liliana Lopez, 22, of Monterrey (Mexico), was jailed before receiving medical treatment. She was later diagnosed with a skull fracture and brain damage, and weeks after the beating complains of blurry vision. She is being charged with assault, but her lawyer maintains that physical evidence will prove that this is impossible.

Intimidation, Interrogation, and Extreme Brutality

Following the initial arrests, detainees, whose names were withheld for nearly 24 hours, were brought to five different jails and two hospitals. As those not being accused of federal crimes were released, reports of incessant beatings, withholding of food and water for more than 48 hours, withholding of medical attention and medication, women being forced to strip and exercise in front of male guards, and electric shocking of genitals and other body parts began to circulate. For the 44 facing charges such as assault, rioting, robbery, and property destruction who were later moved to prison facilities, the torture was just beginning.

Mariana was able to visit one of the 44 detained on federal charges, Mapache, who was identified by police as a "leader" from the first moment of his arrest, although he was not present at the protest. She reports that police demanded that he identify people in photos taken during the protest, photos taken in Oventic, a highly visited Zapatista community in Chiapas (where one must be granted permission to take photos), and photos from the 1999 student strike in Mexico City. She described the results of his refusal to answer: "He was given electric shock treatment to his genitals. He was thrown in a punishment cell with about 25 police, where they were threatening him with rape, pulling down his pants and underwear and laughing. They took him from cell to cell, to point out who was involved and when he refused they ripped his patches off his clothes and

"During the entire night we were hearing how they beat the people in the other cells... there was a moment when I began to hear the police yell, 'Breath, bastard, don't even think we're going to let you die.'"

six banks were broken, but some attribute this destruction to infiltrators, and even suspect that police allowed some of this vandalism to justify their brutality. "There were people that we didn't know, infiltrators with red badges on their shirts, and other groups of people we didn't know or recognize being violent with the police,"

put them in his mouth and told him to swallow them... when he continued to refuse, they told him he was going to find out what 'Jalisco's' Heart is."

'Jalisco's Heart' is a torture method used in which a plastic bag is placed over the victim's head and tied it around the neck. The



An injured protester is taken by police /Carlos Ramos Mamahua, Guadalajara IMC

torturers kick and punch the victim in the stomach, because it causes them to suffocate while gasping for air. According to Marianna, Mapache was subjected to 'Jalisco's Heart' many times. "When I saw him he had bruises covering his face, body and neck," she said.

Despite the severe psychological trauma of the torture, some of those who posted bail have written testimonies of their experience, which support Marianna's allegations. The testimonies describe constant beatings by judicial, state, and federal police. Reports also describe the use of death threats to keep the prisoners from declaring human rights violations such as being forced to drink out of toilets and suck on buttons from their clothes to fight dehydration.

Mauricio, an activist from Mexico City, was arrested hours after the protest, in another part of the city at a bus stop. His testimony, like others, describes beatings, and police "trampling" and "stamping" on him repeatedly. On three separate occasions, he was beaten as punishment for moving his eyes or blinking when sweat fell in them. "Sweat was draining down my forehead and I had to open and close my eyes," he said. "One of the police didn't like it and he beat me...in this moment I felt my self disintegrating and my legs didn't respond, I believe I was at the point of fainting, but the same official beat me in the stomach so that I wouldn't fall... during the entire night we were hearing how they beat the people in the other cells... there was a moment when I began to hear the police yell, 'Breath, bastard, don't even think we're going to let you die.' I believe that they were beating this person for a space of 45 minutes to an hour. I was able to see the people that beat him and one of them carried a stick and the other had a black plastic bag."

An Ongoing Struggle

Despite the unreasonably high bails ranging from 6,000 US dollars (60,000 pesos) to 35,000 US dollars, 22 detainees have been bailed out, but 22 are still incarcerated, including a 66 year old retired teacher from Monterrey, who has an injured spinal column due to beatings and now must be transported to court and visits in a wheelchair.

A report on the ALCUE prisoners released by affiliates of The International

Federation for Human Rights and The World Organization Against Torture confirmed the allegations of torture. According to the report, prisoners were "walked on top of" by guards, forced to maintain the same position for several hours, kept from sleeping by beatings, denied telephone calls, told that they had no rights, threatened with death, and "told they were going to be tortured worse than the Iraqi prisoners." Women were stripped completely and threatened with rape. The report also stated that fake confessions were extracted using torture, and that 11 articles and laws of the Mexican Constitution were violated, as well as two articles of the Federal Law for Preventing and Sanctioning Torture.

While political repression is common in Mexico, this recent wave of brutality came only one month after the April 24 discovery of the body of Noel Pavel Gonzales, a 20 year-old activist and student from Mexico City involved with Zapatista solidarity work, who had been missing for ten days. Pavel was found hanging from a tree, possibly to imply suicide, but his body showed signs of rape and torture in styles similar to those used during the Chilean "Dirty War" of the 1970s. Devastated by this loss and concerned by its ominous implications, Mexico City activists suspect special police forces or perhaps "purros" (fascist groups paid off by the Mexican government to disrupt activist activities through intimidation and violence) are responsible for Pavel's murder. Marianna explained one frightening connection. She said, "One of the largest group of purros is called Yunque. Francisco Acuña, the Governor of Jalisco, where Guadalajara is located, used to be a member."

Go to mx.geocities.com/caravanalibertaria to make a financial donation, the bank account number is in the box marked "libertad a los presos politicos" For language assistance or to find out more information contact notorturemexico@hotmail.com. Readers are also encouraged to contact the Governor of Jalisco at <http://www.jalisco.gob.mx/srias/despachogob/index.html> to demand the release of the remaining detainees. More information is online at guadalajara.mediosindependientes.org



Thousands gather to challenge the European Union-Latin America Summit /Perez Flores, Guadalajara IMC



Campus Workers at UC Berkeley Sick of it All

On July 1, Housing and Dining workers at UC Berkeley organized a “sick out” to demonstrate to management that they are still strong and united in their fight for better wages and conditions on the job. Without assistance from their union, the workers coordinated the action, in which nearly 100 employees called in sick simultaneously, despite the fact that AFSCME local 3299 union organizer Jose Martinez is reported to have tipped off the Housing & Dining Hall Human Resources Director to the plans for the sick out on June 29. Even with the collusion between their union and management, workers were still able to make Housing and Dining Services grind to a halt on July 1, forcing management to provide students with improvised meals of turkey sandwiches. Workers now face disciplinary action from Housing & Dining Management if they do not produce doctors’ notes confirming that they were actually sick on July 1.

Bay Area Defends Cuevas Family

On June 30th, national attention turned to the plight of undocumented immigrant families when the Cuevas family of Fremont(CA) was deported to the Philippines. The Cuevas’ Support Committee had demanded that local congressional representatives introduce legislation for the Cuevas family, allowing them to legalize their status, and that legislators address the nation’s anti-family immigration laws and policies. Senators Feinstein and Boxer both refused to act.

In 1996, learning that immigration law would soon change, Mr. and Mrs. Cuevas, who had lived in the Bay Area for 20 years, filed for asylum hoping to be referred to an immigration judge before Clinton’s Illegal Immigration and Immigrant Responsibility Act, took effect on April 1, 1997.

Economic, social struggles continue for SF immigrants

On Fathers’ Day 2002, San Francisco day laborers went to city hall to protest the increasing police harassment of workers and families in the Mission District. Then-mayor Willie Brown retaliated by illegally yanking the Program’s funding. Since then, the Day Labor Project has been functioning on two-thirds funding and endured massive staff cuts, but continues to provide medical, legal, employment and educational services for day laborers.

This year on June 18th, community groups returned to City Hall to demand that Mayor Gavin Newsom fix the funding situation and restore the funds set aside for the workers, which have gone unspent for the past two years. Joining the Day Labor Project and its Women’s Collective were speakers from POWER — People Organized to Win Employment Rights, Mission Agenda, Mountain View’s Day Labor Program, Food Not Bombs, and the Heads Up Collective.

Mayor Newsom has continued to shift money away from workers and low-income San Franciscans, cutting welfare and services — while refusing to address the tax subsidies and corporate welfare enjoyed by downtown big business.

Media Monopoly Overturned—For Now

On June 2, 2003, the FCC voted 3-2 to loosen its policies governing ... continued on page 5

BERKELEY FIGHTS CORPORATE RULE

On June 15, Berkeley City Council unanimously supported amendments to the California state and US Constitutions declaring that corporations are not granted the “rights” of natural persons and that expenditure of corporate money is not constitutionally protected free speech. The resolution asserts that corporations dominate the political process and deny citizens their right to govern through democracy. Although corporate personhood is a foggy, if not completely unknown, concept for most US citizens, Berkeley’s move is the latest victory for a nascent, national movement determined to bring this issue into the public spotlight.

BY LIAM O'DONOGHUE

“Corporations are granted similar rights to you and me,” Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates said of the legal inequality between “real” individuals and corporate persons, “but they do not have the same responsibilities. They pay a lower tax rate, they can’t be sent to jail for breaking the law, and they have no real obligation beyond maximizing shareholder profit.”

In upholding a lower court verdict in the 1886 case of Santa Clara County v. Southern Pacific Railroad Company which granted corporations the same, equal protection of laws guaranteed to individuals by the Fourteenth Amendment, the US Supreme Court set the precedent for corporate dominance in the US legal system. It took about a century of lawsuits for corporations to win all the “rights” accorded to individuals, (it wasn’t until 1978 that the Supreme Court decided to protect corporate commercial and political spending as “free speech”), but, for corporations, unlike the individuals challenging them, these legal battles are a tax-deductible expense. Berkeley is the largest municipality to pass a resolution (a formal, but legally non-binding opinion) challenging these constitutional protections so far, but activists in this grassroots movement to abolish corporate personhood are hoping that Berkeley’s resolution will spark interest in other communities.

City Council members and community activists from Arcata (CA) which passed a similar resolution on May 19 are already gathering support for an actual law. Arcata’s resolution calls for the issue to be discussed in town hall meetings to gather information that will be used to draft laws or ordinances to prevent corporations from interfering with democracy. City Council member Dave Meserve explained how the Arcata was recently forced to sell timber harvested from a community forest to a subsidiary of Pacific Lumber/Maxxam Corp. “We’re powerless not to do business with them,” Meserve said, “because they’re the highest bidder, and if we didn’t, it would be discrimination. If we pass an ordinance that enables us not to sell to corporations with bad records, that would leave us free to make the decisions we want.”

Although PL/MC has racked up 325 violations

of environmental laws since 1999, opposition to the timber giant is even more personal than eco-concerns in Arcata. In March of 2002, one month after defeating a 20-year incumbent, Arcata’s District Attorney Paul Gallegos filed a fraud lawsuit against PL/MC. Soon after, Pacific Lumber plunged \$40,000 into a campaign to recall Gallegos. Representatives of Maxxam denied involvement (HA!), even though the action was totally legal, thanks to the 1978 case of First National Bank of Boston v. Bellotti, in which the US Supreme Court declared that corporate persons (corporations) have the same free speech rights as natural persons, and can spend unlimited sums of money in the form of ads and campaign contributions. Although the recall failed, it alerted many residents of Arcata to the threat to democratic sovereignty that corporations pose, even at the local level.

Democracy Unlimited of Humboldt County (DUHC), an organization dedicated to “creating a truly democratic society by provoking a non-violent popular uprising against corporate rule in Humboldt County that can serve as a model for other communities across the US,” has organized public forums, helped teachers develop curriculums, and played a role in developing local legislation such as a local ordinance opposing the USA PATRIOT Act. Kaitlin Sopoci-Belknap, Director Of DUHC (which includes Green Party Presidential nominee David Cobb on its Steering Committee), cites the Gallegos recall attempt as a perfect example of why allowing corporate campaign donations to be classified as “free speech” is detrimental to reforming the US democratic system. “This is why we can’t have meaningful campaign finance reform,” she said. “It’s a crisis of jurisdiction.”

Global Issue, Local Battles

On July 5, Richard Grossman, of the Program on Corporations, Law, and Democracy, Jan Edwards, who spearheaded the first anti-corporate personhood resolution in Point Arena (CA), and about 50 other community organizers, educators, politicians and activists from around the country converged in Santa Rosa (CA) for a day-long conference on how to effectively mobilize resources to strengthen this

movement which has been mostly ignored by the mainstream media. Those in attendance took careful notes as Pennsylvania lawyer Tom Linzey described the strategies he has used in his victories against corporate factory farms (now known in Orwellian corporate-speak as “advanced” or “progressive(?)” farms) and waste disposal companies.

Linzey co-founded the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF) in 1995, but his work in the legal trenches in the battle against corporate personhood really started in 1997, when the State of Pennsylvania began enforcing a law which nullified the waste-disposal regulations of more than 100 townships. Linzey soon found himself bombarded with requests from communities who wanted to defend their economies and environments. The State’s decision to exert the legality of its weak waste-disposal law allowed corporations to dispose of sewage sludge by dumping the harmful material (two youths died following exposure) on farms, by classifying it as “fertilizer.” With Linzey’s help, these communities began passing stricter ordinances against this devastating pollution, and some of these townships even passed ordinances prohibiting corporations from owning farmland. Several agribusinesses such as Synagro-WWT, Inc. and PennAg responded with lawsuits, claiming that their constitutional right of due process had been violated. Licking and Porter, two small townships, then took the historic step of passing laws that declared, “Corporations shall not be considered to be ‘persons’ protected by the Constitution of the United States.”

Linzey rallied a coalition including 400 local townships, the Sierra Club, the AFL-CIO, and several farmers’ and citizens’ rights groups to fight the against the corporate waste disposal plan. At the conference, he beamed while announcing the results of this battle. “Not a single teaspoon of sewage sludge has been poured onto farmland in any one of these communities since then.”

