

# Fault Lines

NEWSPAPER OF THE SF BAY AREA INDEPENDENT MEDIA CENTER

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## \$1.6 MILLION BAIL THE PRICE OF FREEDOM



BY COURT MOUSE

On January 25, Daniel McGowan, one of 11 activists indicted on federal charges of arson, property destruction, and conspiracy relating to two incidents that occurred in Oregon in 2001, was released into the custody of his sister. He will be required to live with her, wear an electronic monitor, and report weekly to pre-trial supervisor in New York. Despite vehement protests by the prosecutors that McGowan presents "a serious flight risk," Judge Ann Aiken stated that she had received at least 60 letters from people in his support and let him out on \$1.6 million bail. Daniel asserts his innocence by pleading "not

**"MCGOWAN'S ARREST COMES IN THE CONTEXT OF A NATIONWIDE SWEEP THAT INVOLVED SIX OTHERS ARRESTED IN OREGON, VIRGINIA, AND ARIZONA."**

guilty" to all 16 charges. Daniel has been a committed activist, working on projects such as the demonstrations against the Republican National Convention in NYC in 2004, "Really Really Free Markets" and prisoner support work, most notably for Jeff "Free" Luers, who is currently serving over 22 years for the burning of three SUVs.

Federal agents arrested Daniel on December 7 while he was working at Women's Law, which offers legal help to victims of domestic abuse. Daniel was indicted alone, but his arrest comes in the context of a nationwide sweep that involved six others arrested in Oregon, Virginia, and Arizona. Since December 7th there have been two additional arrests and several new charges added to the original indictments. Three of the 11 total people indicted still remain at large. The charges against the defendants stem from several unsolved fires that were claimed by the Earth Liberation Front between 1998 and 2001.

*continued on page 3...*



## First they came for the Muslims

**THEN THEY CAME FOR THE RAGING GRANNIES**

The Bush regime continues to trample individual liberties and constitutional rights with its convenient, all-encompassing "War on Terror." While the bloody invasions, covert CIA prisons and indefinite detentions of "enemy combatants" have been sowing destruction and hatred abroad for years, at home Bush, Inc.'s escalating domestic arsenal has come to include warrant-less phone and email surveillance, search engine subpoenas, and witch-hunting Grand Juries. But spying in this country is nothing new. Since September 11, 2001, the Federal government has been monitoring and harassing immigrant communities residing all over the U.S.

Now, church-affiliated peace groups are deemed "credible threats" by the Pentagon, undercover cops surveil the Raging Grannies, an elderly satirical singing group, and there is thugish intimidation against radical organizers. The grave predictions of those who opposed the PATRIOT ACT are now an everyday occurrence. Fault Lines encourages our readers to take notice of---and action against---this spreading abuse of power that has menaced many Arab and Muslim communities for years and only recently has made headlines for fear of intruding into the lives of "regular" citizens. Otherwise, when they come for you, there may be no one left to notice.



## DEFEND NEW ORLEANS



BY NATASHA DEDRICK

After having been evacuated to far-flung places ranging from New York, Wisconsin, California to Alaska, tens of thousands of New Orleanians are being kept from returning home to reclaim their lives. While thousands of Gulf Coast survivors are placed into, and soon after evicted from, hotels paid for by FEMA, the city of New Orleans is trying to bulldoze homes to which many homeowners haven't even been able to return to assess the damage, retrieve what's salvageable, and make important decisions.

On January 9th, FEMA announced it would once again extend the payments for Gulf Coast evacuees living in hotels around the country. This time however, it may only be until February 13th, six days beyond the current hotel eviction date of February 7th. The document instructs evacuees to call FEMA by January 30th to get an authorization code, and when they do, "FEMA will let them know when FEMA will stop paying for their hotel room." In other words, FEMA will be deciding the fate of each evacuee individually, further separating people and making it even more difficult for evacuees to unite as a group to make demands collectively. The document doesn't indicate what criteria FEMA is using to decide the length of extensions.

*continued on page 10...*

## "AQUI SE MATÓ AQUI SE TORTURÓ" CHILE STRUGGLES TO SHED ITS PAINFUL PAST

BY KELAH BOTT

January 15, 2006, Santiago, Chile. Outside the National Stadium, crowds of women gathered around the voting stations as poll volunteers counted each vote for the presidential election. Cheers went up at each one cast for Michelle Bachelet, the Socialist Party candidate and eventual winner of the race. With neo-liberal economic policies, Bachelet is a socialist in name only, yet the people were genuinely excited about the prospect of her governance. While her politics are hardly distinguishable from those of her conservative opponent, her presidency seems to be symbolic of something more important---something that transcends politics.

Chile is a nation in recovery. The same stadium that is a polling station today was once a center of detention, torture, and murder during the Pinochet junta's rule. Here, thousands of Chileans were brutalized during the dictatorship's bloody rise

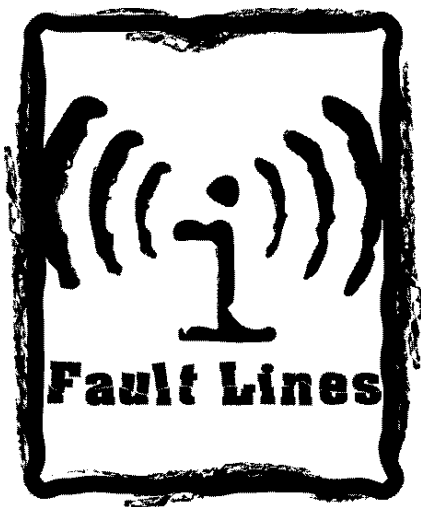
to power in September of 1973. Over thirty years later, the past is still very much present. Between cheers and cries for Bachelet, spontaneous chants rose also from the crowd, "Aqui se mató! Aqui se torturó!" Here we were murdered! Here we were tortured!

Claudia Zamora was a young woman in 1973, when the Pinochet junta came to power. Many of her compañeros from University were killed or exiled. She was detained and tortured and now does not have complete use of one of her arms. She was not held in the National Stadium, she still cannot bring herself to vote there. "I find it [the National Stadium] horrible," said Zamora. "You have to understand that the same man who Pinochet put in charge of the electoral registry is still in charge. Also in the ministries, the state bank and many other parts [of the government]."

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INSIDE: A HISTORY OF US REGIME CHANGE SOUTH OF THE RIO GRANDE: PAGE 4





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**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**

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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.

# Schwarzenegger's Budget: Up with Prisons, Down with Communities

BY CALIFORNIANS UNITED FOR A  
 RESPONSIBLE BUDGET

In his budget released on January 13, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger stuck to an old script: increase funding for the state's massively troubled prison system. Elected on a platform that promised to "blow up boxes," the governor continues to fall in line with expensive and ineffective "tough on crime" policies despite widespread voter frustration at pouring ever more resources into a failed prison system.

While many of California's students struggle in drastically overcrowded and under-funded schools and nearly 1 million children live without health insurance, this year's budget proposes building more prisons. "It has become more apparent that the governor's priorities are with corporations, not communities, and definitely not with making fiscally responsible decisions," commented Susan Burton, executive director of the New Way of Life Foundation in Los Angeles.

The governor's budget and last week's announcement of a proposed \$12 billion, 90,000-cell prison and jail expansion project suggest that the governor's mantra of following the people lacks meaningful public safety funding. Professor Ruth Wilson Gilmore, prison expert at USC, explained, "Building more prisons and jails will actually undermine the state's efforts to produce wealth, the point of investment in infrastructure. State and local governments will be forced to waste resources for decades repaying the bonds and hiring more jail staff, leading to continuing neglect of productive infrastructure like schools, hospitals and mass transit."

The governor's 2006-07 budget increases spending for the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation by \$426 million, pushing the total spending to over \$8 billion, a 5.6 percent increase over current spending. The budget does not include expected increases in spending for prisoner health care as a result of the federal court takeover of the CDCR's scandal-ridden health care system.

For Debbie Reyes, a community organizer in Fresno with the Prison Moratorium Project, the budget is one more example of rural Californians getting the raw end of a deal. "More than 20 prisons have been built in the Central Valley since the 1980s. But Fresno is the poorest city in the nation. The south San Joaquin Valley has some of the worst air in the nation."

The budget proposal includes provisions allowing the corrections department to con-



photos: Jeff Paterson, Not in Our Name

stance abuse treatment, prisoner advocates remain critical of the reports that the department plans to convert existing women's facilities into more bed space for men.

"California voters overwhelmingly approved Prop. 66 mandating treatment rather than prison time for nonviolent drug users. Message received? The Little Hoover Commission recommended major changes to California's parole policy to reduce the numbers of parolees returned to prison for technical violations. Message received? Apparently not."



Hundreds gathered at the gates of San Quentin prison for a "Save Tookie" Rally last November.

tract with community drug treatment programs in order to transition some non-violent women prisoners out of state institutions. While this is an encouraging step toward recognizing the need for more sub-

Californians United for a Responsible Budget is a statewide coalition of over 40 organizations committed to reducing prison spending by reducing the prison population and closing state prisons. Contact them through Rose Braz, Critical Resistance, 1904 Franklin St., Suite 504, Oakland, CA 94612, rose@criticalresistance.org.



## No Forgiveness, No Redemption California Democrats drop attempt at Death Penalty moratorium in the wake of two high-profile executions



Just after midnight on January 17th, Clarence Ray Allen was given a lethal injection in a death chamber in Marin County's San Quentin State Prison. Allen, who was of Choctaw descent, ill, and confined to a wheelchair, had turned 76 years old the day before. About 500 people attended the vigil at San Quentin, where family members, representatives of several indigenous tribes and anti-death penalty advocates spoke out against the state-sanctioned murder.

With the high-profile execution of Stanley "Tookie" Williams, alleged co-founder of the Crips gang and Nobel Peace Prize nominee, organizations such as Death Penalty Focus are stepping up their efforts to win public support for a moratorium (or "time-out") on executions. According to DPF, study after study has shown the death penalty to be grossly unfair: 122 people nationwide have been released from death

row with evidence of their innocence, some coming within hours of their scheduled execution. Currently, California has the nation's largest death row, with about 650 condemned inmates.

Despite the fact that many studies have proven that the death penalty has no effect on crime rates, two days after Allen's execution, an attempt to impose a two-year moratorium on California's death penalty failed to pass a key Assembly committee. "California Moratorium on Executions Act" (AB 1121) was introduced by Assemblymembers Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood) and Sally Lieber (D-Mountain View) and would have established a moratorium while the California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice completes its review of the state's death penalty and decides whether any condemned inmates have been wrongly convicted. The commis-

sion was created last year after revelations about innocent people being wrongly convicted in other states. Speaking to the Assembly last summer, Koretz said, "For the state of California to continue to execute prisoners while an official governmental body investigates the findings and allegations of error and justice and unfairness in the criminal justice system, just doesn't make sense."