“People working on these issues understand that you can’t deal with sprawl, incinerators, toxic waste, etc. without dealing with corporate rights,” Linzey said, alluding to the seeming consensus among many of those at the conference who feel that, right now, the immediate goal of this movement needs to be raising public awareness. *The Corporation*, a Canadian documentary now touring throughout the US, is furthering this goal by packing theatres and offering an ideal venue for groups like San Francisco-based Personhood Inc. to set up tables of literature, brochures, and petitions. The community dialogue instigated by this movie, and in town hall meetings in places like Arcata and Porter, Pennsylvania, are the key components of a functional democracy according to Kaitlin Sopoci-Belknap of DUHC. “People aren’t encouraged to talk to each other about fundamental societal questions,” she said. “But we’re trying to build a democratic community through these meetings, because in order for the law to change, culture has to change.”

HISTORY FOR SALE
The Corporate Takeover of Jack London Square

Oakland’s historic Jack London Square is about to get a \$300 million dollar makeover. Despite local opposition, the Port of Oakland is handing its historic waterfront site over to developers to turn it into a massive complex of high-rise shopping malls, hotels, a Cineplex and parking lots in the hopes of boosting the city’s tax revenue base.

BY DANIEL BORGSTRÖM & VIRGINIA BROWNING

Jack London Square is named for the man who wrote “Call of the Wild” and “Sea Wolf.” London grew up along this stretch of Oakland waterfront and used to hang out at Heinold’s Saloon, an establishment which still stands in its original location and has been in continuous operation since 1883. In that bar, Jack London met some of people who inspired many of the characters of his novels.

The developers, Ellis Partners, apparently intend to keep Heinold’s Saloon and also the name “Jack London Square,” but the old saloon, along with any other links to the area’s history, will be lost amidst the towering 108-foot high shopping mall complex. Many of the Square’s open spaces will be gone, replaced by light-and-space-obscuring high-rises.

Jack London was a socialist, and the fate of this square which bears his name is a poignant example of what he foresaw and warned against. His 1908 novel, “The Iron Heel,” tells a story of life under

an increasingly repressive government. In many ways it is similar to the one neo-conservatives are now imposing upon us for the benefit of 21st century robber barons.

Speaking for the corporations, the East Bay Business Times (10/27/2000) wrote: “Jack London Square has been [the port’s] most glaring under performer, attracting 6 million visitors annually, yet generating only \$16 million in port revenue and \$80 million in retail sales.”

An historic site that attracts 6 million visitors a year doesn’t sound like a “glaring under performer.” But in the corporate worldview everything has to pull in money in order for it to have value.

The wrong-headedness of such logic was well expressed by Mayor Jerry Brown when he was getting ready to run for office: “It’s the same old paradigm, founded on a simplistic equation whereby the whole argument is expressed in quantitative economic terms. So when you look at the redwood trees, it’s the under-performing asset that, when chopped up, starts to really perform.” Since making this statement, Mayor Brown has welcomed the chopping up of Jack London Village and is a strong supporter of the current project.

On Tuesday, June 15th, the project came before the Oakland City Council at which time local residents voiced their opposition to the project. As *Fault Lines* goes to print, the project is coming up for a final vote and the Council is expected to give their formal approval.

This \$300 million project is a local example of the global corporate assault on our public spaces, parks, airwaves and all other common good. It is up to all of us to make our voices heard and do what we can to stop the corporate takeover of our communities, resources and history.



G8 SUMMIT HIDES ON PRIVATE ISLAND

PEACEFUL PROTESTERS ARRESTED BY RIOT SQUAD RESPOND WITH NINE-DAY HUNGER STRIKE

In Occupied Brunswick, site of several demonstrations opposing the 2004 G8 Summit in South Georgia, police and military units not only outnumbered protesters by a factor of 50 to one(!), there were more of them than actual Brunswick residents. Funny thing is, the Summit wasn't even taking place in Brunswick.

BY DAVID MEIERAN

Privately-owned Sea Island ("the gem of the Georgia coastline") was the real setting for the annual meeting of heads of state from the U.S., U.K., Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the European Union. But it was off limits to anyone who wasn't an official part of the Summit; Brunswick was the simply the closest mainland city where activists could stage their protests and related events. In the wake of police riots at protests like Seattle's WTO Conference in 1999 and Genoa's G8 Summit in 2001, etc., meetings of this sort have primarily been held in easy-to-secure, hard-to-get-to places, like Qatar, where protesting is illegal.

To make matters worse for demonstrators hoping to draw attention to their opposition of various G8 policies, the 3,500 international journalists covering the Summit were huddled off to Hutchinson Island in Savannah, some 60 miles to the north, which was also off limits to anyone without proper credentials. To compensate for the vast distance between the press and the world leaders (imagine asking the White House press corps to operate out of Baltimore), members of press were offered all sorts of amenities. On the first night alone, they were treated to a \$200,000 cocktail party (at taxpayer expense, of course).

The Sea Island-Savannah divide forced activists to choose between being near the press and being near the Summit, but in the end Brunswick was where the bulk of the action took place. So, from June 8-10, leaders of the world's richest nations gathered behind closed doors to chart the globe's future and deal with issues such as the occupations in Iraq and Palestine (create a 75,000-strong peace-keeping force), HIV treatment (give pharmaceutical companies extra \$\$ to pursue a magic bullet), and "environmental stewardship" (enjoy the scenic Georgia coast). The contrast to the harsh realities of near-

by Brunswick—home to 20 state toxic waste sites, four Federal superfund sites and high unemployment — could not be more stark.

Against all odds

Faced with a juggernaut of 20,000 police and military units from at least 50 different agencies, surface to air missiles, submarines, helicopter gun-ships, 24-hour military patrols, chronic harassment and high-tech surveillance, not to mention heat, toxic soil and water, and the threat of mass detentions sanctioned by a preemptive state of emergency, it's a miracle that some 400 activists managed to show up and wage any sort of resistance to the G8 Summit at all.

All of these obstacles didn't stop the resistance, though. Aside from several marches against the Iraq War and occupation of Palestine, activists made several positive contributions to Brunswick by helping to renovate houses and clean up the local environment. Armed with hammers, the "G8 Fix Shit Up" group showed that resistance to the G8 is possible through "constructive action." A group of Pagan activists wearing HAZMAT suits even offered bioremediation tips at Goodyear Elementary School, which was constructed on ground so toxic the school was built without windows.

On the final day of the Summit, a few dozen activists, escorted by hundreds of local, state, and federal police, trekked nine miles in 100-degree heat to get as close to Sea Island as possible. Once at the guarded entrance to Sea Island, 15 youth sat down for a silent vigil and were promptly arrested by heavily armed riot troops. Two of those arrested were injured and went without medical attention for a several hours. The next day, 30 showed up at Glynn County Detention Center for a Jail Solidarity Vigil. Police quickly broke up the vigil and made two arrests. According to observers, police accused them of "inciting a riot." Those arrested refused to give their names, and the Glynn County Sheriff's Department responded by denying them visitor's request forms or the ability to meet as a group with their lawyer. Several of the detainees opposed this injustice by going on a hunger strike that lasted for nine days, until the last six members of "The Brunswick 15" finally bonded out on June 24.

A version of this article was originally published by The *Thomas Merton Center*, visit <http://atlanta.indymedia.org/> for more info.

Brunswick Arrestees Hunger Strike Statement- June 16

When we marched up to Sea Island and stood up to thousands of riot police, we put our bodies on the line. Our love, our anger and our bodies... our only weapons. Now we are paying the price. We've been asked by other inmates if what we did was worth it. Yes it was. And now, again, we continue our struggle the only way we can, with the only tools at our disposal; our bodies. For a week we have attempted to bring attention to a set of interrelated issues; from the air and soil pollution from the Hercules Chemical Plant in Brunswick, to the suffering caused by military occupation of Iraq and Palestine. These issues are not petty nor were our actions last Thursday crimes. On Tuesday evening, June 15 2004, four of us began a hunger strike which we intend to sustain until the charges against all 15 of us are dropped. The rights of free speech and a speedy trial are guaranteed under the US Constitution, but still here in America, and especially Georgia, dissent has become criminalized and "justice" moves at a glacial pace. We were recently told by one of our guards that "that swift justice thing don't happen around here". We want to be set free and will continue our hunger strike until they either release us or try us. Signed, G-0002, G-0110, G-0147, G-0176

Because Judge Shepard refused to throw out the hate crime sentencing enhancement, a first-degree murder conviction would require "life without the possibility of parole, if the defendant intentionally killed the victim because of the victim's disability, gender, or sexual orientation or because of the defendant's perception of the victim's disability, gender, or sexual orientation."

As a transexual, Gwen (formerly Eddie) was living what she believed to be her true gender- female. The similarities between Araujo's murder and those of transman Brandon Teena and gay Wyoming student Matthew Shepard brought violence against the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered) community back into the spotlight, especially in the progressive Bay Area. Many of the LGBT activists who participated in the Tranny March were upset that the hung jury decision signaled a reluctance to take hate crimes seriously.

However, several LGBT rights organizations, such as Gay-Straight Alliance Network, used the case to promote education of these issues. \$20,000 was raised through The Gwen Araujo Memorial Fund to finance school programs.

HUNG TRIAL IN ARAUJO MURDER TRIAL

Transgender community fights for recognition, education

On June 22, after nine days of deliberations, Judge Harry Shepard declared a mistrial in the case of three men accused of murdering Gwen Araujo, a transgendered teen from Newark, CA, because the jury failed to reach a unanimous decision. Community outrage over the hung jury resulted in a march for "tranny" rights through the streets of San Francisco on June 26, marking the beginning of a series of rallies to celebrate Pride Week.

BY KAREN MAHTIN AND MATT FITT

Michael Magidson, 23, Jose Merel and Jason Cazares, both 24, will face a retrial scheduled to begin July 30 in Hayward, CA. Jaron Nabors, 20, has received an 11-year manslaughter sentence in return for testifying against the other three. Nabors led law enforcement officials to the unmarked grave in the Sierra foothills in which Gwen's body had been dumped in October, 2002.

The issue that the jury disagreed on was not guilt, but whether the accused men should be found guilty of either first or second degree murder. The split hinges upon

whether the men's actions were "willful, deliberate, and premeditated." Michael Thorman, Magidson's attorney, argued that the beating and strangulation had been a crime of rage triggered by the revelation of Araujo's biological gender, which was revealed when another friend, Nicole Brown, reached up Araujo's skirt at a house party. The defense claimed that the murder was not a hate crime perpetrated because of a prejudice against non-heterosexuals, but the result of a shocking betrayal by the victim, who had been sexually involved with two of the heterosexual defendants. Gloria Allred, the Araujo Family's attorney, characterized this stance as "an insult to the family."

media ownership. Under the new rules, gigantic firms like Viacom, Walt Disney and Time Warner will be able to buy-out smaller media firms and control a greater share of the media in a single market. While they were once limited to 35 percent of the television market, under the new regulations a single corporation could now own up to 45 percent of the market. In some markets, companies would also be allowed to own a broadcast station and newspaper within the same city. Millions protested, with citizens organizing their own public hearings after being told the FCC would not have any.

On June 24 a federal appeals court overturned the FCC's controversial deregulation plan and sent it back to the FCC for reconsideration. In *Prometheus Radio Project v. FCC*, the court gave the FCC a vague directive to "revise or justify the rules" setting numerical limits on local media ownership and cross-ownership.

Piquetero actions rock Buenos Aires

In recent months, the unemployed workers' movements in Buenos Aires, Argentina, known as piqueteros, have carried out a series of mass direct actions. Throughout, the piqueteros have concentrated their efforts on meeting immediate social needs. Their actions have included occupying at least nine McDonald's outlets to demand milk and books for schools, targeting government revenue by occupying the ticket windows in public railway stations, and laying siege to the French supermarket chain Carrefour demanding 200 jobs (the company resisted, citing fears they would quickly be unionized).

On June 10 and 18, piqueteros confronted the privatized oil company Repsol-YPF, demanding needs-based pricing for cooking gas, and free distribution to the kitchens of the unemployed movement. State workers, teachers and health-care workers staged a three-day strike May 26-28 and joined the unemployed in marches, road blockades and bridge seizures to demand higher wages, unemployment compensation, rehiring of downsized workers, and a six-hour workday. Mobilization for a new economy continues at press time.

Genoa G8 protesters and police go to court

June 26th was the beginning of the preliminary hearings for the 29 Italian police officers who face charges related to the brutal nighttime raid on the Diaz School in Genoa, Italy during the Anti-G8 demonstrations in 2001. Scores of people were beaten during the raid, many left unconscious and hospitalized, before they were taken to Bolzaneto detention center and tortured.

At the same time, the court case commenced against four people from the Aubonne Bridge action at the 2003 G8 Summit in Evian, Switzerland. During this action, UK climber and activist Martin Shaw had been cut by police from the climbing rope from which he was dangling, leaving him to fall over 65 feet onto a riverbed and sustain serious injuries. Ironically, while the policeman who cut the ropes remains on duty, the four protesters, including Martin and another climber, have all been charged with blocking traffic and endangering human life.

In response to instances of repression such as these, a European anti-repression meeting convened on June 26-27th to promote wider awareness and to discuss proposals and strategies for creating a stronger and more effective anti-repression network in Europe.



photo: Just1pin - just1pin@ureach.com

MASS. CRACKDOWN

Boston, Cambridge cops monitor and arrest dissenters in months leading up to DNC

A protester is arrested for refusing to show identification to a federal officer. An MIT alumna is arrested for leafletting the entrance of this year's commencement. A college student who dressed as an Abu Ghraib prisoner is accused of falsifying a bomb threat, charged with felonies and required to undergo psychological evaluation. Eight housing activists who enter an abandoned building during a protest are held at gunpoint and charged with multiple felonies.

BY STEVE ISKOVITZ

These four incidents occurred in Boston and Cambridge between late March and early June. Political activists in the area are concerned that the arrests might be part of an overall attempt by law enforcement to discourage public demonstration during July's Democratic National Convention.

The first of these incidents took place on March 25, as Richard Picarillo stood at a police barricade, non-violently protesting President Bush's visit to Boston. A federal officer ordered Picarillo to show identification, and when he refused, he was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. Picarillo already faces a felony charge of "tagging" for an earlier incident in which he allegedly placed a sticker on public property in order to cover up a swastika someone else had drawn.

In another incident, eight members of Homes Not Jails, a Cambridge housing advocacy group, entered an aban-

doned gas station in Lafayette Square on April 3 in a symbolic action during the arrival of the statewide March Against Poverty. Police observed the entry from across the street and did not interfere. Members of the group began an ongoing clean-up of the site over the next eleven days, planting a tree and flowers in the lot outside. On April 14, while the activists were sweeping up broken glass, two plainclothes detectives entered the building with guns drawn and arrested them. Although the activists had entered the building in a symbolic action—normally a trespassing misdemeanor—the eight were charged instead with felonies of breaking and entering, possession of burglarious materials, and intent to commit a felony.

On May 27, Boston College student Joe Previterra stood in front of a downtown Boston military recruiting center on top of a milk crate, wearing a black hood over his head and holding wires in his hands, re-enacting the notorious Abu Ghraib prison scene. Recruiters called police, who, after conferring with military officials in the building, called in

the bomb squad. Although the building was never evacuated, and bomb squad members found nothing incriminating, police arrested Previterra and charged him with falsifying a bomb threat and possession of a hoax device, both felonies, and set a \$10,000 bail. The bail was eventually dropped, but Previterra had to undergo psychological evaluation before being released. All charges against him were subsequently dropped.

Eight days later on June 4, four members of MIT's Social Justice Co-operative handed out leaflets to people entering the school's commencement ceremony. Campus police told them to move, although the sidewalk they stood on was public, not MIT property, and they relocated to another spot on the sidewalk. About two minutes later the police handcuffed and arrested one of the women, MIT alumna and former Cambridge city council candidate Aimee Smith, and threatened to arrest the other three if they didn't leave the area. Their leaflets criticized the commencement speaker for supporting a proposed biological weapons research facility being planned in Boston.

Smith was charged with "disorderly conduct" and "disturbing a school assembly." Soon after, the district attorney's office offered to drop the charges against Smith if she agreed to pay court costs. She refused, is demanding an apology from MIT, and is considering suing the university.

"I think it's a sign of the times, and not a positive one," attorney Daniel Beck, who is representing the defendants in all four cases, said of the series of arrests. "Civil liberties are seen as dangerous. This whole terrorism thing is being used as a way to suppress dissent, much as the threat of communism was used to suppress dissent in the Fifties . . . Anyone who is perceived as not agreeing with US foreign policy is perceived as dangerous, and I think that perception is really what's dangerous."

Evidence exists that police are also monitoring groups planning DNC actions. After the April 14 Lafayette Square arrests, Cambridge police told the local Fox TV news affiliate that the group was storing materials for illegal use during the convention, and implied a connection between Homes Not Jails and the Black Tea Society (BTS), a local anarchist group planning demonstrations during the convention.

A February gathering organized by BTS was monitored by suspected law enforcement agents, according to a story in New York's *Newsday*. (Interestingly, the *Newsday* story reported that this information surfaced when the Massachusetts police, seeing New York license plates, suspected the New York police were "outside agitators" and attempted to arrest them.)

The infiltration was originally suspected by members of BTS. The alleged agents "gave strange email addresses which were the same except for the numbers at the end," said Frank Little of BTS. "We traced the email addresses back to a domain space that was owned by the police." After the National Lawyers' Guild sent a representative to a recent BTS meeting to observe them, the suspected agents stopped attending.

Steve Iskovitz is a writer and activist living in the Boston area. For more info on the DNC mobilization visit: boston.indymedia.org and www.blackteasociety.org



CHICAGO '68 IN N.Y.?

Authorities and protesters are on a collision course aimed at the Republican National Convention in New York City this summer. Fifteen groups have applied for marches or rallies of over 10,000 people and one group, United for Peace and Justice, has applied for a rally of 250,000. No permits have been granted*. Spokesman for United for Peace and Justice, Bill Dobbs, called the refusal to grant the permit "an effort to derail the whole protest."

BY JOEL STONINGTON

With the immense number of possible issues to protest under the rubric "No to the Bush Agenda," thousands of people working on disparate areas of activism—the environment, social justice, education, foreign policy, health care, fiscal responsibility, etc.—will be in the streets, regardless of sanctioned approval.

The police are gearing up, with Police Commissioner Ray Kelly estimating a \$76 million price tag for security. Protesters remain committed to their plans to gather peacefully, despite the looming threat of police violence and arrests. As student organizer at New York University, Max Uhlenbeck, put it, "I'm sure there will be horror stories."

15,000 members of the press are expected to be on hand for the RNC. Considering that the actual convention is little more than a glorified pep rally of right-wing rhetoric, it's likely that much attention will be outside Madison Square Garden and on the streets instead.

Back to the Future

At the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago, police lines advanced through protesters, shot tear gas, and clubbed students. The violence was splashed across the front page of every major paper. Some say the Convention doomed the chances of Democratic candidate Hubert Humphrey. Will New York in 2004 define a new generation of political activists in a similar way?

History, from the last four years at least, suggests that New York may well resemble Chicago. The refusal of permits and massive build-up of security measures points toward a pattern of suppressing dissent, exemplified by the 2000 RNC in Philadelphia and the protests at the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) summit in Florida last November.

In Philadelphia, over 400 people were arrested, including well-known organizers walking down the street, random bystanders, and a mass-arrest of political puppet makers in a warehouse. Only a



Greece Wins the Gold in Repression

Olympic preparations include building prisons, destroying forests and poisoning animals

With just a few weeks to go before the Olympic Games in Athens, preparations for the world's biggest athletic competition are well under way. So far, international media have focused on the delayed construction of the Olympic venues, mostly ignoring the Greek government's ecological destruction and trampling of human rights.

BY ANTONIS VARDIS AND IMC-ATHENS

The first victims of the Olympics were 18 workers killed during the construction blitzkrieg of Olympic venues, but they will certainly not be the last. In the frenzied rush leading up to the Games, the Olympics have proven to be the perfect excuse for the Greek State to attack all the social groups that are in the margins and just about everyone refusing to participate in the corporate spectacle that is the Olympics.

The Cretan newspaper *Patris* revealed in April that local authorities of Heraclion (one of the four cities hosting the Games) were planning to relocate all of the city's Roma (Gypsy) population to a military camp so that they wouldn't ruin the city's image. Thankfully, this plan caused fierce reaction and is now unlikely to materialize. However, stray animals (mainly dogs, cats and pigeons) in all four Olympic cities will not be as

lucky: actions for their extermination by poisoning are already in progress.

A new 'Olympic' prison is being built at Aspropirgos, near Athens. This is perhaps the strongest evidence for the repressive wave that is expected to hit Greece in August. Local police will likely get help from the massive influx of international law enforcement converging in Greece in detaining junkies, Roma, refugee populations, and political activists under the guise of combating "terrorism".

During and after the Olympics, Athens will have something Orwellian about it; over 1,000 surveillance cameras have been installed within Olympic venues and another 283 in other public spaces. This is an extraordinary measure for a country where such cameras have only been introduced within the last few years. The cameras were supposedly installed temporarily and for traffic coordination purposes only. This,

however, would not explain why most of them are installed in areas where demonstrations are expected to take place.

The Greek Minister of Public Order, Y. Voulgarakis, recently confirmed fears that the cameras will stay after the Games. He stated that he would never order the removal of the cameras, adding that "any minister who did so would have to face the consequences, as this (surveillance) network has cost a vast amount of money to the country and therefore has to be used in the post-Olympics era."

Further adding to the whole surveillance paranoia, Voulgarakis announced that during the Games, citizens will be able to dial a four-digit number (1014) free of charge, in order to inform the authorities if they are aware of any "suspicious" activities.

"...local authorities of Heraclion were planning to relocate all of the city's Roma (Gypsy) population to a military camp so that they wouldn't ruin the city's image."

It is estimated that the security personnel present in Athens during the Games will be 40,000 to 80,000 strong. The Greek police and army, domestic and international intelligence services and even NATO forces will be there. The first Olympic Games of the post-9/11 era will be the Games of surveillance, commercialism and state repression.

Finally, the environmental destruction caused by the construction of venues for the Games is massive. The Olympic Village is being constructed on the slope of the mountain of Parnitha, eliminating part of forest in one of Athens' last green resorts and the canoeing venue is being built in an area of global cultural and historical heritage in Marathon. The list is endless: the destruction of green to allow for the construction of the ping pong venue in Galatsi, cutting down of 8,500 trees to allow for the expansion of roads, and construction of an ultra-high voltage centre (400/150 K.Vat, 1120 M.V.A.) at the mount of Immitos, 125 meters away from a local school.

Naturally, such repressive plans and actions have been fiercely opposed by leftist and anarchist groups and individuals across the country. Among others, the campaign "Anti2004" (www.anti2004.net) has organized conferences such as the anti-Olympics festival held in early July so journalists, lawyers, students, athletes and anarchists could discuss what the Games really stand for: steroids, bosses, multinationals, environmental destruction, and state repression. Opposition to the Games is strong and growing. One slogan that has been overheard increasingly is "Let the Olympics die in their birthplace."

To learn more, visit: athens.indymedia.org/

minuscule number of those arrested were convicted and no one was sentenced to jail time. A Philadelphia Daily News editorial following the last trial of a protester called the mass arrests, "very disturbing for anyone who thinks the 4th, 5th, 8th, and 14th Amendments to the Constitution ought to mean something in the city where they were written."

"If you don't actually live or work in the garment district, you won't even know there's a convention in town" -Mayor Michael Bloomberg, June 29

Similarly, FTAA protests last November saw the use of unrestrained violence by police (See *The Miami Model* review, pg. 15). For instance, members of the Miami-Dade County's Independent Review Panel of police actions said, in a draft report released a few weeks ago, "Civil rights were trampled and the socio-political values we hold dear were undermined."

The FTAA is now known for giving birth to the "Miami Model," a method where authorities use force -rubber bullets, tear gas, etc.- and the arrest of legal protesters to silence dissent.

In New York, orders to use the Miami Model may be coming from the highest source: the Bush administration. The main clue to this is Attorney General John Ashcroft's most recent terror alert. Numerous news organizations openly questioned why he released information (the names of six al Qaeda suspects who the Justice Department admitted having no reason to believe were actually in the US) that had already been revealed months earlier. One possibility is that Ashcroft may have used the terror alert for the political purpose of chilling dissenting opinions. Evidence lies in the fact that Ashcroft only named three specific events for possible terror acts: Georgia's G-8 summit, Boston's Democratic Convention in July, and New York's Republican Convention in

August. These are also the three biggest national protests planned this summer.

Robert Ross, a Miami Activist Defense and National Lawyer's Guild Attorney involved in lawsuits filed this year accusing the city of Miami, Homeland Defense Secretary Ridge, U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft, and others for abridgment of civil rights, said, "have no doubt that, in Boston and New York, they are going to utilize tactics used in Miami." Or, as Uhlenbeck put it, "There will be plenty of violence from the police."

A slightly different version of this article was published on June 22, 2004 by the *Berkshire Eagle* (Pittsfield, Massachusetts)

Joel D. Stonington (jstonington@orionsociety.org) is an editorial intern for *Orion Magazine*.

**Shortly before Fault Lines went to press, a few permits were granted, but not for rallies in Central Park, and many permits for the biggest proposed demonstrations have still not been approved.*

NORNC RESOURCES



National Mobilizations:

www.rncnotwelcome.org
www.counterconvention.org
www.rncnotwelcome.org
nyc.indymedia.org
www.rncwatch.org
www.unitedforpeace.org
www.shadowprotest.org

Local Mobilizations:

www.DASW.org



SHAC Attack!

Feds Crack Down on Animal Rights Activists

When organizers of Liberation Weekend decided to hold a conference of grassroots activists to discuss how to “build a revolutionary movement in the United States”, they knew their event would get some attention. The conference, held May 15-16 at the West Los Angeles School of Law, drew people from varied social causes such as the animal rights and environmental movements, as well as anarchists, anti-war activists, and anti-capitalists. What they didn’t expect was a coordinated campaign of FBI harassment .

BY WILL POTTER

Participants in Liberation Weekend were followed, interrogated and arrested for offenses such as not wearing seatbelts. A week later, though, this street-level bullying of activists took a more serious twist: seven animal rights activists from another group, Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC), were charged with terrorism.

These movements are no strangers to government repression. Activists have been hauled before grand juries, had homes raided and received FBI visits for years: the FBI says it’s to help them crack down on underground groups like the Animal Liberation Front and Earth Liberation Front that destroy property. In the past few months, though, that crackdown has quickly spread to activists using their first amendment rights. While corporate news headlines obsess over Al Qaeda and the Bush administration’s vague warnings of domestic attacks, the FBI has been using the “War on Terror” to justify targeting the animal rights and environmental movements.