However, following the bill's failure, Koretz explained his fellow Democrats' weak resolve on this issue. "There are enough Democrats that are worried that this would be misinterpreted - as it intentionally has been - that we made an agreement not to bring it up unless we were sure it would pass," he said after AB1121 was placed on hold by the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

### YOU ARE THE MEDIA!

**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 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.

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# California Peace Groups Under Surveillance

## Pentagon Calls Anti-War Protestors "Credible Threat"

At the same time that information circulates implicating President Bush in illegal surveillance, it has been discovered that local police, the National Guard, and the Pentagon have been spying on peace groups in California as well. Documents obtained by the ACLU "showed the FBI expanding the definition of 'domestic terrorism' to include citizens and groups that participate in lawful protests or civil disobedience," according to a press release.

"The broad based federal surveillance programs are disturbing and reflect an unhealthy suspicion of dissenting political activity," said Mark Schlosberg, Police Practices Policy Director of the ACLU of Northern California in the press release. "Over the past several years, we have seen local law enforcement resources used to infiltrate peace groups and monitor protest activities."

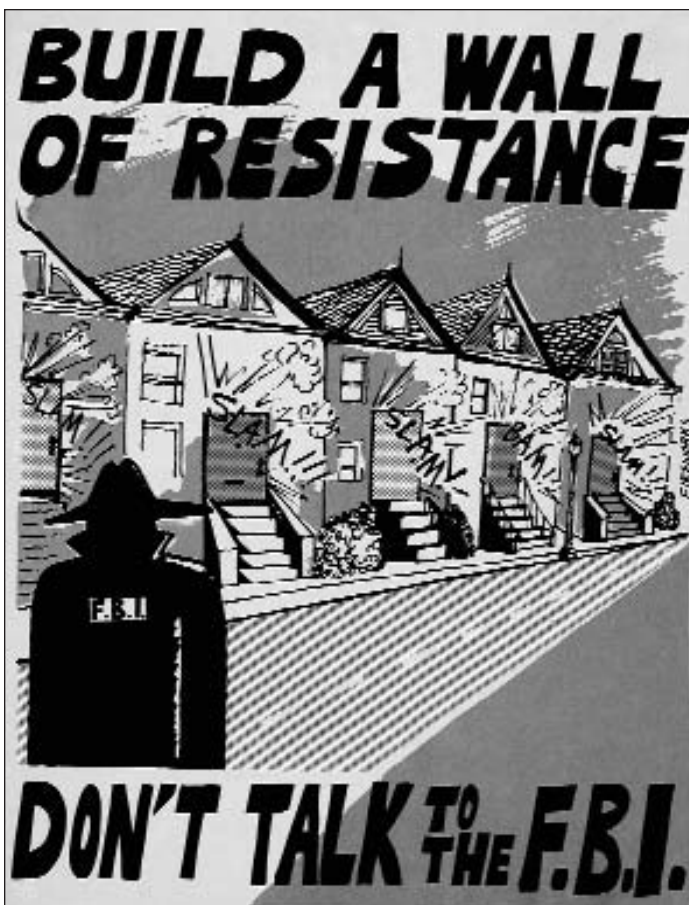
The groups being watched and surveillance tactics employed vary, but all may violate California laws that prohibit the mon-

itoring of religious, political, social, or educational meetings if there is no evidence of criminal activity.

In December, NBC reported the Pentagon included a Santa Cruz Students Against War protest of military recruiters at a job fair on a list of "credible threats." In a separate occurrence, undercover Santa Cruz police officers attended planning meetings for a New Year's Eve parade, engraving citizens there.

In Fresno, undercover agents attended an event held by CSU-Fresno's Peace and Civil Liberties Coalition. Peace Fresno, an anti-war group, has also been infiltrated.

Last Mother's Day, the California National Guard's anti-terrorist unit monitored a protest by women's groups in



# Breaking the Law!



## Think you're safe? Guess who's violating the Constitution in the name of "Freedom"?

In December *The New York Times* revealed President Bush authorized the warrantless monitoring of phone calls and emails between people in the US and other countries who are linked, if even indirectly, to suspected "terrorists." Though Bush has since dubbed this practice a "terrorist surveillance program" in an attempt to counter the widespread criticism it has received, the reality is that it is illegal. The electronic surveillance of citizens without a warrant violates the Constitution, Supreme Court rulings, and US law.

### United States Constitution Fourth Amendment

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

The US Supreme Court (US v. Katz 389 US 347) has made it clear that this core privacy protection does cover government eavesdropping. As a result, all electronic surveillance by the government in the United States is illegal, unless it falls under one of a small number of precise exceptions specifically carved out in the law.

The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act governs eavesdropping on agents of "foreign powers" within the U.S. FISA does not authorize the president to conduct warrantless eavesdropping on US citizens or permanent legal residents without an order from the FISA court. Yet it is that very court order requirement that the President has ignored. (*more info: www.aclu.org*)

**POLITICAL PRISONER WEBSITES**

**Indybay Police State Page:**  
<http://www.indybay.org/police/>

**FBI Witch Hunt:**  
<http://www.fbiwitchhunt.com/>

**Daniel McGowan:**  
<http://www.supportdaniel.org/>

**Chelsea Gerlach:**  
<http://supportchelsea.org>

**Darren Thurston:**  
<http://freedarren.org>

<http://www.catalystinfoSHOP.org/>



## Letters from supporters contributed to Judge Aiken's decision to release Daniel McGowan on \$1.6 million bail

*... Domestic Crackdown continued from front page*

The statutes of limitations for some of the charges were set to expire, and the investigators and prosecution have charged the defendants with almost every unsolved Earth Liberation Front action in the Northwest. The timing of the arrests, the piling of charge upon charge on the defendants, and the use of cooperating witnesses despite almost no physical evidence seem

to indicate that investigators and the prosecution are willing to charge and arrest people with no connection to any of these crimes.

The prosecution is relying on testimony from a Cooperating Witness (CW) named Jacob Ferguson. Jacob has confessed to taking part in several arsons and has worn a wire for the FBI to record conversations at environmental and animal rights conferences. During his time as a CW, Jacob was a heroin addict with an

addiction that was either ignored or facilitated by federal agents. Now, though facing life imprisonment, he is walking free and was seen driving around Eugene in a new SUV. Despite his doubtful credibility, his cooperation has had widespread consequences. At least three people, including Daniel, are facing life imprisonment if convicted. One, Stanislas "Jack" Meyerhoff, immediately agreed to cooperate with the FBI after his arrest, and another, William Rodgers, ended his life by suffocating himself with a plastic bag. In addition to Stanislas, two more of the original six, Kevin Tubbs and Sarah Kendall Tankersly, have agreed to cooperate with federal investigators. Jen Kolar, who has not been arrested, has also been named as a CW.

Before his transfer, Daniel was being held in Lane County Jail in Eugene, Oregon, where his conditions were geared to punish him for his past activism. He was held in a terrorist cell-block in Manhattan before being shuttled around to Oklahoma and California, finally arriving in Oregon after two weeks. He has been held in maximum security, with only one hour out of his cell per day, a limit of 20 pieces of paper in his cell at any given time, and only ten dollars available per week to use in his commissary, none of which could be spent on food. A vegetarian, he has lost over ten pounds since he hasn't had access to enough food and was forbidden from trading food with other detainees. Despite this harsh reality, Daniel has remained strong and positive, mostly because of the amazing support from his community of friends, family, and others.

Daniel's arrest comes as a recent addition to the increased repression on political dissent in the United States. *Fault Lines* will continue to cover the cases of Daniel and other political prisoners around the U.S.





# War on the Poor

## A Years Review Of The Nation's Housing & Poverty Crisis In America

### Native Americans Protest Power Plant Construction In Medicine Lake Highlands

On January 27, Native Americans and their supporters from across the country gathered at the Calpine energy company headquarters in San Jose to protest the company's proposed plans to build power plants and drill for geothermal energy in the culturally important Medicine Lake Highlands, located in Northeastern California. The tribal members and supporters demand that Calpine immediately cease and desist from its proposed energy extraction plans, which would devastate the Native cultural and natural environmental landscape around Medicine Lake.

The Highlands area has been used since time immemorial for healing, ceremonial, and other cultural purposes by Native peoples and is sacred to the tribes of the Pit River, Modoc, Shasta, Karuk, Wintu, and many others. If built, a nine-story high power plant complex would annually produce tons of toxic hydrogen sulfide gas and other heavy metals such as arsenic and mercury. The sacred and natural area would be clear-cut to make space to build toxic slump ponds, roads, pipelines, cooling towers, and the tallest building in northeastern California, which would be fully lit around the clock. Native peoples, homeowners, environmentalists and other concerned citizens have been opposing this project since it was first proposed. Ironically, the geothermal energy extracted from the area would be bought and sold as "green energy."

### NYC Cops Crash into Each Other During Critical Mass Crackdown



EMT-licensed cyclist Luke Son was the first responder in an incident where two police scooters collided while chasing participants in New York's January Critical Mass bike ride. "The behavior of the undercover agitators has gotten progressively more dangerous and what happened tonight is a perfect example. People are getting hurt on the streets," said Time's Up! volunteer Barbara Ross. Son, a volunteer mechanic with Time's Up!, stated that as scooters were blocking the line of riders and driving into cyclists, he witnessed one police officer slam his scooter into another. Son dismounted, yelling "I'm an EMT," and attended to the fallen police officers, fully aware that other cyclists were being arrested next to him.

Despite the evident dangers of such behavior, police continued later that night to use hazardous tactics in their attempts to prevent cyclists from continuing to ride. Cyclist Aaron Grogan recalled that "as we rode through midtown, an unmarked police SUV forced its way through the mass at high speed, exhibiting reckless disregard for the safety of every rider in its path." Grogan asserted that these vehicles stopped suddenly and unpredictably in front of cyclists, often attempting to "door" the riders by opening their doors as bikers were riding alongside. "It is evident that even the most obvious of safety concerns take a back seat to their obsession with making arrests," Grogan stated.

At least nine cyclists were detained during the ride as the NYPD continues its war against Critical Mass.



By LYNDA CARSON

The year of 2005 was a wicked year for the poor and impoverished across the nation, and there is no relief in sight.

Hundreds of thousands have been made homeless from evictions, disasters, and mean-spirited budget bills that take resources from the poor, to give to the rich.

Let 2005 be a reminder that the Bush administration hates poor people and must be removed from power as soon as possible.

**January 5** - It's reported that 130 families in Salt Lake City were left stranded without housing assistance during the coldest months of the year, because of the Department Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding cuts.

**January 26** - It was reported that Marin County planned to terminate around 76 Section 8 vouchers due to HUD funding cuts.

**January 27** - It was also reported that HUD miscalculated the inflation rate and the city's cost of living increase, which would cause New York to lose as much as \$61 million in Section 8 vouchers.