Melissa Rodriguez, an animal rights activist and co-organizer of the Liberation Weekend, was en route to visit friends in Orange County during the weekend of the conference when she was pulled over by seven police cars, with a helicopter circling overhead. Police put her and six other activists in handcuffs, and led them to separate police cars for interrogation. Police searched Rodriguez’s car, without her consent, and confiscated a guitar. The activists were then taken to the police station, booked, and fingerprinted — for not wearing seatbelts.

A spokesperson for the Costa Mesa police department did not return telephone calls seeking comment.

When Rodriguez left the police station to drop off her friends at their homes, sev-

eral police cars followed. At the final house, Rodriguez was pulled over by an FBI agent and told to step out of the car. “I just kept asking if I was detained, and he said no, and he said they would just follow me wherever I went,” she said. They stayed true to their word, and followed Rodriguez to her friend’s house, where the agents parked outside all night.

The seatbelt crackdown wasn’t the only questionable law enforcement act over that weekend. On Saturday, Brook Hunter, along with several other LA area activists, was pulled over on her way to the conference for a faulty brake light. In an email, she said she was asked by police if they were going to the conference in Los Angeles, and she told them “no comment.” One of the passengers who did not have identification was taken into custody until Sunday morning, and missed the conference.

Nik Hensey, an animal rights activist from Los Angeles, was pulled over by the LAPD on his way to the conference. Police, with guns drawn, told him to put his hands in the air and step out of the car. According to Hensey, the officers told him that his vehicle “matched a description.”

Hensey was taken into custody, and his car was impounded and searched. Police followed him for the rest of the day. When he approached one of the cars that had been following him, the driver told him that he “knew my politics, and that they

wanted to keep me from breaking the law,” Hensey said.

One week after the conference, FBI agents rounded up seven SHAC activists from across the country. In a press conference at the U.S. Attorney’s Office in New Jersey, Federal prosecutors trumpeted the indictment of domestic “terrorists”. The “terrorism” they are accused of is “conspiring” to “intentionally damage and cause the loss of property” of a company in violation of the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act of 1992. This act, which garnered little attention at the time it was passed except from the corporations who lobbied for it, makes anyone who “intentionally causes physical disruption to the functioning of an animal enterprise” a terrorist. If convicted of all charges, the activists could each face 23 years in prison.

The arrested activists are part of SHAC, an international organization aimed solely at closing the controversial Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) company. HLS operates labs in New Jersey and England, which contract with other corporations to test consumer products. The lab has been exposed five times for violating animal welfare laws. In one undercover investigation, an HLS employee was caught on tape punching a five-month-old beagle puppy in the face because he was frustrated by the animal’s small veins.

SHAC has used home demonstrations, phone and email blockades, and plenty of smart-alecky, aggressive rhetoric to pressure companies to cut ties with the lab. It has worked. The lab is near bankruptcy because companies like Citibank have broken business ties.

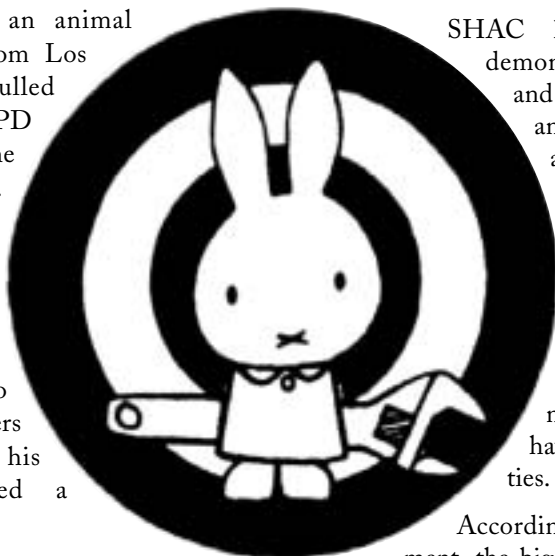
According to the indictment, the biggest act of “terrorism” by the group is their website, which publishes reports of actions against HLS, including illegal ones such as lab animal rescues. The activists are not accused of taking part in any of these illegal actions, but the government says it encourages oth-

ers to break the law. The defendants declined to comment.

The activists probably won’t go to trial until sometime this fall, but the federal government already seems to be looking for ways to intensify the crackdown on animal rights and environmental groups. A week before the terrorism indictments of the SHAC activists, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on “Animal Rights: Activism vs. Criminality” at which John E. Lewis, Deputy Assistant Director of the Counterterrorism Division of the FBI testified that the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act doesn’t go far enough in cracking down on activists. He stated that “the activities of SHAC generally fall outside the scope of the AET statute” and that some of their tactics “would not result in a significant, particularly federal, prosecution”.

While much of the testimony at these hearings regarded so-called “extremists,” mainstream, national organizations like People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), did not escape scrutiny. Jonathan Blum, senior vice president for KFC’s parent company, Yum Brands Inc., testified that the company was a target of “corporate terrorism.” PETA has pressured the company to adopt animal welfare standards, he testified, and “what PETA ultimately wants is a vegetarian or vegan world.” According to his testimony, PETA has targeted KFC with leafleting, celebrity spokespersons, proxy shareholder resolutions and letter-writing. Being targeted by political activists has been traumatic, he said. “I’m sure you can imagine that is a horrible way to raise our children, and puts a strain on our relationships with our family and neighbors.”

Will Potter is a freelance reporter in Washington, D.C. He has written for the *Chicago Tribune*, *Dallas Morning News*, and *Chronicle of Higher Education*, and closely follows how the War on Terrorism affects civil liberties. A segment of this article first appeared in *In These Times*.





END THE OCCUPATION

BY SITARA NIEVES

The word “occupation” hums through a lot of people’s minds in the United States these days. And they’re not thinking about what’s happening in Iraq or Palestine.

They’re thinking about home – because people of color and poor people in communities across “the land of the free” are increasingly living under police occupation.

One example of that occupation is a new scheme called “Operation Impact,” in which dozens of state and local police officers descend upon a “high crime” community over a period of days or months, during which they randomly stop vehicles, interrogate pedestrians, strip-search community members, and impound cars for petty violations.

Officials throughout the country have lauded the high-cost program. Echoing politicians and police across the country, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom recently told the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, “I would say the overwhelming majority of people I talk to one-on-one support [Operation Impact]. But some in the community, some of the more vocal people, opposed it.”

Those “more vocal people” tend to be people of color, and, unlike Gavin Newsom, actually live in communities that look like occupied territories. “Programs like Operation Impact are blatant racism camouflaged under the guise of crime prevention,” charged George Galvis, who teaches at the School of Social Justice and Community Development in East Oakland.

“The paramilitary model of policing that we’re experiencing now in our neighborhoods is really frightening, because what comes along with that is quasi-martial law,” said Andrea Pritchett, a founder of Berkeley CopWatch. “It results in the suspension of basic civil liberties, and is part of a basic socialization process that is really frightening. The public is meant to

believe that these actions are justified by some ‘criminal activity’ that’s going on in the neighborhood -- and leaves the police to decide when and where our constitutional rights apply.”

Operation Impact is spreading to communities of color across the country, and is currently used in East Harlem, Gainesville, Rochester, Austin, East Oakland, and the San Francisco neighborhood of Bayview-Hunters Point. Police departments locally have not provided evidence indicating that Operation Impact has had any short or long-term effect on community safety. But the price tag is stiff: In addition to the psychological impact of occupation, Oakland’s Operation Impact program has cost nearly one million dollars in the last year.

It’s not just formal programs like Operation Impact that people point to as part of the neighborhood occupation that negatively affects their daily lives and civil liberties. It’s the constant threat that people of color face of being brutalized, killed, or harassed by police.

“We don’t need police protection -- we need protection from the police! That’s the issue of public safety for us,” said Galvis.

Police brutality and misconduct in poor communities and communities of color has been well documented. “Abuse by law enforcement officers in the United States is one of the most serious and divisive human rights violations in the country. Police have engaged in unjustified shootings, severe beatings, fatal chokings, and unnecessarily rough treatment,” states a 1998 report from Human Rights Watch. The Oakland Police Department itself in 2001 found that African Americans were 3.3 times as likely as whites to be searched during a traffic stop.

Independent monitors of the Oakland Police Department this year found that Oakland police frequently conduct public strip searches of suspects that result in the exposure of their genitalia – something that Galvis says happened to one of his students. People – particularly people of color – get killed and maimed by police regularly, and police throughout the country regularly impede investigations so that no repercussions occur. Findings from the ACLU and Human Rights Watch also show that police oversight often either doesn’t exist or is poorly managed, underfunded, or politically weak.

Many community advocates say that police oversight isn’t the answer anyway.



Black Panthers like Elder Freeman, a community organizer with All of Us or None, continue to call for alternatives to the cops.

“Part of the consciousness we need to cultivate is around becoming separate from the police department, to reduce our dependence on the police to solve our problems,” said Pritchett. “We can become independent through our own organizing – by creating structures to resolve our own conflicts... If you want to reduce misconduct, don’t call [the police] in the first place, and let’s deal with these problems ourselves. Who defuses situations? Friends, family, and neighbors. What do police do? They shoot down your husband.”

Keeping an eye on the cops

Berkeley CopWatch began in 1990, and its members work to “fight for the rights of the community by taking on the task of directly monitoring police conduct.” The group doesn’t have a formal national structure, but copwatchers have used the Berkeley program’s model and its resources to start similar chapters in Denver, Cincinnati, Portland, and New York City, among others. Berkeley CopWatch is also exploring the possibility of starting a neighborhood-based program in North Oakland.

But though there’s currently no formal CopWatch in Oakland, folks here have long been watching the cops. The city’s violence against African Americans fueled the birth of the Black Panther Party, formed in 1966, in large part to protect black people against police brutality.

And Black Panthers like Elder Freeman, a community organizer with All of Us or None, continue to call for alternatives to the cops. “The police have no effect on violence at all... A lot of problems that are resolved with police and court systems could and should be resolved by mediation or a community-type of council.”

“A lot of violence, especially with youths, could be resolved by elders and we could stop a lot of violence that’s going on,” Freeman continued. “And then a lot of brutality that’s going on by police would be diminished.”

Trends in the United States certainly aren’t tilting towards encouraging even the most basic community-based alternatives to policing. Policy and research groups like the Justice Policy Institute have repeatedly shown prevention, education, and programs to be extremely effective in creating long-term community safety. Nonetheless, police officers’ associations’ clout and politicians’ desire to appear “tough on crime” have led city councils across the country – including Oakland – to call for more cops to “solve” their cities’ social, economic, and political problems. And with an expansion of policing and occupation comes the further expansion of the prison industrial complex, which already numbers over two million people locked in cages.

“This is all intentional. It’s for [the police] to justify their funding – and they’re using resources of the community,” Freeman said. “A lot of those funds could be set up for things in the community... It’s all by design – they’ve done it on purpose by closing schools, cutting recreation centers, cutting programs... They’ve done it on purpose to put kids on street so they can justify having a police department, to make the police department as big as it is.”

Movements are building to incorporate copwatching, fight for self-determination, and create alternative forms of harm resolution to avoid relying on cops. When those movements and consciousness get big enough, someday, we’ll hear activists’ rallying cry of “End the occupation!” and think of what’s happening here at home.

[Community Commentary]

Mothers: The Vanguard Against Police Brutality

BY VENUS “ZUHURA” NOBLE

Should any parent be pushed into the ranks of community activism due to their only child being seized by death at the hands of those who are sworn to protect and serve? Mesha-Monge Irizarry, Idriss Stelley’s birth mother and Sandra Juanita Cooper, Idriss’ surrogate Mother, are well acquainted with such activism.

Both women have been thrust into marches and protest rallies as a result of their son’s body being riddled with ten of the forty-eight slugs fired by nine SFPD officers on June 13, 2001, at the Sony Metreon. The heartless police officers knew that Idriss was suffering from mental distress, yet they played God, and filched the life that was bestowed upon him twenty-

three years prior to his transition.

As a result of that fateful June day, the Idriss Stelley Foundation was fashioned through a mere \$500,000.00 settlement by the City & County of San Francisco and the SFPD. Was Idriss’ life not more than that? Though no amount of money will return Idriss to the loving arms of his parents, the foundation erected in his name will allow families affected by Police brutality to receive free counseling services, call into a crisis line, and get assistance with burial among other services. There may be some vindication for Mesha and Sandra-Juanita through this foundation.

It is striking to be in the presence of these remarkable women. There is beaming luminosity when we meet at speaking engagements or are

on panels challenging mayhem in our communities. Our natural propensity to safeguard our young emanates, but then the question arises. Where are the fathers?

Our men attempt to be in the forefront of the struggle. Yet this dominant society has depleted poor, Black and Latino communities of men by emotionally debilitating and castrating the. They are impeded by the status quo, decreasing their propensity to fight the good fight along side the mothers.

Mesha has avowed in speeches and in private conversation, her zeal to if not eradicate, to curb the view of men of color and those disenfranchised as her son Idriss was. She knows first hand how significant it is to fight for the rights of the powerless.

I have spent countless hours with the founders of the Idriss Stelley Foundation (ISF). I have experienced the fervor, recreating the spirit of Nzingha Amazon warrior Queen on Angola.

Strength and tenacity is a mandatory component for justice. Simply put, it takes guts to stand

against a host of people who deliberately hide the fact that a human being can be literally hunted down as an animal in the midst of an urban establishment!

I am almost fortunate that I have recently joined the struggle due to my son Elliott’s brutal attack by the Oakland police for taking photos of misconduct last June. Standing before the altar that Mesha and Sandra-Juanita erected for Idriss at the ISF lends strength to me and countless loved ones.

Onward we forge the vanguard, both in Bayview Hunters Point and Oakland. We are the prototype of justice and a united front. We celebrate the glorious days of the Panthers. Mesha-Monge and Sandra Juanita Cooper join the ranks of our other sister warriors Angela (Davis), Karen (Silkwood) and Elaine (Brown), to name a few. Let them link arms with the spirits of our brothers Huey (Newton), Eldridge (Clever), Martin L. (King, Jr.), Malcolm (El Haaj Malik EL Shabazz, all brothers in the struggle lest we forget...Idriss.

Venus “Zuhura” Noble is a writer for *SF Bay View*

Deported, but not Demoralized

An Interview with Brooke Atherton

BROOKE ATHERTON is a Bay Area activist dedicated to fighting Israel's repression of Palestine. On June 24, six days after Brooke was deported from Israel, *Fault Lines* talked to her via e-mail. Writing from Beirut, Brooke wanted to stress that this situation is not about her; it is about the movement for a free Palestine...

Fault Lines: What were you hoping to accomplish while in Israel?

Brooke Atherton: I went to Palestine to study Arabic and do support work for the International Solidarity Movement's Freedom Summer campaign: A mobilization of the Palestinian people for justice, for rights and for freedom. Like the civil rights movement in the United States, India's national liberation movement and the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa, Freedom Summer will utilize nonviolent direct action strategies and tactics to overcome oppression by challenging illegal Israeli occupation forces and policies.

FL: Why were you deported from Israel (what were the official reasons, what were the real reasons)?

BA: Ultimately, on Thursday, June 18, an Israeli judge ruled in court that solely based on "secret evidence" proving my connection to the International Solidarity Movement,

I was considered a security threat and would not be allowed to enter the country. The International Solidarity Movement is a Palestinian-led movement of Palestinian and International activists working to raise awareness of the struggle for Palestinian freedom and an end to Israeli occupation. (I do work with the International Solidarity Movement, but I never provided this information to Israel, so the evidence they have is based on some form of surveillance.)

FL: What should other activists fighting for Palestinian sovereignty learn from your ordeal?

BA: Israel's decision to deny my entry proves a couple of things to us: first, that our work in exposing the racist and brutal nature of Israel is working. They are so threatened by our work that they will go to extreme lengths to detain and deport someone who has no resources except my ability to witness and report what is happening to Palestinians under occupation. Israel is so threatened by this exposure that it is going to extreme lengths and expending resources to squash the truth. This should lead us to continue to do what we are doing by spreading the truth about what is happening in Palestine to people in the US (Israel's biggest financial and political supporter) and by visiting Palestine (and I encourage

people who can to do so).

Secondly, my experience is only a hint of the level of repression that Palestinians must endure in resisting the occupation every day of their lives, since they do not have the privileges of internationals. Israel continues to deny the right of over 5 million Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland. Israel maintains a systematic policy of brutally repressing Palestinian communities and organizations that use non-violent means to struggle for justice and freedom. This repression ranges from preventing internationals who want to work with these groups from entering the country, to regular arrests and assaults upon, and murders by Israeli soldiers of both Palestinians and internationals who participate in non-violent actions with Palestinian groups. In the last few months alone, Israeli soldiers have murdered at least five people during non-violent demonstrations against Israel's annexation wall in the West Bank, and during Israel's deadly and destructive attack on Rafah, Gaza, in May, Israeli soldiers opened fire on a peaceful demonstration killing against the attack, killing at least ten Palestinians, including five children. This week four non-violent Palestinian protesters were arrested at a peaceful demonstration against the annexation wall and are now facing interrogation and indefinite imprisonment.

Despite this brutal repression, Palestinian resistance to Israel's occupation and ethnic cleansing continues; the village of Az-Awiyya has been daily stopping construction of Israel's annexation wall for two weeks now. Palestine solidarity activists need to continue to support this resistance, whether through education, media work, direct action, etc. in the US or by traveling to Palestine to work with the International Solidarity Movement. People considering going to Palestine should not be afraid to try because of what happened to me, this would allow Israel the victory in squashing our efforts at solidarity. Many people are getting in to Palestine every day, others like myself are at least making it costly and difficult for Israel to continue this policy by challenging it through non-violent resistance and legal appeals, and there are always back up plans.

FL: What are your plans now?

BA: To study Arabic in Beirut, Lebanon and learn about the experiences of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon volunteering with a Palestinian-led women's organization that works in the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.

For more information, visit the International Solidarity Movement at www.palsolidarity.org.

The Palestinian Headhunt

US ignores Israeli brutality while attacking anti-occupation academics and media

BY NOURA ERAKAT

Since 1976, Israel has received more US aid than any other nation. Today it receives over \$5 billion annually. Moreover, Israel is the only country allowed to spend part of its military aid funds on its own arms industry. And while the US wages a war against Iraq for its supposed WMD programs and chastises North Korea for its nuclear weapons capability, it continues to defend Israel's refusal to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Israel's favored status became explicit after the Six Day War in 1967 when senior US officials voiced that "Israel has probably done more for the US in the Middle East in relation to money and effort invested than any of our so-called allies and friends elsewhere around the world since the end of the Second World War."

The US treatment of Israel stands in stark contrast to its persecution of Palestinians and solidarity activists fighting to end the oppression of this dispossessed nation. For decades, the US has tried to legitimize its pro-Israeli stance by associating Palestine with the USSR and Communism during the Cold War. But since 9/11, the Bush Administration has escalated the smear campaign, blindly lumping Palestine's struggle with the

port for Palestine in public universities and in the media, proving that the US stance against Palestine extends far beyond financial and military support for its oppressor.

The principle of academic independence that's supposed to protect universities from political pressures, received another black eye this year with the passage of H.R. 3077, Section 633(b). If approved by the Senate, this House bill would establish an advisory board over a portion of government funds sent to select universities for international studies, also known as Title VI of the Higher Education Act. The Act would "mandate, direct, or control an institution of higher education's specific institutional content, curriculum, or program of instruction" to further US national security by promoting American patriotism. In the framework of the Palestine-Israel conflict, only pro-Palestinian views would be edited and curtailed on campuses nationwide; thereby narrowing the scope of debate to mirror US foreign policy.

In the post-9/11 fervor, this governmental intervention in academia is perfectly exemplified by the case of Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) at UC Berkeley. In February 2001, SJP launched a divestment campaign from Israel, but following their occupation of an academic building in

was the group forbidden from tabling and holding meetings, but 41 students (of 79 total people) faced the risk of suspension and incarceration for sitting-in during the takeover. After a massive campaign to lift the gag order and defend the targeted students, the University dropped most of the charges and recognized the student solidarity group again.

This targeting of pro-Palestinian activists in the US is indicative of the Government's attempts to silence the Palestinian narrative. Student groups are accused of being hostile and inflammatory, while Palestinian academics and activists are criminalized for simply being politicized and Palestinian. This continuous attack places the US Palestinian diaspora population in a precarious position, especially those who try to use the media to give a voice to their cause.

Farouk Abdel-Muhti had lived in the US for 30 years, but on April 26, 2002, only one month after he began working regularly at the New York-based radio station WBAI, where he aired interviews with Palestinians from the occupied territories, he was arrested on charges of a visa violation by a federal-state immigration enforcement unit. Since no state is obligated to offer a refugee asylum and because Israel refused to issue him papers, the US could not deport Abdel-Muhti. He could have remained in detention indefinitely because, as a stateless Palestinian, he had nowhere to go. After 718 days in detention,



Palestinian villagers sit-in on their lands, blocking the Israeli separation wall in Beit Duqq /PENGON/Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign

250 of which were spent in solitary confinement, he was finally released.

Abdel-Muhti's story is demonstrative of the heavy burden of being a Palestinian, an activist, and a member of the pro-Palestinian solidarity movement. Despite his fear of being placed in detention again, Abdel-Muhti continues his activist work. He explains, "I won my freedom, but the struggle is not done."

Noura Erakat is a Palestinian-American student-activist in her second year at UC Berkeley's Law School who has organized with SJP. She is currently interning at the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York.

For more Palestine news, visit www.indybay.org/international/palestine/

Abdel-Muhti lived in the US for 30 years, but one month after he began working at the New York-based radio station WBAI, where he aired interviews with Palestinians from the occupied territories, he was arrested

extreme fundamentalism of al-Qaeda using broad "with us or against us" rhetoric in an attempt to target Palestinian solidarity activism. Several anti-Palestinian policies have recently been pushed to silence sup-

April 2002 where they protested Israeli brutality and demanded that their school cut financial ties from Israel, the Chancellor temporarily suspended SJP's status as a campus organization. Not only

Empire of Repression

In ruling Iraq, the United States government finds itself in a new colonial war. Suddenly, tens of thousands of Americans are battling to control a people who do not want them there. The last time this happened—during the Vietnam War—moral outrage, the loss of American lives, and the pressure of the draft prompted an internal revolt. Now, a generation later, the tools of repression—mass detention, militarization of villages, torture and assassination—that American specialists coordinated in the shadows since Vietnam are being brought back to light in Iraq.

BY CARWIL JAMES

The Last Colonial War

In Vietnam, the U.S. took the place of the French colonial army, propping up an undemocratic government while waging war on the anticolonialist National Liberation Front (NLF) and the independent government in the north. General Maxwell Taylor called the 12-year crack-down “a laboratory for subversive insurgency,” and presided over a series of “experiments with population and resource control methods.” Carpet bombing and chemical defoliation devastated the Vietnamese countryside while peasant refugees were offered life behind barbed wire in military-controlled “strategic hamlets”. Operation Phoenix, a plan to combat the grassroots strength of the NLF, pushed 250,000 South Vietnamese a year through a vast prison system while coordinating assassinations, torture, and intimidation. Phoenix alone resulted in between 26,000 and 41,000 Vietnamese deaths.

Beginning in 1965, professors initiated overnight teach-ins to consider the war and the obligation to resist. My Lai, where American soldiers followed orders to kill 347 men, women and children, became a household word. Mass demonstrations gathered hundreds of thousands; draft resistance was pervasive and accompanied by sabotage; and thousands of GIs organized to defy and even attack their officers. When the 1970 U.S. invasion of Cambodia, was announced, it was met by a national student strike (with the participation of more than four million students) demanding withdrawal, release of (mostly Black) political prisoners and the demilitarization of universities.

Internal Pentagon documents show fear of revolt limited the war in Vietnam. Social pressure and high costs of the war due to Vietnamese resistance split the U.S. elite. Former Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy acknowledged, “It is our chemicals that scorch the children and our bombs that level the villages. We’re all participants ... we must also feel as men the anguish of what it is we’re doing.” Future military actions were held back by reluctance to provoke a new social crisis, the so-called “Vietnam syndrome.”

Wars from the Shadows

Despite these new limits, the U.S. government continued to fight colonial wars to destroy popular resistance. With no direct military threat posed by any of the targets, it seems the intent was to secure access to power and resources. American weapons, money, and expertise in counterinsurgency (the product of the “experiments” in Vietnam) poured into new conflicts:

1974-1981: Operation Condor coordinated political repression among dictatorships in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay. Governments who “disappeared” tens of thousands of dissidents joined to assassinate, kidnap and interrogate each other’s subversives

from Santiago to Madrid to Washington.

1975-1999: Massive quantities of arms and covert support were channeled to South Africa and Indonesia to invade the liberated Portuguese colonies of Angola, Mozambique and East Timor.

1979-1990: Billions were spent recruiting tens of thousands of Muslim men into a war targeting the social infrastructure of Afghanistan, which was simultaneously invaded by Soviet troops.

1979-1994: Counterinsurgency escalated to genocide in El Salvador and Guatemala of peasants and the indigenous, while US- and drug-funded Contras terrorized Nicaragua.

Despite the substantial Central American solidarity movement, outrage over these interventions was limited. For many Americans, these were silent wars—their death toll in the millions obscured by brown faces and foreign flags.

Counter Insurgency in Iraq

On March 20, 2003, however, the U.S. entered a new colonial war, this time in the spotlight of the global media and global public opposition. While 60 to 90 percent of the conscript army deserted rather than defend the existing government, the occupation that followed has generated its own resistance. The requisition of public schools for use as bases, a ban on strikes, mass unemployment, the imposition of appointed leaders, and the apparently permanent US military presence all sparked resentment and protest. Larger US efforts to privatize and Westernize Iraq’s oil and economy and abolish guarantees of health and welfare made demands for sovereignty, elections, and local control all the more urgent. Protests have often been met with gunfire and attempts to arrest and interrogate the organizers.

The occupiers detained not only suspected members of the resistance, but their family members as well as residents of neighborhoods where US troops are attacked. Routine arrests, as described to the International Red Cross, follow this pattern:

Arresting authorities entered houses usually after dark, breaking down doors, waking residents roughly, ... Treatment often included pushing people around, insulting, taking aim with rifles, punching and kicking and striking with rifles.

The detainees from this process have been fed into a sprawling prison system. Unnamed officials have admitted to the Red Cross that 70 to 90 percent of the more than 43,000 detainees were arrested by mistake. Nonetheless they have been subjected to extended stays, living for months at a time with no clear process of release. The abuses at Abu Ghraib are part of a system a pattern of dehumanization that begins with the hooding of nearly all detainees and extends to severe forms of torture.

In armed combat, occupation soldiers apply the “doctrine of overwhelming force.” This treatment saturates its target with lethal weapons fire, as in the solid hour of shooting and aerial bombardment experienced by Hudood Khalaf at her farmhouse in the village of al-Jisr. Her sons, ages 10 and 12, were wounded in her arms while her husband and brother-in-law fell dead before dozens of American bullets. After initially claiming they responded to gunfire, the US military visited the survivors to apologize.