**February 2** - Bush had promoted plans to cut or eliminate 150 programs in his State of the Union address.

**February 18** - It was reported that under the Bush administrations proposals, 370,000 fewer families could receive voucher assistance by 2010. If the proposed cuts to HUD occur, by 2010 California faces a projected loss of 52,925 low-income housing vouchers across the state, below the 2005 level.

**February 22** - The Bush administration proposed to stop financing the construction of new housing for the mentally ill and physically handicapped, and that the federal government would discontinue financing housing for people with spinal cord injuries or psychiatric illnesses residing in nursing homes or psychiatric hospitals.

**February 26** - It was reported that the State Court of Appeals upheld a \$12 million judgment against the San Francisco Housing Authority for its culpability in a deadly blaze at one of its properties more than seven years ago.

**March 12** - It was reported that Bush is proposing to withdraw food stamps for certain families already receiving other government assistance, which would result in more than 300,000 people being cut from the Food Stamp Program.

**April 28** - Congressional Republicans reported agreement on a budget that envisions \$10 billion in Medicaid funding cuts over the next five years and at least \$70 billion in tax cuts for the filthy rich. The horrific agreement, developed solely by Republicans, requires almost \$35 billion in cuts to mandatory programs.

**April 30** - Hundreds of senior citizens appeared at a rally to Save Section 8 at the Redwoods in Marin County.

**May 27** - It was also reported that the Marin Housing Authority has been ordered to return \$318,139 to the federal government because it failed to follow government regulations in administering the Section 8 program.

**June 16** - It was reported that there are

more than 90,000 men, women and children living on streets and in encampments, vehicles and shelters throughout Los Angeles County.

**July** - The city of Albany (CA) has sent more bulldozers to clear out homeless encampments at the Albany Landfill.

**July 15** - It was reported: "The federal government's chief investigator yesterday blasted the Pentagon for its "atrocious financial management," saying the Defense Department was not able to give federal oversight officials a full accounting of the \$1 billion being spent each week on the war in Iraq".

**August 2** - 43 residential tenants of the historic landmark California Hotel in Oakland filed a lawsuit against Oakland Community Housing Inc., and are seeking \$50,000 in damages over rat infestations, bed bugs, cockroaches and other health and safety issues.



On February 22, it was reported that the Bush administration proposed to stop financing the construction of new housing for the mentally ill and physically handicapped, and that the federal government would discontinue financing housing for people with spinal cord injuries or psychiatric illnesses residing in nursing homes or psychiatric hospitals.

In another report, it states the "federal minimum wage remains unchanged for eighth straight year, falls to 56-year low relative to the average wage".

**September 19** - It was reported that 302,000 housing units were destroyed or damaged by Hurricane Katrina, and 216,000 units, or 71 percent, were affordable to low income households. In New Orleans, 142,000 units were damaged or lost, 79 percent of which were affordable to low income households.

**October 27** - More than 70 law enforcement officers from a wide variety of city, county, state and special district police departments attacked 24 homeless encampments in Contra Costa County.

**October 31** - It was reported that black babies in Nashville are two times more likely to die before their first birthday than white infants.

**November 18** - The Senate passed S. 2020, the Tax Relief Act of 2005, a bill containing more than \$74 billion in tax cuts for the rich over the next five years.

**December 10** - It's reported that over 10,000 housing trailers that FEMA bought for Hurricane Katrina's evacuees are sitting empty. In an act of madness, FEMA stopped the manufacturers from delivering the trailers to those in need.

**December 14** - Over 100 religious activists protesting proposed cuts to health care and other social welfare programs were

arrested after they staged a peaceful sit-in at a government building near the U.S. Capitol.

**The Week of December 18** - Congress passed a 1 percent across the board budget cutting bill that will grab \$8.5 billion from the nation's domestic programs, except for Veterans' Affairs programs and war accounts.

**December 19** - It's reported that the Richmond courts are unlawfully denying poor people defending themselves from eviction their rights to a trial by jury.

**December 19** - The House of Representatives passed a devastating budget cutting bill that cuts \$39.7 billion from mandatory programs for the poor from FY 2006 to FY 11. The battle to block the \$39.7 billion five-year deficit reduction bill is not over, and advocates have one more chance during January to keep this bill from going into effect.



**December 21** - It's reported that people of color pay millions more monthly for home loans.

**December 21** - It's reported that Arkansas shelters and services for the homeless will be cut by 27 percent in 2006, and that a recent report reveals that during 2005 requests for food aid increased in 76 percent of the 24 major cities across the nation.

more info:

[www.indybay.org/poverty](http://www.indybay.org/poverty)





# MOUNTAIN TOP TRAGEDY

BY NAOMI ULLIAN

Walking through a mountaintop removal site is like moving through an open wound. Spongy forest layers have been stripped away; vegetation tossed aside, bedrock piled half a mile from its origins. The ground shifts and gives as you place your feet, and trees on the high walls rock with every little breeze while their roots reach in vain for anchor. The wound smells of decay: streams diverted, forests logged and left bare, and wildlife disappeared en masse. It is a dead zone.

Events in recent coal history read like a holocaust. In the year 2000, 300 million gallons of toxic sludge was spilled into 75 miles of waterways in Martin County, KY. In 2004, three-year-old Jeremy Davidson was crushed to death in his sleep by a boulder from an A&G Coal strip mine site in Appalachia, VA, when it crashed through his bedroom wall. On Monday, January 2, 2006, 12 miners were killed in an explosion in the Sago Mine in West Virginia, a mine run by a company that had been cited 273 times for safety violations. Today, children at the Marsh Fork Elementary School in the Coal River Valley of West Virginia play in toxic coal dust on their playground, less than 300 feet from a coal silo.

## Reaping black gold

In the middle of the last century, the coal industry began developing surface, or strip mining, practices instead of traditional underground mining. Strip mining includes contour mining and Mountaintop Removal (MTR), the latter being the more devastating to the land and people. The first MTR mine was opened in 1967 in Cannelton, West Virginia, when new technologies in the industry allowed coal to be extracted more quickly and lucratively with the aid of fewer miners. By 2003, strip mining outnumbered deep or underground mining two to one. Today, five percent of US energy is derived from MTR-mined coal and MTR mining accounts for 44 percent of the strip-mined land in Appalachia and is practiced in Tennessee, Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

## Sludge dams and devastated landscapes

MTR begins with clear-cut logging of the mine site (with permit boundaries often illegally stretched by mining companies), followed by dynamite blasting to remove the top of the mountain. Any soil, rock, and vegetation removed is termed "over-

burden" and dumped into a valley. These "valley fills" severely impact headwaters. The liquid waste that results from coal washing is a sludge that contains heavy metals including arsenic and mercury.



KAYFORD MOUNTAIN JANUARY 4, 2006, WEST VIRGINIA

Sludge dams are precarious, often leaking or bursting, and overloaded coal trucks drive dangerously through mountain communities and leave billows of coal dust in their wake. Flooding occurs due to the lack of vegetation that would otherwise absorb water, and wells and drinking water are contaminated by runoff from mine sites.

Activists with the Coalfield Sustainability Project in West Virginia note that the coal companies provide very little sustainability for local communities. MTR mining employs few workers but makes billions off of some of the poorest counties in the country. McDowell County, WV, produces more coal than any other county in the United States. Despite this, the poverty rate there is 37 percent. When the coal is gone and the companies leave, the communities are left with nothing but a devastated landscape, folded businesses, and mere memories of a long culture based on partnership with the land. Other activists note the intention of companies to depopulate the coalfields in order to silence resistance and access more coal.

Myths of clean coal and the quest for cheap energy has turned some of the country's most beautiful natural resources and richest cultural centers into resource

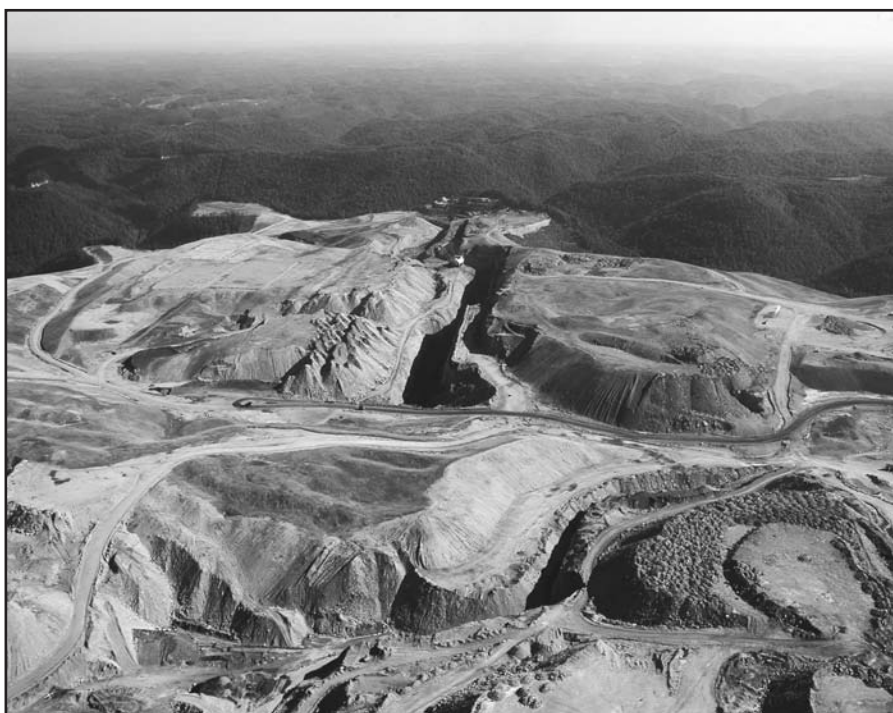
colonies. The forested mountains of Southern Appalachia contain some of the most biologically diverse areas on the continent. The climate functions like a giant "edge effect," flourishing where the north-

ern coniferous forests meet the subtropical climates of the southern United States. These hollows and creeks have long been haven to endangered human cultures both Native and European, as well as fauna and flora like the now endangered American chestnut tree. Despite such treats, only weak legislation protects the land and people from coal corporations. The current federal administration has cut environmental protections one after the other in its quest for cheap fossil fuels, and the coal corporations govern the legislatures of states like West Virginia. Even the 1977 Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) is ineffectual. Despite the mandate that areas effected by MTR must be returned to near-original condition (an impossible feat that results in piles of rubble with castings of grass seeds), a loophole in the act allows companies to duck the expense and obligation of "reclamation" by claiming that the leveled site is destined for post-mining use. When such land is developed, the resulting condominiums or golf courses for tourists provide no economic or social compensation for the local communities.