A Growing List of Enemies

US military actions continue to devastate families

and naturally leave people outraged. In the absence of any accountability, this outrage has generated a steady flow of volunteers for the many armed resistance groups as well as increasingly militant crowds. As they face more attacks and hostility, American troops lash out at ever wider circles of Iraqi population.

Last summer, US special forces began a new campaign of assassinations of suspected insurgents. They sought out former members of the secret police to act as intelligence agents infiltrating the insurgency. Last fall, the military began isolating entire villages. In Abu Hishma, thirty miles outside Baghdad, US troops surrounded the town with razor wire and forced all men to submit to questioning before they could leave or enter.

During the April siege of Fallujah, occupation forces subjected the city of 250,000 to weeks of artillery shells, 500-lb explosives and cluster bombs. Houses collapsed and sniper battles raged in the streets. Even as hospital officials reported the number of wounded had passed 1,700 (with over 600 dead), US gunmen harassed trucks and ambulances delivering aid to overworked doctors. As tens of thousands fled the city, American troops systematically denied exit to “military-age males.”

By widening the conflict, the US created a unified agenda for the resistance: immediate withdrawal of foreign troops from population centers, an end to occupation, and independence. As the siege of Fallujah raged simultaneously with an armed uprising in the Shi’ite south, these demands drew broad civilian support. On April 10, some 200,000 Iraqis gathered in Baghdad in solidarity with those under siege. Hundreds confronted and crossed American lines to deliver food and medicine to the besieged town.

Continuing Repression

Once again, the US is facing the challenge of maintaining control in a colonial war. Serving on a public war-crimes tribunal on Vietnam, French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre described the dilemma: “either the aggressor gives way, makes peace and recognizes that a whole nation is opposing him; or else, realizing the ineffectiveness of classical strategy, if he can do so without damaging his own interests, he resorts to extermination pure and simple.” While Pentagon, Army and right-wing leaders called for escalation, Marine commanders concluded a shaky truce with insurgents in Fallujah, vowing “We don’t want to turn Fallujah into Dresden,” the city where bombs incinerated thousands of Germans.

All the elements of the US counterinsurgency program in Iraq are likely to continue beyond last month’s “transfer of sovereignty” to an interim Iraqi government. Summary restrictions on freedom, such as martial law and extended curfews, have already been proposed by the new Prime Minister, Iyad Allawi, an ex-Ba’athist who later joined the payroll of the CIA. Occupying troops and their contractors will continue to have complete power over Iraqi civilians, as well as immunity from local prosecution. 138,000 American soldiers will remain in Iraq through December 2005 and plans for permanent bases are proceeding.

Neither has the sun set on Phoenix and its children. Its methods of repression are being spread by American military trainers, arms suppliers, and soldiers through a string of new bases in the resource-rich South American Andes, Central Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Cloaked by “War on Terror” rhetoric, local armies, and paramilitaries, a new generation of counterinsurgencies rages. While media exposure, American blood and public protest can turn the Iraq war from a quagmire into a withdrawal, only a new solidarity can dismantle Phoenix’s other lethal offspring.

Carwil James is a member of the Indybay collective. More of his writings are online in poster form at www.falseignorance.info.

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As Forgetful
Republicans Canonize
the Gipper, Bush II
Carries on the Crusade

SAINT RAYGUN

BY BEN TERRALL

In the corporate media marathon of Reagan deification, we've repeatedly heard how the "great communicator" restored national pride to the U.S. As the cornball actor made his long-delayed entry into the League of Dead Presidents, Andrew Sullivan recalled in *Time* that "He gave Americans purpose again." Calling for speedy dedication of a public memorial, a New Jersey State Senator explained, "President Reagan's humble yet unyielding pursuit of the ideals he held contributed to the restoration of pride in America."

The Bush team will do everything possible to associate their "war president" with Reagan while continuing to stoke the posthumous adulation. Republican guru Grover Norquist, who a former aide to Dick Armev calls "our field marshal," heads the Ronald Reagan Legacy Project, currently campaigning for their man to replace Alexander Hamilton on the \$10 bill. Norquist, who described Reagan (without irony) as the "greatest president this century," will also be working to name schools, airports, public squares, highways, government buildings, mountains, rivers and streams after Hollywood's most famous son.

Former Senator John Danforth eulogized Reagan thusly: "If ever we have known a child of light, it was Ronald Reagan. He was aglow with it. He had no dark side, no scary hidden agenda." George W. Bush's right hand man Karl Rove, not generally thought of as a font of human kindness, claimed to *Time*, "He made us sunny optimists... His was a conservatism of laughter and openness and community."

Yet behind Reagan's corny boosterism was a right wing agenda whose policies had a devastating impact on real people. His message may have been sugar-coated, but for those at the receiving end of the "Reagan revolution," like fired air traffic controllers, farmers killed by contra "freedom fighters" in Nicaragua, and peasants slaughtered by death squads in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, the reality was bitter indeed.

In addressing a memorial at Washington's national cathedral, George Bush the Elder recalled, "And, oh, how President Reagan loved a good story. When asked, 'How did your visit go with Bishop Tutu?' he replied, 'So-so.' It was typical. It was wonderful." *The New York Times* reported that "a wave of laughter echoed through the cathe-

dral's Gothic arches" in response.

The meeting with Tutu was "so-so" because the Bishop would not back down in his opposition to the racist Apartheid regime in South Africa, while Reagan the Upbeat made the delusional claim that the "reformist Administration" of South Africa had "eliminated the segregation that we once had in our own country." Tutu was underwhelmed: "Your president is the pits as far as blacks are concerned. He sits there like the great, big white chief of old." Reagan's politics targeted both Africans and African-Americans: he launched his 1980 Presidential campaign in the Mississippi town famous for the murder of 3 civil rights workers and famously invented a Chicago "welfare queen" for purposes of pandering to white racists.

Reagan also showed his great sense of humor by laughing heartily when Bob Hope "joked" at a centenary rededication of the Statue of Liberty, "I just heard that the Statue of Liberty has AIDS, but she doesn't know if she got it from the mouth of the Hudson or the Staten Island Fairy." Francois and Danielle Mitterrand, the French Prime Minister and his wife, looked on appalled. The lead thespian of "Bedtime for Bonzo" later said of AIDS, "maybe the Lord brought down this plague" because "illicit sex is against the Ten Commandments."

It doesn't take a PR genius to find reminders of Reagan in George W. Bush's administration. Bush the younger has surrounded himself with Iran-Contra co-conspirators John Poindexter, Otto Reich and Elliot Abrams, and appointed former Honduran death squad coordinator John Negroponte as Ambassador to Iraq. Reagan declared 1983 the "Year of the Bible" and appointed a Secretary of the Interior who said "I do not know how many future generations we can count on before the Lord returns;" Bush says he takes counsel from a "higher father" rather than the biological dad who opposed Gulf War II. Among other Christian rightists, Bush's administration includes Deputy Undersecretary of Defense Lt. General William G. Boykin, who said "the enemy is a guy called Satan," and bragged that he defeated a Muslim warlord in Somalia because "I knew that my God was bigger than his. I knew that my God was a real God and his was an idol."

As journalist Sam Smith recently pointed out, Bush has carried on Reagan's "psychotic faith in the ubiquitous virtue of the market, a faith almost creationist in its absence of objective foundation." And in his equally psychotic commitment to "staying the course" in Iraq, Bush echoes another of Reagan's most noticeable characteristics: an optimism that is, as former Reagan insider David Stockman wrote, "terminal."

Speaking Out

OPINIONS & PERSPECTIVES

THE REAL "SPIN FACTOR"

"I don't have any respect by and large for the Iraqi people at all . . . I think they're a prehistoric group . . . We cannot intervene in the Muslim world ever again. What we can do is bomb the living daylight out of them."

-- Bill O'Reilly, The Radio Factor, June 17

BY SCOTT FLEMING

It was in Fallujah that they lost the plot. Or, perhaps, the plot lost them. Until March 31, when four American mercenaries – “private contractors,” in the official lexicon – were ambushed and mutilated in that rebel Iraqi town, the 24-hour news punditry had dutifully adhered to the script that said the vast majority of Iraqi people embraced the presence of their American “liberators.” Coalition Provisional Authority press flacks had admitted since the summer of 2003 that the US was being attacked several dozen times per day, but the resistance was always attributed to Baathist “dead-enders” and foreign fighters. That the Americans could produce few, if any, dead or captured foreign fighters rarely upset the fundamental assumption that the United States was welcomed by the people of Iraq.

Everything changed on the day the pictures of the charred mercenaries hanging

from a bridge spread around the world. The images of cheering Fallujans belied the fantasy of masses of grateful Iraqis and made clear that large numbers of people supported the resistance. The Pentagon's campaign to blame a small group of troublemakers was no longer tenable; the guerrilla uprising that swept through much of Iraq throughout April exposed the bankruptcy of American propaganda. Unfortunately for Fox News Channel's Bill O'Reilly – the most popular face on the most popular channel in cable news – and his corporate media cohorts, the White House PR machine failed to provide them with rhetorical instructions to address this new reality.

Left to their own devices, the talking heads had only one thing to fall back on: deeply ingrained racism. If the Iraqi people were no longer the grateful beneficiaries of American liberation, then they could only be Arab savages. After all, at least since the Lebanon war in the early 1980s, the U.S.

media have cast Arabs and Muslims exclusively as terrorists and “towel-heads,” irrational enemies of Israel and America. If one were to ask most Americans to name a few famous Middle Easterners, the list would probably not extend far past “Saddam” and “Osama.” So, it should not have been surprising that O'Reilly responded to the Fallujah uprising with repeated exhortations to war crimes:

"I don't care about the people of Fallujah. You're not going to win their hearts and minds. They're going to kill you to the very end. They've proven that. So let's knock this place down . . . We know what the final solution should be . . . This isn't a big town. We're not talking about Cincinnati here, right? . . . U.S. Marines are now in charge of the area and it is time, in my opinion, for drastic action. All citizens of Fallujah must be evacuated, every building searched for weapons. If there's resistance, no more Fallujah. It must be neutralized one way or the other . . . When a town unites in killing U.S. soldiers, a town should pay a price."

Subjecting a civilian population to collective punishment is an archetypal war crime, although American disdain for the Geneva Conventions has preceded Abu Ghraib by many decades. Bill O'Reilly probably doesn't know that the International Criminal Court for Rwanda recently sentenced two journalists to life

imprisonment for using the airwaves to incite crimes against humanity; he has nothing to fear as long as he doesn't use FCC-proscribed foul language when he advocates a “final solution” for Fallujah.

It remains to be seen how the media will spin the war in Iraq now that the U.S. has “transferred sovereignty” with the hope of bolstering George Bush's flagging re-election campaign. So far, the press seems to be swallowing the notion that the new government, which was appointed by an occupying power and threatened martial law before it even “took over,” represents the birth of a democratic Iraq. There is every indication that the Iraqi resistance will continue its attacks with the twin intentions of expelling the U.S. and overthrowing the new government.

If the attacks continue at their present rate, the result will be an American occupation army defending a tiny ruling cabal against a guerrilla movement that has the tacit support of the majority of Iraqis. Bush's platitudes about bestowing democracy at the barrel of a gun will be more nakedly implausible than they are now. We can expect the media, with a straight face, to parrot whatever version of reality Washington puts on offer. The question is whether the increasingly skeptical American population will continue to believe it.

THEY'RE LYING- NOW PROVE IT

BY MATTHEW HIRSCH

Legendary investigative journalist I. F. Stone once said, “Every government is run by liars, and nothing they say should be believed.”

Hyperbole though it may be, Stone knew what he was talking about. He spent his life poring over Congressional records and reporting what he found – corruption in the halls of power, wholesale slaughter in Vietnam, enduring racism here in the U.S.

You might wonder why someone would commit himself to studying the shifting schemes of our official leaders if he thought it was all just a ruse. Stone understood that information is power, and he used it to undercut the state's authority with evidence to question and contradict its policies.

The best muckrakers of our time follow in the proud tradition of I. F. Stone, but surprisingly few of them use all the tools now at their disposal. People go to all kinds of trouble to access information from the government when sometimes all you need to know is how to ask for it. One of the simplest and least expensive ways to do this is using freedom of information laws.

On July 4, 1966, President Lyndon Johnson conceded to demands for better public access to information and signed the Federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The law gave anybody (including non-citizens) the right to request records, which must be disclosed unless they are specifically exempted by FOIA, from the federal government.

Although intended to make government more transparent, FOIA has been used mostly by companies looking out for proposed regulations to squash and trade secrets to steal. Meat suppliers want to know when the USDA is planning to crack down on filthy slaughterhouses, for example, and technology companies are constantly seeking clues to what the competition is doing. When possible, they get this information using FOIA.

More than 50 countries around the world have government access laws, many added to the books within the last ten years. There are separate provisions for access to state government in the U.S. – California has the Brown Act and the California Public Records Act – and in San Francisco and Oakland we have what's known as Sunshine Ordinances.

These types of laws preserving access to public meetings and records serve much more than just to satisfy the liberal

transparency fetish. Sometimes they force government officials to account for their decisions, and in rare instances they manage to deliver meaningful reforms.

Here's an example: Tom Blanton, director of the National Security Archives in Washington, D.C. told me about a recent case that forced a prestigious government school in Thailand to change its admissions policy. The school had been admitting some students because of generous donations their parents gave even though they scored lower on entrance exams than other students.

This amounts to standard practice for many private schools around the world, but the fact that a prominent public school was offering entrance to the highest bidder was considered outrageous in Thailand. So a woman whose daughter was denied admission requested the entrance exam results using the 1997 Official Information Act, and the evidence she uncovered led to a successful challenge to the school's admissions policy.