## Mountaintop Preservation

While many have been living with the consequences of such environmental degradation since the beginning of Mountaintop Removal mining, the last ten years have seen an exponential increase of resistance from individuals, community groups, nonprofits, and radical environmental groups. Local tactics by residents have included speaking tours and road shows like of Dave Cooper's, of Kentucky, and the militant defense of home and family cemetery by Larry Gibson on Kayford Mountain. Coal River community organizer Judy Bonds watched the destruction of the hollow where she was raised and risks daily the safety of her family to speak out against MTR. When former miner Ed Wiley discovered the health risks his granddaughter suffered at Marsh Fork Elementary, he began a vigorous resistance, which included refusing to move from the steps of the capitol in Charleston, WV, until granted an audience with Governor Manchin.

continued on page 10



CATENARY COAL COMPANY, KAYFORD MOUNTAIN, JUNE 15, 2005, WEST VIRGINIA

## Nigerian Rebels Intensify Campaign Against Foreign Oil

Indigenous struggles against foreign-owned oil companies in Nigeria have intensified in recent weeks, as multiple attacks have led to deaths, abductions, and the destruction of pipelines.

The attacks have occurred in the oil-rich Niger Delta, a region where conflict over the control of resources has persisted for more than a decade. The struggle was catapulted into the international spotlight when a rigged court sentenced indigenous leader Ken Saro-Wiwa to death in 1995 for bogus charges.

Since December, a new rebel group, called the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, has claimed responsibility for killing 17 Nigerian soldiers and an unknown number of civilians at a Shell facility, blowing up a Shell pipeline, and kidnapping four Shell employees. The group demands the release of two ethnic leaders, local control of the Delta's oil, and \$1.5 billion in compensation from Shell for destruction of the local environment. They are threatening to destroy all the country's ability to export oil.

Armed men on speedboats also raided the offices of Italian oil company Agip, killing eight police officers and one civilian before making off with hundreds of thousands of dollars. A similar robbery took place on January 29th at the headquarters of a South Korean firm, though no one was killed. It is unclear who was behind these attacks.

Many residents in the Delta have fled the region for fear of government reprisals and the threat of war.

Following this violence, Shell pulled 500 of its employees out of Nigeria and cut nearly 10 percent of the country's oil exports. Oil workers' unions have threatened to leave the region if security conditions do not improve.

## SOA Watch Activists on Trial, Sentenced to Prison

The week after a military jury in Colorado decided not to jail an Army interrogator even after they found him guilty of negligent homicide in the torture and killing of an Iraqi detainee, a federal judge in Columbus, Georgia is sentencing nonviolent activists to months in federal prison. The 32 defendants, ranging in age from 19 to 81, are charged with trespass after peacefully walking onto the Fort Benning military base in protest of a controversial Army training school located there.

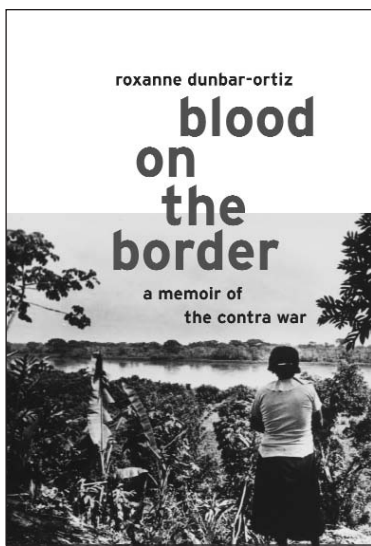
On January 30, 17 human rights advocates, including Delmar Schwaller, an 81-year-old retired World War II Veteran, were sentenced to between one and six months in prison; thirteen of those individuals were also fined between \$500 and \$1,000. Each person faces a maximum sentence of six months in prison and a \$5,000 fine.

Those arrested were among the 19,000 who gathered in November outside the gates of Fort Benning to demand a dramatic shift in U.S. foreign policy and the closure of the controversial U.S. Army's School of the Americas, now called the Western Hemisphere Institute of Security Cooperation (SOA/WHINSEC).

-from SOAWatch.org

**Newsire** ((i))





**Blood on the Border:**  
A Memoir of the  
Contra War

(BOSTON: SOUTH END PRESS, 2005)

# LESSONS ON IMPERIALISM: CONVERSATIONS WITH ROXANNE DUNBAR-ORTIZ

**ROXANNE DUNBAR-ORTIZ** IS THE AUTHOR OF THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED *BLOOD ON THE BORDER: A MEMOIR OF THE CONTRA WAR*. DUNBAR-ORTIZ'S PREVIOUS MEMOIRS, *RED DIRT* AND *OUTLAW WOMAN*, TELL THE STORY OF GROWING UP THE DAUGHTER OF SHARECROPPERS IN OKLAHOMA AND OF HER PARTICIPATION IN 1960s AND 1970s STRUGGLES AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND FOR FEMINISM.

**FL:** Why did you write about the Contra War?

**RDO:** I had planned a history from 1975 to the present, but when Bush was elected in 2000, he appointed all these architects of the Contra War: John Negroponte, Eliot Abrams, Richard Perle, John Poindexter, and Dick Cheney -- who was a senator at the time and pushed through the funding. Others, like Oliver North, were out there making \$50,000 per speaking gig. And I said, "I really have to write this book about the Contra War. I was an eye witness."

**FL:** What's the relationship between the U.S.'s political policies during the Contra War and current policies?

**RDO:** It goes way back to the beginning of the United States. There's been a consistent attitude towards Central America, the Caribbean, and Latin America of keeping them under control, ever since their independence movements, and in some cases occupying to this day, like Puerto Rico and Haiti. And I think that's what some people don't get. This is part of the state's geopolitical mentality of what is theirs to control. And that's imperialism and colonialism. And most Americans just can't

think that way about their country because they're not taught it. I mean, if you're a British kid, you can't help but learn about the British empire or history. In the U.S. you should have the same awareness, but kids don't, U.S. imperial history is completely obfuscated.

**"IT GOES WAY BACK TO THE BEGINNING OF THE UNITED STATES. THERE'S BEEN A CONSISTENT ATTITUDE TOWARDS CENTRAL AMERICA, THE CARIBBEAN, AND LATIN AMERICA OF KEEPING THEM UNDER CONTROL EVER SINCE THEIR INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS"**

**FL:** In your book, you argue that the Carter administration laid the foundation for everything that's attributed to Reagan. Could you say a little more about that?

**RDO:** Well, Carter announced a very sophisticated neo-colonial policy. He belonged to that circle set up mostly by moderate Republicans, the Rockefellers, to emphasize the velvet glove rather than the iron fist, to bribe the Third World, and to create the Green Revolution, which meant setting up free trade, benefiting

agri-business, etc. The globalization thing and breaking down trade barriers was really hatched in Carter's wake.

In 1974, I began work on the International Indian Treaty Council. Carter came into office in 1976. I didn't really trust his administration at all. From a Native American point of view, there's very little difference between Republicans and Democrats. They all want the resources and the land, and pretty much to get rid of Indians.

Additionally, the Carter administration was definitely trying to prevent revolutions in Central America. For example, when it became clear that the Sandinistas were going to converge and take over, Carter took Somoza out. Then, Carter forced the Sandinistas to take over Somoza's enormous international debt, so they started off financially crippled. But they were not about to hand over the country after losing 50,000 people to this civil war. So Carter imposed the first economic boycott on Nicaragua.

...continued on page 10

# SEEDS A HISTORY OF US REGIME CHANGE

The history of U.S. military and CIA involvement in Latin America points to a history of politically motivated manipulation and hindered self-determination. Fueled by Cold War paranoia and transnational corporate interests, the U.S. has covertly tinkered with the governments of many Latin American countries, producing an extremely violent and unstable political climate. This history serves to justify the growing anti-Americanism in Latin America, most visibly illustrated in the open defiance of Venezuela's Hugo Chavez and Bolivia's recently elected president Evo Morales, and to contextualize the recent trend in Latin America to elect left-wing governments.

## GUATEMALA 1954:

A CIA-organized coup overthrew the democratically elected and progressive government of Jacobo Arbenz. The U.S. justified its involvement by claiming that Soviets had an uncomfortable amount of influence over Guatemala, even though the two countries didn't even maintain diplomatic relations. The real reason for U.S. involvement came from pressure from the United Fruit Company, whose land was expropriated by Arbenz's progressive land reforms. The CIA action took a form that became the mold for CIA intervention in Latin America: The bribery of military officers and a propaganda campaign against the leftist government that included the resurrection of oppositional radio stations, the mass distribution of anti-government leaflets, and the anonymous

submission of articles to newspapers painting the Arbenz government as communist. The U.S. also used international political clout to pressure the UN to ignore Arbenz's request for an investigation of the incident. The coup was followed by a 40-year period of instability and brutality in Guatemala.

## GUYANA 1953-64:

CIA and British Intelligence funded anti-communist unions in order to strengthen opposition to democratically elected Dr. Cheddi Jagan. When this failed, the Churchill government simply removed him from office due to his socialist leanings. In 1957, Jagan was re-elected, and in response the U.S. Information Service launched an anti-communist (anti-Jagan) media campaign. Despite this, Jagan was re-elected again in 1961, which moved the British government to organize strikes in the unions that they had previously funded. The British government used these strikes as a sign of incompetence on the part of Jagan and changed the constitution to remove him from power.

## CUBA 1959-PRESENT:

After the Cuban revolution in 1959, the U.S. did everything in its power to prevent its government from succeeding. The U.S. performed air raids and even mobilized Cuban exiles to attack Cuba in the infamous CIA-orchestrated Bay of Pigs. The U.S. also enacted trade and credit embargos, sabotaged goods destined for Cuba, made multiple assassination attempts on Castro, his brother Raul, and Che Guevara...the list goes on and on...

## ECUADOR 1960-63:

The CIA infiltrated the Ecuadorian government, set up news agencies and radio stations, bombed right-wing agencies and churches and blamed the left...all to force democratically elected Velasco Ibarra from office. When his replacement, Carlos Arosemara, refused to break relations with Cuba, the CIA-funded military took over the country, outlawed communism, and cancelled the 1964 elections.

## BRAZIL 1961-64:

After democratically elected Janio da Silva Quadros of the Brazilian Labor Party (PTB) resigned, citing military and U.S. pressure as the reasons, his successor, Joao Goulart, was overthrown by a U.S.-supported military coup in 1964. Why?--Goulart promoted social and economic reforms, limited the profits of multinationals, nationalized a subsidiary of U.S.-owned International Telephone and Telegraph (ITT), and refused to break relations with Cuba and other socialist countries. He was replaced by two decades of a brutal military regime. There would not be another Labor Party president until the election of Lula da Silva in 2002.

## PERU MID-1960'S:

CIA set up military training camps and provided arms to the Peruvian government to combat guerilla forces.

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 1963-65:

In 1963, Juan Bosch took office as the first democratically elected president of the Dominican Republic since 1924. He called for land reform, low-rent housing, modest nationalization of business, and restrictions on foreign investment. Seven months after being elected, the U.S. allowed a right wing military coup to take over the government. Nineteen months later, a popular revolution broke out which attempted to reinstate Bosch. The U.S. reacted by sending in troops to stop the Bosch revolutionaries. Meanwhile, the CIA and U.S. Information Agency (USIA) conducted an intensive propaganda campaign against Bosch. U.S. troops stayed in the Dominican Republic until September 1966, when, thanks in part to the anti-Bosch media campaign, Juan Bosch lost the election to Joaquin Balaguer.

## URUGUAY 1964-1970:

The CIA and the Agency for International Development (AID) set up the Office of Public Safety (OPS) mission in Montevideo to train



STREETART FROM LA PAZ, BOLIVIA PHOTO: KELAH BOTT



# CHILE STRUGGLES TO SHED ITS PAINFUL PAST

Pinochet's legacy lives on.

Bachelet and her mother were also held briefly and tortured at the National Stadium in 1973, before fleeing the country. Her father died during his own detention and torture. Though Bachelet made little reference to this during her run for office, it was very much on many people's minds throughout the campaign. Her victory could mean a chance to heal for those victimized during 16 long years of a brutal dictatorship.

A win for the other side – her opponent Sebastian Piñera – would have signified a return to the old order to a certain degree. Piñera, a billionaire businessman, was quite successful during Pinochet's reign. Many former Pinochet supporters made up his base of support. It is interesting, yet unsurprising, that this was left virtually unsaid in the media.

Chile is not the only nation in South America still healing from old wounds. During the 70s and 80s, the US government supported many brutal and repressive regimes throughout Latin America, helping install dictators in place of democratically elected officials. Since then, South American electoral politics have moved noticeably to the left, as proved by the current administrations in Brazil, Venezuela, and Uruguay. The trend continues with the recent election of Morales in Bolivia, Bachelet in Chile, and Kirchner in Argentina.

Little has been done to serve justice in the years after the fall of the military regimes. In

Chile, Pinochet and his top officials have yet to face trial for the crimes committed during his rule. In Argentina, every week the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires still gather to remember their "disappeared" sons and daughters. These mothers lost their children during the "Dirty War" in Argentina over 20 years ago, yet they still protest weekly, demanding that the government of Argentina account for their murdered family members.

For some, the ability to heal completely from their wounds is a distant possibility. "If we want to forget the past, that is impossible," says Zamora. "There are many families that are still affected, because they don't know where their parents, siblings, and spouses are. The country cannot forget what it lived."

Still, she has hope for the future with Michele Bachelet as president. One of her hopes is for a new constitution. Chile currently abides by the constitution written under Pinochet's rule. She, and others, hope that the new government will be committed to social justice and uniting the people of Chile. As Zamora said, "I hope that Chile never repeats what we were called upon to live through and which forever changed our lives. And I hope that Michele (Bachelet) is able to breach the gap between the rich and the poor." For people such as Claudia Zamora, the victories of Bachelet and other leftist administrations may not erase the past, but it does give them hope for the future.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER...



PHOTO: NATHAN ROSENBERG  
WOMEN AT THE NATIONAL STADIUM WATCH THE VOTES BEING COUNTED

**"If we want to forget the past, that is impossible. The country cannot forget what it lived."**

# THE DANGER SOUTH OF THE RIO GRANDE

COMPILED BY SAKURA SAUNDERS

police in the art of torture in order to suppress rebel activity. The torture and killing was mainly directed at the Tupamaros, clever guerillas that used violence only as a last resort, usually rebelling by embarrassing public officials and exposing corporate corruption.

Now that Tabare Vasquez, Uruguay's new left-leaning president, is in office, many who were once Tupamaro guerillas are holding positions in government. This roster includes Agriculture minister Jose Pepe Mujica and Federal deputy Luis Rosadilla, who previously spent nine years in prison for his guerrilla activity.

## CHILE 1964-1973:

After the CIA unsuccessfully prevented Salvador Allende from winning the Chilean presidency by spreading propaganda and funding the opposition, it concentrated its efforts on getting Allende overthrown. The campaign, which involved bribing officers and spreading misinformation, was eventually successful and brutal dictator General Augusto Pinochet overthrew Allende. Allende was died in the mix. Seventeen years of repressive military rule followed.

The recently elected Chilean president, Michelle Bachelet, was herself imprisoned and tortured by Pinochet's regime, as was her father, who died while in captivity. In her acceptance speech, Bachelet promised to lead with tolerance, saying, "Because I was the victim of hatred, I have dedicated my life to reverse that hatred and turn it into understanding, tolerance and--why not say it--into love."

## BOLIVIA 1964-75:

In 1952, an armed popular revolt defeated the military, displaced the oligarchy, nationalized the mines, instituted land reform, set up a new government, and reduced the military to an impotent force. Yet under the training at the School of Americas) and with the financial support of the CIA and Pentagon, the military got built up again and overthrew President Victor Paz in 1964 because of his refusal to support Washington's Cuba policies.

(Note: This was nothing new for Bolivia, which has experienced the passing of governments

more frequently than the passing of years.)

This year, as Evo Morales was sworn in as Bolivia's first indigenous president, he predicted a future of indigenous rule, saying, "We are here to say enough of the 500 years of Indian resistance. From 500 years of resistance, we pass to another 500 years in power."

## ARGENTINA 1970'S:

While Argentina was receiving worldwide condemnation for their human rights abuses during the "Dirty War" against left-wing dissidents, U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger was recorded giving the go-ahead to then-Argentine foreign minister Augusto Guzzetti. "We would like you to succeed," said Kissinger of the civil war against the Argentine leftists. From 1975 to 1983, about 30,000 civilians accused of subversion either died or disappeared.

## NICARAGUA 1978-1990:

When the Sandinistas overthrew the Somoza dictatorship in 1979, the U.S. was frightened by what they thought could be another Cuba. President Jimmy Carter tried to sabotage the revolution through economic and diplomatic forms, and later Reagan used violence. For eight years, Nicaragua faced military attacks by the U.S. funded Contras (Reagan's "freedom fighters"). In 1990, the U.S. interfered in national elections, and the Sandinistas were defeated. According to Oxfam, the international development organization, Nicaragua under the Sandinistas was "exceptional in the strength of that government's commitment...to improving the condition of the people and encouraging [an] active development process." Now, Nicaragua is one of the poorest nations in the hemisphere, with widespread illiteracy and malnutrition.

## HONDURAS 1980'S:

Honduras was basically a colony of the U.S. during the Contra war in Nicaragua. Thousands of U.S. troops were housed there and it was used as a supply center and refuge for the Contras. The U.S. funded the Contras by covertly and illegally selling arms to Iran (known as the Iran-Contra Affair).

## GRENADA 1979-1983:

A 1979 coup took control of this small island country and attempted to install socialist reforms. The Reagan administration used destabilization tactics and eventually invaded in 1983, resulting in U.S. as well as Grenadian and Cuban casualties.

## EL SALVADOR 1980-92:

After the U.S. helped fix an election to repress dissidents in El Salvador, the rebels turned to the gun and a civil war ensued. While the U.S. claimed to be only involved on an advisory basis, this was clearly a lie as 20 U.S. soldiers were killed in combat missions. The U.S. spent six billion dollars repressing this popular revolution.

## HAITI 1987-94:

After supporting the Duvalier family dictatorship for 30 years and opposing Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the U.S. pretended to support the elections that returned Aristide to power after he was ousted by a 1991 military coup. Meanwhile, they warned Aristide that they would only allow him to rule if he guaranteed that he would never help the poor at the expense of the rich and that he would adhere to free market policies. Aristide did not remain in power for long, however, and in a subsequent interview with Naomi Klein, he blamed his removal from power on his refusal to privatize Haiti's state-owned enterprises. The 2004 coup was orchestrated by the leaders of the FRAPH, or Haitian Front for Advancement and Progress, a CIA-backed organization that carried out state terror against opponents of the military regime that ruled the country from 1991 to 1994. Another leader in the armed coup against Aristide was Guy Philippe, a former member of the Haitian military who received training from U.S. Special Forces in Ecuador in the 1990s. After these forces pushed Aristide into exile, the U.S. stepped in to restore stability in Haiti, now under new rule. Since Aristide's removal from power, his supporters have been targeted by the UN forces now tasked with "peace keeping," a process that has meant killing many innocents from Haiti's poorest neighborhoods.

## PANAMA 1989:

Just weeks after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the U.S. invaded Panama, killing thousands and leaving many more wounded and homeless. All this to get a previous buddy of the U.S., Manuel Noriega.

## MEXICO, PERU, AND COLOMBIA 1990'S TO PRESENT:

Under the guise of the drug war, the U.S. has given military aid to these countries despite their poor human rights records. This might be then used to fight rebel forces.

## VENEZUELA:

Recent U.S. intervention in Venezuela manifests itself as millions of dollars in contributions to political opponents of leftist President Hugo Chavez. The short-lived 2002 coup d'etat that kidnapped the democratically elected president was orchestrated by groups who had received funding from the U.S. National Endowment for Democracy (NED). When the opposition took power, they dissolved all of Venezuela's democratic institutions, including the National Assembly, the Supreme Court, the Constitution, the General Attorney, and the Public Defender's office. Meanwhile, their plan promised a return to free market economic policies. The coup only lasted two days before a popular resistance reinstated Chavez.

**THIS INFORMATION WAS LARGELY TAKEN FROM WILLIAM BLUM'S CLASSICS, "KILLING HOPE" AND "ROGUE STATE." WILLIAM BLUM WORKED FOR THE STATE DEPT. UNTIL 1968, WHEN HE QUIT BECAUSE HE DID NOT AGREE WITH WHAT THE U.S. WAS DOING IN VIETNAM.**



# Blood, Sweat, and Tears: ASIA'S POOR BUILD U.S. BASES IN IRAQ

BY DAVID PHINNEY

Jing Soliman left his family in the Philippines for what sounded like a sure thing – a job as a warehouse worker at Camp Anaconda in Iraq.

His new employer, Prime Projects International (PPI) of Dubai, is a major, but low-profile, subcontractor to Halliburton's multi-billion-dollar deal with the Pentagon to provide support services to U.S. forces.

But Soliman wouldn't be making anything near the salaries – starting at \$80,000 a year and often topping \$100,000 – that Halliburton's engineering and construction unit Kellogg, Brown & Root (KBR) pays to the truck drivers, construction workers, office workers, and other laborers it recruits from the United States.

Instead, the 35-year-old father of two anticipated \$615 dollars a month, including overtime. For a 40-hour work week, that would be just over three dollars an hour. But for the 12-hour day, seven-day week that Soliman says was standard for him and many contract employees in Iraq, he actually earned 1.56 dollars an hour.

Soliman planned to send most of his \$7,380 annual pay home to his family in the Philippines, where the combined unemployment and underemployment rate tops 28 percent. The average annual income in Manila is \$4,384, and the World Bank estimates that nearly half of the nation's 84 million people live on less than two dollars a day.