Not all freedom of information requests will produce such extraordinary results. The laws are by nature very difficult to

enforce, but open government advocates are trying to make them more effective all the time. Advocates in San Francisco are currently working on a measure that would give an independent task force authority to enforce the local Sunshine Ordinance and expand access to nonprofit organizations that contract with city agencies, among other changes.

These efforts to strengthen freedom of information laws are important, but it's vital that people also make better use of the ones that already exist. If everything the government says is a lie, as I. F. Stone believed, then there's probably a public record somewhere out there to prove it. Now it's up to us to find it and report it.

Matt Hirsh is a staff writer for the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*. There are tons of resources you can find on the internet to access government information. Many of them display sample letters you can use to submit a written public records request. For San Francisco, see the **Sunshine Ordinance Task Force Web site: www.sfgov.org/sunshine**. For California, visit the **California First Amendment Coalition Web site: www.cfac.org** and click on “sample letters.” For the federal government, try the **National Security Archive Web site: www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv** and click on “FOIA.”

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July events:

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All Star Political Folk Singer
performing with:
Dave Lippman
The Prince Myshkins

Friday, July 16
at AK Press

Alexander Cockburn & Jeffrey St. Clair
editors of
CounterPunch
speak on their new
AK Press/CounterPunch book:
**Serpents in the Garden:
Liaisons with Culture & Sex**



Friday, July 23rd
at AK Press

Ward Churchill
speaks on his new book:
**On The Justice of
Roosting Chickens:
Reflections on the
Consequences of
U.S. Imperial Arrogance
and Criminality**

**Thursday,
July 29th**
New College
of California
Co-hosted by
AK Press and
the New College
Center for Education
and Social Action.



**Saturday,
July 31st**
Berkeley Fellowship
of Unitarian Universalists
Co-hosted by AK Press and
Modern Times Bookstore

Book Release Celebration!
**David Gilbert's
NO SURRENDER:
writings from an
anti-imperialist political
prisoner**

Friday, July 30th
at AK Press

Featuring: **Ward Churchill**, author
and Native American activist;
Chesa Boudin, David Gilbert's
son; **Linda Evans**, former Political
Prisoner; **Kali Akuno**, Malcolm X
Grassroots Movement; **Clare
Bayard**, Heads Up Collective &
Anti Racism for Global Justice;
Maria Poblet, poet; **Recorded
Statements by Political Prisoners
David Gilbert & Marilyn Buck**

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times and locations and on the
authors and performers listed:
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Arts and Action

CRITICAL ART VS. PANTALONES AND IL CAPITANO OF THE UNDERWORLD

In an all new episode of the "Hysterical PATRIOT Act," Homeland Security takes the role of the ultimate publicity agent for the Critical Art Ensemble

BY P.B. PODZKA

The FBI have practically booked Steve Kurtz, a SUNY-Buffalo professor and member of the Critical Art Ensemble, a new world tour to promote the CAE's latest book, *Molecular Invasion*, by arresting the subversive artist on wildly trumped up bio-terrorism charges. CAE's mission of exposing a society gone mad only seems emphasized by the fact that Ashcroft-era storm troopers have stooped to bullying artists while allowing venture-alchemist and bio-mogul J. Craig Venter to run amok in the global ecosystem.

Molecular Invasion is one of the most provocative indictments of the criminal activities and micro-colonial agendas of the biotech industry since Vandana Shiva's *Biopiracy* and Jeremy Rifkin's *The Biotech Century*. By investigating the intersections of science, politics and economics, *Molecular Invasion* creatively expands on the framework of these two pre-WTO-Seattle books that exposed how multinational corporations like Monsanto have democracy and the public interest strapped to a gurney in the operating theater of world markets.

Could CAE's cultural antidotes (to remove fear and provoke discourse) have anything to do with agents from the Joint Terrorism Task Force seizing Kurtz's computer, teaching files, and books?

The absurdity began on May 11, when Kurtz's wife, Hope, suffered a heart attack. Responding to a 911 call, police arrived at his home and alerted the FBI because of suspicions regarding Kurtz's scientific equipment. The Feds quickly raided Kurtz's home and subpoenaed eight other artists, one of Kurtz's students, and Autonomedia, CAE's publishing company. According to the NY State Health Department, the three strains of bacteria found in Kurtz's Petri dishes posed "no health risk in or around the house" and the prosecution has since retreated to a \$256 petty theft technicality.

Gearing up to present *Free Range Grain* on May 30 as part of Mass Moca's "Interventionists" exhibit, CAE were not likely anticipating their next performance to be in a court of law (but as veteran media tacticians were well-prepared). During shows in Amsterdam and Frankfurt, the project featured "a mobile DNA extraction laboratory to test store-bought food for possible contamination by genetically modified organisms (GMOs) using equipment readily found in any university's basic biology lab." *Grain* successfully revealed how Germany's food does NOT remain GMO-free despite strict EU regulations (known in some parts as "democracy"), debunking biotech industry claims and exposing several well-respected multi-national corporations as rogue agencies operating outside of international laws.

Enter J. Craig Venter, the Bill Gates of Bio-Monopoly, with "evolutionary" plans and federal assistance.

The witch-hunt mentality with which the State pursues artists like Kurtz stands in appalling contrast to the "hands-off" treatment given to bio-barons like J. Craig Venter, best known for his former company Celera Genomics, which outraced the US government to map the human genome in 2000. After being forced to resign from his own company two years later (one might imagine Venter cackling something about how he could now rule the world and the board of directors getting nervous), he transformed his yacht, the Sorcerer II, into an exploratorium for sucking the microorganisms from every global corner, from the Sargasso Sea to Bora Bora. In one recent act of entrepreneurial arrogance, Venter shipped containers full of indigenous microbes from Ecuador's Galapagos Islands to labs in Maryland for genetic sequencing. The end result of this biopiracy could be the transformation of Ecuador's biomaterials from public domain goods into patentable, private commodities.

While Venter ignores the national sovereignty of Ecuador and other coun-

tries in his quest to create and patent novel life forms that could threaten the environment in profound ways, terror-hungry FBI agents remain focused on "threats" like Steve Kurtz, whose case is still pending. Venter has yet to be questioned by any committee (much less a grand jury) of scientific, technological and/or trade oversight. On the contrary, Venter's institute has received over \$12 million dollars from the US Department of Energy (Remember them? They handle the petroleum and nuclear industries!) to fully explore the new micro-colonial frontiers. (For in-depth research, see communiqué #84 at www.ETCgroup.org)

Exactly when our justice system turned into a post-modern Commedia del Arte is unclear, but this transformation is likely a symptom of corporate personhood and federal partnerships which allow the great theater archetypes to preside over the most crucial matters of life.

Enter the new Pantalone and Il Capitano, dancing arm-in-arm in the Underworld. We now approach a monumental juncture in "Critical Arts". As letters and articles from free-thinking circles of art and science pour in from around the world in support for Kurtz and CEA, the situation demands a renaissance of resistance... by any theater necessary!

In loving memory of Hope Kurtz, 1959-2004

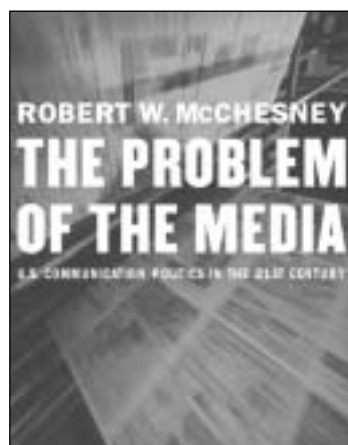
**Do Not Fear Thought
Provoking Art.** www.caedefensefund.org



THE PROBLEM OF THE MEDIA

US Communication Politics in the 21st Century

by Robert W. McChesney



"The system is not set up to create good journalism," Robert McChesney states in his comprehensive analysis of the print and broadcast industries, *The Problem of the Media*. "It is to generate maximum profits for the news media companies." If McChesney's highly-regarded *Rich Media, Poor Democracy* (2000) is scripture for the growing legions of media reformers, then this

exhaustive historical and political deconstruction of the U.S. media is the new testament. McChesney contends — quite convincingly — that corporate conglomerates have hijacked the national discourse through hyper-commercialism, biased and apolitical "news" reporting, and lowest common denominator entertainment. His caustic indictment finds that democracy has been critically undermined by media's failure to foster an informed public debate. The solution he calls for is radical overhaul of the legislation governing the entire industry.

McChesney blasts free-market theorists, offering a history lesson on how the nation's founders considered a decentralized media as being so vital to a healthy democracy that they subsidized newspapers in order to promote a competitive marketplace offering a wide variety of political perspectives. From Colonial-era postage discounts to the 1996 Telecommunications Act that literally gave commercial broadcasters control over the digital spectrum worth hundreds of billions of dollars, government policy has shaped the technological and editorial evolution of media. With a detailed examination of copyright laws, "professional journalism" and, most significantly, ownership (de)regulation, McChesney shatters the myth that the media is simply giving the public what they want.

In examining the prospects for media in the digital age, McChesney argues that while the explosion of independent news outlets via the internet is a promising development, the National Association of Broadcasters has used the promise of this potential media free-for-all to demand even further deregulation of anti-trust policies, allowing the conglomerates further dominance. The book concludes with "The Uprising of 2003," in which FCC Chairman Michael Powell is painted as a kowtowing corporate lapdog in the unfolding battle that has united everyone from Jesse Jackson to Trent Lott in opposition to behemoths like Viacom and Clear Channel. It's the profit motive of companies like these that squash localism, heterogeneity, and the critical analysis necessary for a thriving democracy and a truly free country. (Liam O'Donoghue)

THE MIAMI MODEL

New Indymedia documentary details new template for crowd control

BY FTAAIMC.ORG VIDEO WORKING GROUP-SF NODE

"Florida is a place where dreams come true, where dreamers come...we dream a lot here. And my dream for our state is that we take full advantage of our geography."

These were the opening remarks Florida Governor Jeb Bush made to the participants of the Americas Business Forum that met prior to the second round of negotiations of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). These are also the opening lines to the new Indymedia documentary, *The Miami Model*, which chronicles events surrounding the summit of the FTAA, the hemispheric free trade zone (all 34 countries in the Americas except for Cuba) being pushed by neo-liberal strategists of consecutive US governments. For more than 20 years free trade policies have been disastrous for the global south. The implementation of such policies has led to greater destruction of the environment and increased exploitation of workers in the name of "removing trade barriers" which benefit multinational corporations.

Although Jeb Bush probably wishes otherwise, corporate dreamers weren't the only ones who converged upon Miami last November during this summit. Thousands of protesters ranging from the younger generation with direct action in their mind, to grassroots organizations representing communities of color in Florida to the mainstream unions of the AFL-CIO flooded the streets to oppose the FTAA.

The confrontation between the corporate dreamers and those dreaming of another world was also the debut of a violent and highly mobile method of sophisticated crowd control. This method, The Miami Model, will likely be implemented during the political conventions this summer and was already successfully used against demonstrators at the G8 summit in Georgia. This documentary does not only focus on the police crackdown during the FTAA summit. It also addresses issues of environmental urban racism and the corporate media's manipulation of the events. Activists countered this with tactics of grassroots organizing, independent and autonomous media networks and creative resistance. One example of this occurred in the Overtown neighborhood of Miami, one of the many communities that has been destroyed by the policies of the multi-national corporations who are looking to benefit from the FTAA. In the week leading up to the demonstrations activists visited the community garden in Overtown and planted 100 cherry trees and worked on a variety of projects to show solidarity with the residents.

One of the most shocking images in the video is the police assault on Elizabeth Ritter, a Miami lawyer. Dressed in a business suit, wearing high heels, and carrying a sign that reads "Fear Another Totalitarian Administration", she was pelted by rubber bullets and suffered an injury to the head. In the soon-to-be released DVD of *The Miami Model*, which includes post-riot interviews, Ritter puts what happened to her in a larger context.



An image from *The Miami Model*; the model in her full glory

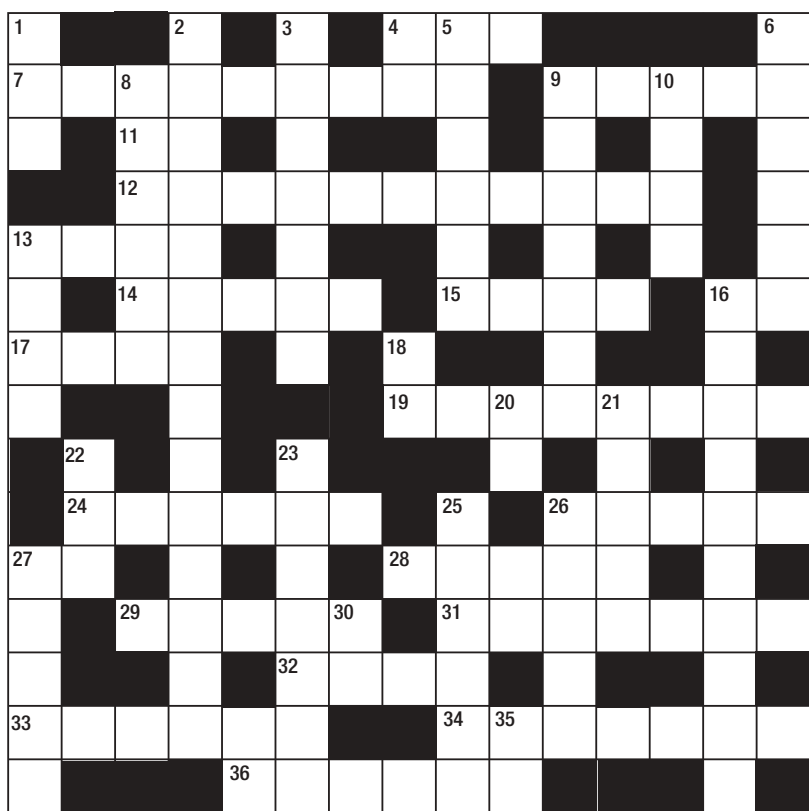
Those who participated in the activities against the FTAA in Miami will forever be affected by the experience. The extremity of police repression and the range and sophistication of their tactics left scars on us all. The terror created in Miami was painfully obvious with rumors we heard from city residents that "The Anarchists" had collected billiard balls to throw at the police or that they were going to inject shit into civilians. The corporate media was at the helm of the propaganda machine as they pumped the climate of fear into downtown Miami. The marriage between the media and government isn't mere conspiracy: several reporters, officially "embedded," in an arrangement similar to that which emerged during the invasion of Iraq, are interviewed in *The Miami Model* and freely discuss their hand-in-glove relationship with the police.