"I am an ordinary man," said Soliman during a recent telephone interview from his home in Quezon City near Manila. "It was good money."

His ambitions, like many U.S. civilians working in Iraq, were modest: "I wanted to save up, buy a house and provide for my family," he said.

That simple dream drives tens of thousands of low-wage workers like Soliman to travel to Iraq from more than three dozen countries. They are lured by jobs with companies working on projects led by Halliburton and other major U.S.-funded contractors hired to provide support services to the military and reconstruction efforts.

## The Big Picture

Called "third country nationals" (TCNs) in contractors' parlance, these laborers hail largely from impoverished Asian countries such as the Philippines, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Pakistan, as well as from Turkey and countries in the Middle East.

Once in Iraq, TCNs earn monthly salaries between 200 and 1,000 dollars as truck drivers, construction workers, carpenters, warehousemen, laundry workers, cooks, accountants, beauticians, and similar blue-collar jobs.

They are employed through complex layers of companies working in Iraq, including dozens of small subcontractors – largely based in the Middle East – like PPI. This layered system not only cuts costs for the prime contractors, but also creates an untraceable trail of contracts that clouds the liability of companies and hinders comprehensive oversight by U.S. contract auditors.

Numerous former U.S. contractors returning home say they were shocked at conditions faced by this mostly invisible, but indispensable, army of low-paid workers.

TCNs frequently sleep in crowded trailers and wait outside in line in 100 degree-plus heat to eat "slop." Many are said to lack adequate medical care and put in hard labor seven days a week, 10 hours or more a day, for little or no overtime pay. Few receive proper workplace safety equipment or adequate protection from incoming mortars and rockets.

Adding to these dangers and hardships, some TCNs complain publicly about not being paid the wages they



CARTOON: KHALIL BENDIB

expected. Others say their employers use "bait-and-switch" tactics: recruiting them for jobs in Kuwait or other Middle Eastern countries and then pressuring them to go to Iraq. All of these problems have resulted in labour disputes, strikes, and on-the-job protests.

While the exact number of TCNs working in Iraq is uncertain, a rough estimate can be gleaned from Halliburton's own numbers, which indicate that TCNs make up 35,000 of KBR's 48,000 workers in Iraq employed under its sweeping contract for military support.

## In Harm's Way

The TCNs not only do much of the dirty work, but, like others working for the U.S. military, risk and sometimes lose their lives. Many are killed in mortar attacks;

Baghdad. Some 17,000 US soldiers and thousands of contractors have dug into the former Iraqi airbase for a long-term occupation.

Three others were injured along with Soliman that night. One roommate, 25-year-old fuel pump attendant Raymund Natividad, was killed. Soliman flew home to the Philippines in a wheelchair days later because he wanted medical treatment in his own country.

But even after surgery and skin grafts, he sometimes feels nagging pain in his leg, he says. Doctors tell Soliman he will walk with a piece of shrapnel lodged in his left leg for the rest of his life.

"It was too deep" to remove, he explains.

A number of former KBR supervisors say they don't know why TCNs continue working in Iraq when they face much more brutal working conditions and hours than what their U.S. and European co-workers would tolerate.

"TCNs had a lot of problems with overtime and things," recalls Sharon Reynolds of Kirbyville, Texas. "I remember one time that they didn't get paid for four months."

The former KBR administrator, who spent 11 months in Iraq until April, says she was responsible for processing time sheets for 665 TCNs employed by PPI at Camp Victory near Baghdad. The 14,000 troops and the U.S. contractors based at this former palace for Saddam Hussein have use of an Olympic-sized swimming pool and a manmade lake preserved for special events and fishing.

But TCNs have to make do with far less. They "ate outside in 140 degree heat," Reynolds says, while U.S. contractors and troops ate at the air-conditioned Pegasus Dining Facility featuring a short-order grill, salad, pizza, sandwich, and ice cream bars under the KBR logistics contract.

And even when it came to basic safety, the TCNs faced a double standard. "They didn't have personal protection equipment to wear when there was an alert," Reynolds said. "Here we are walking around with helmets and vests because of an alert and they are just looking at us wondering what's going on."

Although Filipino passports now explicitly ban entry into Iraq, the ranks of Filipinos sneaking over the border from neighboring countries has swelled from an estimated 4,000 before the 2003 ban to 6,000 today.

Filipinos "believe it is better to work in Iraq with their lives in danger rather than face the danger of not having breakfast, lunch, or dinner in the Philippines," said Maita Santiago, secretary-general for Migrante International, an organization that defends the rights of more than a million overseas Filipino workers.

Soliman now finds his problems with PPI and injuries in Iraq pale in comparison to life back in the Philippines. Jobless, he sees his life teetering on the edge. He may be splitting up with his wife, and plans for providing a new home to his family are on hold.

He says he doubts that PPI will be sending money for his final medical checkup or even the several months salary he says he is still owed. But those things don't matter so much.

What really matters now is finding another job. "If you hear of anything, let me know," Soliman said at the end of the interview. "I would even go back to Iraq."

## Trafficked to Iraq

Challenging Halliburton and Army assurances, former KBR supervisors say they frequently witnessed subcontractors failing to meet require conditions. At the same time, some TCNs share horror stories with claims that they were falsely recruited, believing they were signing up for work in Kuwait and then having their contract changed to Iraq.

"I had no idea that I would end up in Iraq," says Ramil Autencio, who signed with MGM Worldwide Manpower and General Services in the Philippines. The 37-year-old air conditioning maintenance worker thought he would be working at Crown Plaza Hotel in Kuwait for \$450 a month.

He arrived in Kuwait in December 2003, only to discover that First Kuwaiti had bought his contract. The company, which now holds U.S.-funded contracts valued in the neighborhood of \$1 billion, threatened that unless he and dozens of other Filipino workers went to Iraq, the Kuwaiti police would arrest them, he says. "We had no choice but to go along with them. After all, we were in their country."

Once in Iraq, Autencio found that there were no air conditioners to install or maintain, so he spent 11 hours a day "moving boulders" to fortify the camps, first at Camp Anaconda and then at Tikrit.

Food was inadequate and workers were not getting paid, he says. "We ate when the Americans had leftovers from their meals. If not, we didn't eat at all."

Working and living conditions were so bad that in February 2004 Autencio escaped with dozens of others. A U.S. soldier born in the Philippines helped them leave the camp, and sympathetic truck drivers working for KBR offered them rides through the country. By the time the Filipinos reached the Kuwaiti border, Autencio said the number of fleeing workers was so great that the border police let them pass through without proper papers.

First Kuwaiti holds \$600 million in Army contracts, Al Absi says. The company is also a leading competitor for a \$500 million contract to build the U.S. embassy in Baghdad and presently holds contracts worth more than a \$300 million for preliminary work on the project.

## A Troubling Trend:

Both the *Washington Post* and the *Chicago Tribune*, along with many international publications, have reported on similar incidents of human trafficking to U.S. military bases in Iraq. These reports have detailed the paths of Third World workers from India and Nepal, respectively. The reports of this troubling trend have led the U.S. State Department to investigate the alleged abuses of these Third World workers.

Military contractors such as Halliburton subsidiary KBR say that the enforcement of anti-trafficking laws can be unrealistic, telling the *Tribune* that questions "regarding the recruitment practices of subcontractors should be directed to the subcontractor."

some are shot. Others have been taken hostage before meeting their death.

The Pentagon keeps no comprehensive record of TCN casualties. But the Georgia-based nonprofit, Iraq Coalition Casualty Count, estimates that TCNs make up more than 100 of the estimated 269 civilian fatalities. The number of unreported fatalities could be much higher, while unreported and life-altering injuries are common.

Soliman was one TCN who barely escaped death on the night of May 11, 2004, when his living trailer at Camp Anaconda was blown apart by a bomb attack. Sardonicly dubbed "Mortaritaville," the camp sits 42 miles north of

This article was excerpted from an article originally written for CorpWatch. [www.corpwatch.org](http://www.corpwatch.org) and [www.warprofiteers.com](http://www.warprofiteers.com)





# Nuclear War Crimes

BY ANGELA MORANO

I am neither a scientist nor a writer of fiction, but the notion that a government would knowingly dust human beings with radioactive heavy metal powder or place them in toxic zones without warning resembles a science fiction nightmare come true. Yet this is just what the Department of Defense (DOD) is doing. Prioritizing weapon strength over long-term health and environmental considerations, the U.S. is using material that has poisoned our own troops, dumped thousands of tons of this toxic waste at home and abroad, and broken international law in the process. Meanwhile, the controversial nature of this material has led the U.S. government to deny its devastating side effects and long-term consequences. The substance is a heavy metal radioactive material called Uranium 238 (U-238), also known as Depleted Uranium or DU.

The word "depleted" is a misnomer. U-238 is made as a byproduct of the uranium enrichment process. When natural uranium is enriched, less than one percent of what is produced is used by nuclear power plants or conventional fissionable weapons. Once "depleted" of the usable material, the 99 percent that is leftover is called DU. It is still approximately half as radioactive as natural uranium with a half-life of over 4 billion years. Reports also indicate that small amounts of other, more radioactive isotopes are also present in this waste, which is very expensive if the industry is to handle it according to regulations.

It seems the idea to first use this radiological waste in military operations was the brainchild of the Manhattan Project. The "Groves Memo," written in 1943, describes the potential for "radioactive gas" to be used as a lethal weapon. It also warned that the substance should not come in contact with our soldiers. So if you want to buy the Bay Bridge, you can also buy the story now being told by the DOD that DU won't harm you.

## Mainstream Media Coverage

On September 29, 2004, the *New York Daily News* reported that many of the 442nd Military Police, a National Guard unit, returned home sick after four months in Samawah, Iraq. Frustrated with the way the military was handling their concerns, they went to the press. There they found a voice in Juan Gonzales, and the *New York Daily News* paid for them to be properly tested through Dr. Durakovic, the director of Uranium Medical Research Center (UMRC). Previously, he was the chief of Nuclear Medicine at the VA in Maryland until his reports on DU were no longer acceptable. Several of the vets tested positive for Depleted Uranium heavy metal poisoning and Gerard Matthew had even fathered a daughter with a birth deformity.

The only other mainstream investigative media coverage was in December 2004, when *Vanity Fair* published a comprehensive article on Depleted Uranium, "Weapons of Self-Destruction," by David Rose. In this article, Staff Sergeant Raymond Ramos is described as a physically fit former-New York City cop who began to suffer from constant headaches, fatigue, urinary problems, respiratory difficulties, and even sleep apnea after being stationed on a makeshift base in Iraq where fierce tank battles had taken place. In the article, Rose explains that these are the same symptoms that have been reported in soldiers returning from the First Gulf War and the Kosovo War, labeled Gulf War Syndrome and Balkans Syndrome respectively, diseases that many scientists now attribute to DU.

Then in February 2005, Arthur Bernklau, Executive Director of Veterans for Constitutional Law in New York, reported a little known VA statistic that of the 580,400 soldiers in the First Gulf War, 11,000 are now dead and 325,000 were on permanent disability as of the year 2000. This means that 56 percent of the returning veterans have permanent medical problems in contrast to 10 percent in Vietnam. DU is worse than Agent Orange! Where is the Outrage?!

Almost twice as dense as lead, DU is used in the ballasts of some commercial planes for balance and in protective armor plating on Abrams Tanks. Placed as solid cores in the tips of bombs and bullets, DU greatly enhances penetrating ability. It is also pyrophoric, which means the friction created when it is deployed will cause it to spontaneously combust, burning and releasing micron-size isotopes that can be inhaled or ingested. According to the "Wakayama Report" by Army Colonel and physician Junro Wakayama, these particles can lodge in your body, emitting radiation and heavy metal



photo: Dr. Janen Hassan

According to Dr. Janen Hassan (pictured below), a pediatrician at Mother and Children's Hospital in Basra, there was around one baby a week born in her hospital before the First Gulf War. Now 16 years later, it is around 10 a day.



toxins that compromise your immune system and can cause neurological or organ damage, cancers, and genetic mutations. Several thousand tons have been dispersed all over the Gulf, Afghanistan, Yugoslavia, Bosnia, and elsewhere in our recent military operations, in addition to all the areas where it has been mined, manufactured, and tested in the past decades.

The National Lead Industry in Albany, New York, used to manufacture DU weapons in the 70's. During that time, they would throw the leftover shavings in their chimney fires. This unorthodox and unregulated gross mishandling of DU and other chemicals finally led to their closure in 1984. The Department of Defense has been in charge of site remediation and the cleanup of as many as 56 neighboring properties at a cost to date of over \$155 million. For twenty years, an active neighborhood group has been vigilant and pursuing compensation for health effects they believe are the consequences of NL practices.

Many Naval facilities, such as the San Francisco Naval Shipyard at Hunters Point, whole islands, like Vieques, Puerto Rico, and most recently Schofields Barracks, an Army base in Hawaii, have become playgrounds for the Military to conduct experiments and dump their waste. According to a study by the Puerto Rican Health Department for 1990-1994, the cancer rate at Vieques was 27 percent above Puerto Rico's average.

In 2003, I heard Major Doug Rokke speak at a community center. Commissioned by the military, he established a DU protocol, Army Regulation 700-48. Yet, he continues to tell us, the protocol is being dutifully ignored. My first reaction to Rokke's words was disbelief, which later turned to anger the more I understood the issue. Many members of Rokke's DU cleanup crew have since died. Like so many soldiers, they were initially unaware of what they had been exposed to.

Since this meeting, with great sorrow I began to show everyone, including my congressman, Maurice Hinchey, pictures from [www.idust.net](http://www.idust.net) of sick children with birth deformities. To raise attention about DU concerns on a federal level, a proposal has been made with the support of Congressman Hinchey to sponsor a press conference and briefing in Washington on DU. Hinchey is waiting for the right moment and a popular groundswell from others across the country to ignite a fire under their Representatives. So, if you are moved to take some action, let's ignite some fires. Call your Representatives and the Progressive Caucus and let them know that you want Congress to break the silence on DU and hold a press conference and briefing.

## Legislative Reaction

The latest initiative is to get a DU Bill passed in every state. Louisiana and Connecticut have already done so and others are following. Since they have jurisdiction over their National Guard, these states are passing a bill that establishes a task force and protocol to register,



Soldier with DU munitions. photo: [www.miltoxproj.org/](http://www.miltoxproj.org/)

"properly" test, and help provide medical care to those in the National Guard who are concerned that they have been exposed to toxins and DU. Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz is introducing a similar bill in New York this February. Thinking globally, acting locally still works.

Other nations, such as the UK, France, and Russia, have purchased DU weapons. The European Parliament has called for a moratorium on all DU munitions. San Francisco-based international lawyer Karen Parker has addressed the UN and is quick to point out that DU will continue to indiscriminately affect people and the environment for generations to come. These "dirty bombs" have been pronounced illegal and criminal and are already outlawed by international standards.

For those who feel that none of this affects them: the World Health Organization announced global cancer will increase 50 percent by 2020. In the words of Chief Seattle, "All things share the same breath—the beast, the tree, the man...the air shares its spirit with all life it supports." Let's expose DU as the omniscient killer that it is and stop this criminal nuclear nightmare!

In Peace and Hope,

Angela Morano, [sonia823@hotmail.com](mailto:sonia823@hotmail.com)

Angela is a member of the No DU Coalition of the Hudson Valley

For more information on Depleted Uranium: [www.traprockpeace.org](http://www.traprockpeace.org).



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# Keeping New Orleans United

## Hip-hop Radio Station Unites Displaced Victims of Katrina

excerpted from *The SF Bayview*

Displaced New Orleans resident Alicia Jones was jobless and relying on FEMA, the Red Cross and the Salvation Army to take care of her and her 13-year-old daughter, Quanasia. Relocated to Atlanta, Alicia's only link to back home was Quanasia's favorite hip-hop radio station KNOU HOT 104.5 FM.

KNOU launched its national "Keeping New Orleans United!" broadcast on Dec. 23, and shortly afterwards Alicia heard a station announcement that her old employer, Harrah's Casino, was reopening. She called Harrah's, and on Jan. 27, Alicia returned to her job as a Harrah's cashier supervisor. "I would not have my job back had I not been listening to KNOU's web-cast," said Jones. "That station was our only connection to home."

Since Dec. 23, 2005, KNOU-FM, has transformed itself into a national radio station, broadcasting on the Internet to the hundreds of thousands of New Orleans evacuees, like Alicia, who were displaced around the nation last September. KNOU cut back on their music programming to devote the majority of their coveted morning drive time to finding homes, jobs and funding for many listeners who have fallen through the cracks of government assistance programs.

"We decided to use the Internet to take the station to the people and give them the critical information they desperately need to rebuild their lives," said Jeffery "Big Herc" Reese, production manager and host of KNOU's popular "Big Ass Morning Show."

CHECK OUT KNOU AT:  
www.knoufm.com.



# NOLA LAND STRUGGLE

continued from front page

The struggle for housing is just as critical in New Orleans as it is in its associated diaspora. The city has slated over 2000 houses for demolition, that until January 17th, were to be bulldozed without notice to the owners -- many of whom have yet to return to New Orleans. In fact, demolition began January 5th in the Lower 9th Ward, where the majority of homes tagged for demolition are located, but residents and other activists physically blocked city-hired contractors from doing their work. It was this action that led to the January 17th settlement under the eye of a federal judge in which it was agreed that the city must give homeowners between seven and 30 days notice, depending on the condition of each home, of impending demolition. If owners want to contest the demolition, they must do so within that window of time.

Many residents and activists say the situation is unjust from the outset. Soleil Rodrigue is the Legal Team Coordinator with Common Ground Collective, a grassroots relief organization that formed in response to the hurricane. Rodrigue explains that there are inconsistencies in regard to which houses are to be demolished.

"The images you see on television are real, but you are seeing the same images again and again. They show a few of the blocks in the Lower 9th Ward, but the media is not showing the larger portion of the Lower 9th Ward which is in overall restorable condition like other areas of the city that are not slated for demolition."

Many residents and activists still intend to block the demolition of homes whose owners the city can't prove were contacted.

On the rebuilding front, Mayor Ray

Nagin's Bring New Orleans Back Commission, made up mostly of white businessmen, is responsible for putting together a reconstruction proposal for the city. One of the recently-released non-binding recommendations of the Commission suggests that neighborhoods hit hardest by the disaster must prove their ability to survive before any rebuilding is allowed to take place there. The Commission's report also speaks of "shrinking the city's footprint" by not allowing all neighborhoods to return as viable communities.

The Lower 9th Ward is part of the area identified to be shrunk from the footprint. The 9th Ward has the highest rate of black homeownership in the country, with roughly 60% of houses owner-occupied.

Many residents and other activists fighting for the right of return to New Orleans believe the city is doing everything it can to drive African Americans and poor people from big swaths of New Orleans. They point to the lack of basic needs in neighborhoods like

the 9th Ward and New Orleans East. Five months after the hurricane, these areas still lack electricity, hot water, and phone service, and neither temporary housing nor schooling is available. Residents say these are some of the things that would make it possible for them to return and begin rebuilding their lives.

Common Ground Collective is strongly urging volunteers to come to New Orleans to help defend the Lower 9th Ward from the bulldozing that is likely to begin again very soon. They provide housing, food, and direction for volunteers. CGC also needs volunteers to help clean out flooded houses, distribute goods, and much more.

### GET INVOLVED NOW!

- [www.commongroundrelief.org](http://www.commongroundrelief.org)
- Locally, many Bay Area residents are organizing support for both the thousands of evacuees now living in the Bay Area, and the efforts on the ground in New Orleans. To get involved, please email: [baytogulf@yahoo.com](mailto:baytogulf@yahoo.com)
- A Hurricane Evacuee Council of the Bay Area has formed. To see their list of demands and to support them, please call: (415) 626-4114

# BLOOD ON THE BORDER

continued from page 6

FL: What lessons do you think can be gleaned from the Contra War for our current political context?

RDO: For those of us now involved in the anti-Iraq War movement there's a lot to learn - negative and positive - from the anti-intervention movement in Central America. For example, having a broad-based solidarity movement with pretty clear principles worked really well. But we were also pretty factionalized.

It seems like each generation has to learn anew these things because there is a wiping out of historical memory. It's like re-inventing the wheel every time. I

work with a lot of young people, and I really had them in mind as an audience when I wrote the book, thinking they could integrate this into their thinking about the present, into the anti-globalization movement.

FL: What are some of the negative experiences of that era from which you've learned?

RDO: Well, I was coming back to activism in 1972 or 1973, after the 1960s. People who were youngish in the 1970s, they were very cautious because they saw the sixties as a big failure. So they turned to lobbying and electoral process a lot and I think too much so.

The state consistently works to maintain imperialism. This brings up questions about electoral politics. You see people after the elections in a slump. Or people taking to the streets and wondering why it doesn't have any effect. One should question electoral politics.

In Nicaragua in the 1970s, for some of these younger people, there was never really an attempt to take Central American solidarity and see it as a building base for a long-term anti-imperialist movement. And I think that's a valuable lesson for today. You need to work with what's out there, build solidarity. And you need to organize.

Tina Gerhardt is on the faculty in the Department of German at UC-Berkeley.