The Miami Model features footage shot by more than 50 Indymedia video activists, who came from all over the world to document this brutal and unjust repression and to initiate the Ftaaimc.org project. Once the convergence came to an end, videomakers from distant locations such as San Diego and Asheville, North Carolina produced segments and sent it to be assembled in San Francisco.

We are putting this video out at this critical time as a heads-up to the hundreds of thousands who are preparing to go to New York City to directly confront the Republican National Convention. We are fighting for a better world and struggling to create it day by day, just as we did in Miami. For all of us, *The Miami Model* will be helpful to comprehend the reality of the system that we are up against.

The Miami Model: Free Trade Police State will be premiering soon in San Francisco. For more information or to order a DVD, visit www.ftaaimc.org/miamimodel.

CRYPTO compiled by Iain Boal



Across:

- 4. Short article (3)
- 7. Laissez faire, for export only (4,5)
- 9. Prattle about West Africa (5)
- 11. Not far from abbreviation (2)
- 12. TV and Crypto staple? (5,6)
- 13. Not your French sophisticate (4)
- 14. Aristocratic gas (5)
- 15. Examination tax? (4)
- 16. Left coast down under (2)
- 17. Expensive address (4)
- 19. Opiate of the masses (8)
- 24. Surrealist photographer (3,3)
- 26. Long distance trumpeter (5)
- 27. Kipling at the cinema (2)
- 28. Fast-acting drug? (5)
- 29. Martial instrument (5)
- 31. Footrest for imperialists (7)
- 32. Semi-desert? (4)
- 33. Northern latitudes (6)
- 34. Spanish tethers (7)
- 36. Sappho's island (6)

Down:

- 1. Air (of) mystery (3)
- 2. Vigo's film with the bad attitude (4,3,7)
- 3. Stoker's sucker (7)
- 4. Publicity plus (2)
- 5. Alchemist's acid reply (6)
- 6. Greek puzzle (6)
- 8. Spanish oak (6)
- 9. Prisoner with a notebook (7)
- 10. Squander a punch? (4)
- 13. Gandhian methods, in short (4)
- 16. NASA's green icon (5,5)
- 18. Mysteries of the Organism (2)
- 20. Soft silvery metal, in short (2)
- 21. Great Scot surprised an Italian (5)
- 22. Structural adjusters (3)
- 23. Darwin's double (7)
- 25. Chicken god (6)
- 26. Measure by the yard (5)
- 27. Platonic visionary (5)
- 30. We converse sheepishly (2)
- 35. Comparitavely short (2)

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTHS CRYPTO:

Across: 1. ETA 3. Couchpotato 7. IMC 11. Utopia 13. Biopiracy 14. End 15. Morris 16. Pie 19. Aquavit 20. Asset 22. SSA 26. Globes 28. Aid 29. Risk 30. Gas 31. Tina 32. Gym 33. Engels 34. Multitude
Down: 2. Tutti bianchi 3. Commie 4. Cynic 5. Oration 6. Ox 8. Carnaval 9. Civil Society 10. Lad 12. Paris 17. Stab 18. EQ 21. Arsine 23. Soap 24. Opus 25. Seattle 27. Atlas 28. Adage 29. Rite 34. Mate

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE
 Globalization art exhibit *The People's Republic* reviewed by Rob Eshelman at:
www.indybay.org/faultlines



Calendar July's Events

For more information or to submit your event, visit www.indybay.org/calendar.



Open The Road to The Women Fighters, a documentary about women in Argentina rising up in struggle for liberation is one of the many titles playing at the Mission Cultural Center during Labor Fest.

July 5-31: San Francisco Labor Fest.

Events include a working class film and video festival, political theater, walking tour, music, poetry, readings, lectures, panel discussions and more. This year commemorates the 70th anniversary of San Francisco's 1934 General Strike.

The successful gains of the general strike of '34 and many other labor battles are now under attack, from wages and healthcare to education and pensions. The massive cost of the war in Iraq is being paid for by the layoffs of librarians and closure of healthcare centers; jobs are being "outsourced" to countries lacking labor rights; and corporate America is building a "Wal-Mart economy" based on a de-unionized workforce, low wages, and a decreasing standard of living. Labor Fest was created in part to bring to light the history of working class struggles in the US and around the world. www.laborfest.net; 415-642-8066

July 7, 7:30pm: Sixth Sun: Mayan Uprising in Chiapas

A weekly series of films thru July 28 on the Zapatista movement screening at Humanist Hall, 390 27th St; 510-654-9587.

July 9, 12pm: Berkeley Women in Black weekly vigil

WIB stands vigil each Friday to protest the ongoing occupation of Palestine, murder and torture of Palestinians, bulldozing of homes and agricultural lands, stealing of the water supplies, and building of Jewish-only settlements, roads, and apartheid Wall. Bancroft & Telegraph; 510-548-6310.

July 9, 7pm: Women's Peace Day: Speak Out Against Militarism in Asia

An evening of food, music and education, calling attention to the

impacts of war and militarization in Korea, Okinawa and the Philippines and the role that women have played in exposing U.S. military violence. Highlights include a Spam Iron Chef, dance performance, spoken word, and keynote speech by author, journalist and human rights activist Ninotchka Rosca. Women's Building, 3543 18th St, SF; 415-273-4600.

July 9, 7pm:

So How'd You Become an Activist?

Dave Lippman is a political satirist famous as George Shrub, the world's only known singing CIA agent. Killu Nyasha is an artist, writer, and broadcaster; Black Panther veteran; and active in the movement to restore Aristide in Haiti. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St, Berkeley; 415-927-1645.

July 9, 8pm: Opening of the 3-day Palestine/Israel Film Festival

A variety of films portraying the realities of life in the Occupied Territories and within the Israeli peace movement. 142 Throckmorton Theatre, Mill Valley; 415-898-0131.

July 10-11:

San Francisco Mime Troupe

Performing "Showdown at Crawford Gulch" at Cedar Rose Park, Berkeley. Details at www.sfmt.org or 415-285-1717.

July 10, 7:30pm:

All Together for Chiapas

A benefit for emergency relief for displaced refugees, featuring video, dance, spoken word and music. Capoeira Angola Center, 2513 Magnolia St, Oakland; 510-654-9587.

July 10, 8pm: Make Some Noise

Community discussion on money and politics, featuring local slam poets and DJs; sponsored by Democracy Matters. Studio Rasa, 933 Parker St, Berkeley; 510-863-7464.

July 11, 11:30am: Farouk Abdel Muhti

Farouk, recently released after being detained for 718 days in a US jail, speaks on Palestine and US immigrant detentions at the Socialist Organizing Conference. Park Plaza Hotel, Oakland.

July 15, 7pm: Sierra Forest Policy

John Buckley, from the Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center in Twain Harte, CA, discusses Sierra Pacific clearcuts, fire management and other issues affecting old growth forests in the Sierra Nevada. 3921 E. Bayshore Rd, Palo Alto; 650-390-8441.

July 15, 7:30pm: "Until When..."

This documentary follows four Palestinian families living in the Dheisheh Refugee Camp near Bethlehem; Arabic with English subtitles. Report by Jess Ghannam, one of the filmmakers; sponsored by ANSWER. Artist's Television Access, 992 Valencia St, SF; 415-821-6545.

July 16, 6pm: Women for Renee Saucedo

Community activist Renee Saucedo is running a grassroots campaign for Supervisor of District 9. Back to the Picture Latino Art Gallery & Frame Shop, 934 Valencia St, SF; 415-248-1620.

July 17, 3pm: War Tax Resistance potluck and party

Enjoy live music, food, and a chance to meet other war tax resisters. Bring your stories, questions, and some food to share. Dolores Park, SF; 510-843-9877.

July 17, 6pm: Resistance at Home and Abroad

Community discussion linking the U.S.-led war on the people of Iraq, Palestine, and the Philippines to the mass incarceration of communities of color in the U.S. Featuring panelists Rayan Elamine (Global Intifada), Kawal Ulanday (Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines), and a speaker from Critical Resistance. 522 Valencia St. 3rd floor, SF; 415-861-7444.

July 17, 8pm: Outdoor screening of "Bums' Paradise"

A documentary film about the Albany Landfill artist community, and its eviction to make way for a city park. 1280 65th St, Emeryville. Info at LolaFilms.net and BumsParadise.com.

July 18, 6pm: Republican Freakshow

A benefit to send the Ronald Reagan Home for the Criminally Insane to the Republican National Convention. Art, music, films, photography, dance, clowns, food and more; \$10 donation, 21+. The Cat Club, 1190 Folsom St, SF; 415-385-5956.

July 20, 8pm: Jazz at Intersection

Howard Wiley Vocal X, a new ensemble directed by local saxophonist Howard Wiley, featuring jazz singer Faye Carol and scat vocalist Lorin Benedict. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia St, SF; 415-626-2787.

July 21: Town Hall meeting

Stop service cuts and save the Alameda County Medical Center—the system serving the poor and uninsured; 510-710-0716.

July 23-29, Belgrade, Serbia: People's Global Action

PGA is a network of autonomous grassroots movements around the world, sharing an opposition to capitalism and commitment to direct action and civil disobedience.

www.nadir.org/nadir/initiativ/agp/belgrade

July 25-30, Quito, Ecuador: Americas Social Forum

NGOs and other elements of "civil society" gather to discuss "alternatives" to the neoliberal order—within the bounds of global capitalism. www.forosocialamericas.org

July 26-29, Boston: DNC

An unwelcome party as Kerry and the rest of the corporate elite invades Boston. www.blackteasociety.org

July 27, 7pm: Literary Reading and Presentation

With Fred Rinne, artnoose, Scott Williams and other Booklyn artists. San Francisco Center for the Book, 300 Deharo St, SF; 415-565-0545.

July 27-Aug. 4: Autonomous Mutant Festival

Annual free non-commercial gathering for the healthy evolution of life culture, celebrating independent art, and exploring DIY technologies. Pacific Northwest; 800-486-6862.

July 29-31: San Francisco Mime Troupe

"Showdown at Crawford Gulch" at Oakland's Lakeside and Mosswood Parks. Details at www.sfmt.org or 415-285-1717.

July 29-Aug. 1: Ladyfest Bay Area

A DIY festival and space for women and transfolk to make their political and artistic voices heard. Offers workshops, live music and spoken word shows, opportunities to sell handmade crafts and zines, film screenings, and more. www.ladyfestbayarea.org

July 31, 10am: Peace and Justice Summit

First in a series of townhall forums for community members who have been incarcerated and their families to testify directly to local, state, and federal officials, focusing on how discrimination caused by felony convictions has impacted prisoners' lives and families. Sponsored by All of Us or None, the California Coalition for Women Prisoners and the Family Advocacy Network. First Unitarian Church, 685 14th Street, Oakland; 510-219-0297.

Aug. 5, 8pm: "Live Nude Girls Unite!"

Screening at ATA, 992 Valencia St, SF, \$5; 415-824-3890.

Aug. 1-8: Black and Green Anarchist Gathering

2nd annual "anti-civilization" gathering. Southern Cascades of Oregon; 866-270-1653.

Aug. 20-22: Champaign, Illinois: National Summit for Community Wireless Networks

Discuss policy issues and practical solutions for building community wireless networks. www.communitywirelesssummit.org

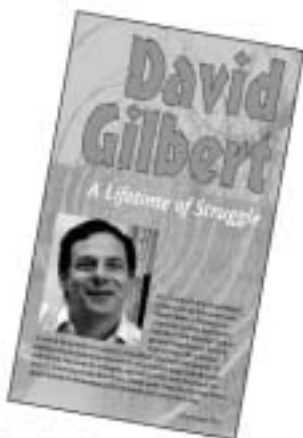
Aug. 27-Sep. 4, New York City: Republican National Convention

Hundreds of thousands of pissed-off protesters will confront the full force and might of Bush, Dick and their cronies. www.counterconvention.org

DAVID GILBERT:

A Lifetime of Struggle

A rare opportunity to go behind prison walls to see and hear David Gilbert. He explains why he joined the movement, what led him to go underground, and frankly discusses the strengths and errors of the movement and the WUO. A great companion to this book, this 30-minute video was edited in March 2002 by The Freedom Archives. \$20 + \$2 shipping (\$3 Canada)



JALIL MUNTAQIM:

Voice of Liberation

Based on an interview done in August 2000. Jalil Abdul Muntaqim (formerly Anthony Bottom) was 19 years old when he was arrested. He is a former member of the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army, and is one of the longest held political prisoners in the world. This documentary is a unique opportunity to visit and hear Jalil's story. This 20-minute video was edited & produced in November 2002 by The Freedom Archives. \$20 + \$2 shipping (\$3 Canada)

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