ROXANE DUNBAR-ORTIZ

# Mountain Top Removal

continued from page 5

The most recent addition to the mounting resistance was the Mountain Justice Summer (MJS) campaign that began organizing itself in the winter of 2004 with large representation from Katuah Earth First! chapters in western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee. MJS organized to function as a solidarity group in each of the states it came to organize in. Composed of diverse ages and backgrounds, the campaign participated in Listening Projects to aid local community groups in rallying residents. Other elements of the campaign ranged from organized protests and direct actions, such as the rally in Richmond on July 8, 2005, on the international day of action against the G-8, to letter writing and banner hangs. In mid-August 2005, MJS organizers coordinated a

mountain takeover against the National Coal Corporation on Zeb Mountain in Campbell County, TN, in an effort to shut down daily operations and call national attention to the devastation in coal communities. Among other groups working for economic and environmental justice in the coalfields, MJS organized with Coal River Mountain Watch (WV), the Coalfield Sustainability Project (WV), Ohio Valley

Environmental Coalition (WV), and United Mountain Defense (TN). The fight for mountain justice is in full swing. The aforementioned organizations continue to put pressure on local and state bureaucrats to create and enforce legislation that prevents the coal companies' desire for profit from ravaging the remaining beauty in Appalachia. Preparations for Mountain Justice Summer 2006, include networking with groups like Black Mesa Indigenous Support, who participates in the struggle in Arizona to protect sacred lands from destructive mining practices. If you are interested in further information or in participating in upcoming resistance actions, please visit the websites listed below.

### MORE INFORMATION

- **MJS**  
[www.mountainjusticesummer.org](http://www.mountainjusticesummer.org)
- **Coal River Mountain Watch**  
[www.crmw.net](http://www.crmw.net)
- **Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition**  
[www.ohvec.org](http://www.ohvec.org)
- **Citizens Coal Council**  
[www.citizenscoalcouncil.org](http://www.citizenscoalcouncil.org)
- **United Mine Workers of America**  
[www.umwa.org](http://www.umwa.org)
- **Black Mesa Indigenous Support**  
[www.blackmesais.org](http://www.blackmesais.org)



# Baby, I'm Against Me!

Florida Folk-Punks tackle personal politics, popularity, and anarchist voting

BY KATRINA MALACHOWSKI

Against Me! released their most recent album, "Searching For A Former Clarity," last September. Soon after the group performed on the "Conan O'Brien Show", made a video for MySpace, and got MTV airtime. Not what you expected from the notoriously DIY boys from Gainesville? Fear not: despite the sold-out shows, world tours, and recent signing to major label Sire Records, Against Me! is still sticking to their political guns.

Vocalist and songwriter Tom Gabel and drummer Warren Oakes took a moment to speak to *Fault Lines* reporter Katrina Malachowski when they came through San Francisco to play two sold-out shows at Slim's in the midst of their most recent tour.

**FL:** Now that you are always on tour do you miss having a core group of activists and friends in your life to inspire you?

**TG:** We did come from a tight-knit political movement [in Florida], so I feel like it's affected my songwriting because when we first started as a band I used the term 'we' a lot. I felt like when I said that,

there was a specific group of people I was speaking about. I don't necessarily feel that sense of camaraderie anymore.

**FL:** How do you embody and involve anarchism in your life?

**WO:** For me it's a philosophy or an ideology that comes before politics. Before I even think about how I feel about a certain issue, I try to really figure out what satisfies me and makes me have peace of mind in existence. And starting with that point and trying to be aware and in touch with my actual honest desires, I then try to act as consistently like that as I can.

**FL:** What about voting - how would you recommend an anarchist vote?

**WO:** However they feel!

**FL:** Is voting something an anarchist should even do?

**TG:** If an anarchist thinks that he should do it. I feel like voting is kind of a joke, but it can be a strategy. Especially with things as they are now with pretty dire straights and drastic measures, if all I had to do in the last election to possibly not have Bush in office was to go out and vote for the opposing candidate, then I was fine with doing that. I don't see any contradiction. By voting, I don't give consent to be governed or anything like that. I am not

acknowledging anybody's authority, but as a strategy to use all means necessary to keep Bush out of office.

**FL:** The most common criticism of your new album is that it's a bit more watered down than the last, politically.

**TG:** I consider that this record is perhaps the most political we've ever done. Each song, in it's own way, is dealing with a different issue. Maybe it's not surface level.

**WO:** There's not as many subculture nods, like dropping the word 'anarchist,' or referencing the word 'dumpster.'

**TG:** I've become really against using certain words in songwriting, I almost refuse at this point to use the word anarchy in a song. Because I feel like it's pimping it out.

**FL:** What do you think about the attack that you sold out when you signed with Fat



Fault Lines kicks it with Against Me!

Wreck Chords?

**TG:** Take Chumbawumba. They did a lot of great things with their success; they did a lot of really good things with that money. And I respect them a lot. Tubthumper wasn't a really overtly political album, but what you see is what you get. In my opinion, [it's] one of the most solid records made, politically. They released this album with a hit song on it and then the next record they took the chance and they said a lot of things. Hopefully some of those people who are casual listeners will buy that record. I don't see any harm in that.

**FL:** Is there anything wrong with being popular?

**WO:** I don't think there's anything inherently wrong with it, if you believe in the music you are making...it's not something I want to debate. There are a lot of really great DIY bands you could totally support if you have critiques of how other bands are operating. I think there's room for it all.

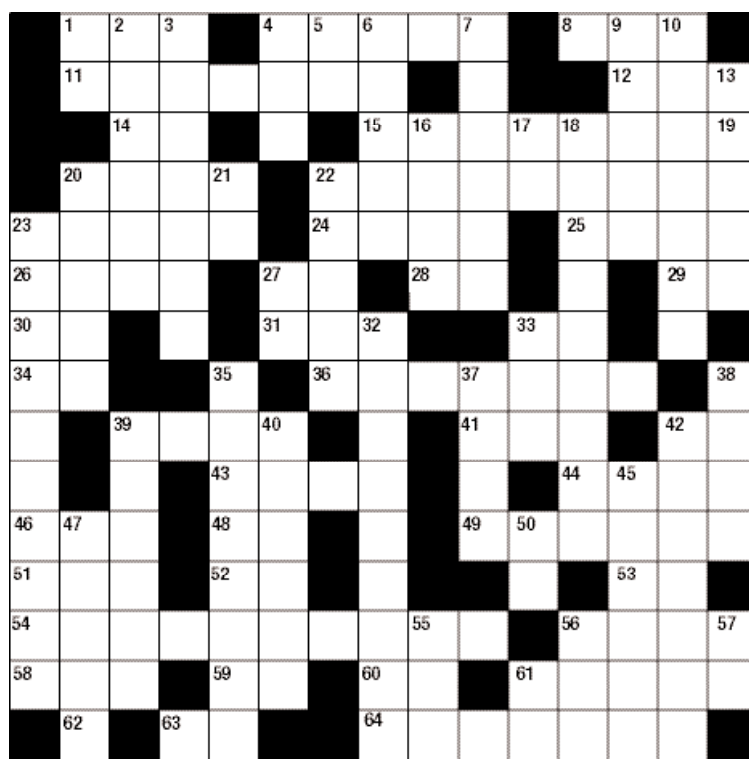
**TG:** In coming from a movement that encourages freethinking and individual thought, the fact that you have to justify your actions to anybody is really lame. I don't feel like explaining things to people. I get annoyed at the idea of it.



"When we first started as a band I used the term 'we' a lot. I felt like when I said that, there was a specific group of people I was speaking about. I don't necessarily feel that sense of camaraderie anymore."

photos: David Ochs Keenan

# CRYPTO #14 compiled by Iain Boal



## ACROSS

1. banned pesticide (3)
4. king of board games (5)
8. tiny militant green front (3)
11. Ken Kesey's car? (2,5)
12. not in (3)
14. y'all in the Bible (2)
15. get my ore to become an earth science (8)
20. chemistry down on the farm (4)
22. electric guru? (4,5)
23. supreme being (5)
24. a lake and nothing more (4)
25. London and New York bohemia (4)
26. poultry collective? (4)
27. food for mathematicians (2)
28. lethal dose (2)
29. printer's rule (2)
30. not out (2)
31. backward donkey? (3)
33. emergency room (2)
34. doctor of engineering (2)

## (2)

36. experienced guitarist (7)
39. attack on rats? (4)
41. Hindi black bean (3)
42. greeting in the hood? (2)
43. existential gathering (4)
44. live in reverse? that's bad (4)
46. listening lobe (3)
48. rubidium (abbrev) (2)
49. continental community? (6)
51. Australian National University (3)
52. and others (2)
53. long player (2)
54. clowns in the park (4,6)
56. Scottish wilderness guru (4)
58. cry like a bastard (3)
59. overdose (2)
60. Chinese board game (2)
61. small role (5)
63. public relations (2)
64. countercultural decade (7)

## DOWN

1. deci-litre (2)
2. fluorescent paint (3,3)
3. hey, part is changed into a remedy (7)
4. Spanish syndicalists (3)
5. heavy duty poet (2)
6. American raptor (5)
7. rearrange to send high (6)
9. a game of chance (5)
10. Ken Kesey's bus (7)
13. chicken boxer? (5)
16. Duke's jazz peer? (4)
17. megawatt (2)
18. Hopper's vehicle? (4,5)
20. solitary (5)
21. mid-West surprise (2)
22. luddite Christians (5)
23. high hopes (4,6)
27. father in Pennsylvania (2)
32. 60's distractions (3,1,5)

## (3,1,5)

33. hesitate to wander (3)
35. pleasure stick (8)
37. Big Lebowski's ranch? (4)
38. double agent (4)
39. comic genius (1,5)
40. theorist of the spectacle (6)
42. Hoffman's party (7)
45. book for reading aloud? (6)
47. turn a no in to a negatively charged particle (5)
50. not down (2)
55. spinning fire (3)
56. Spring in France (3)
57. run on (abbrev) (2)
61. central time (2)

last month's answers:

[www.indybay.org/faultlines](http://www.indybay.org/faultlines)

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# Calendar

For More Information or to submit your event, visit [www.indybay.org/calendar](http://www.indybay.org/calendar)



## WHERE TO GET FAULT LINES

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**Naked Eye News & Video**

607 HAIGHT ST .

**Modern Times Bookstore**

888 VALENCIA ST .

**Bound Together Books**

1369 HAIGHT ST .

**Amoeba Music**

1855 HAIGHT ST .

**City Lights Books**

261 COLUMBUS AVE.

**Rainbow Groceries**

1745 FOLSOM ST.

east bay:

**Long Haul Infoshop**

3124 SHATTUCK AVE, BERKELEY

**Amoeba Music**

2455 TELEGRAPH AVE, BERKELEY

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2318 TELEGRAPH AVE, OAKLAND

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**SF BAY AREA IMC- 2940 16th St., SF**

or email [info@faultlines.org](mailto:info@faultlines.org)

### FEATURE:

#### Station 40: Community Events

Station 40 was once the Mission's Post Office. It's now home to a most excellent collective of activists, artists, and more than a few radicals who host consistently interesting, intelligent, and provocative events in their community space. All events free, donations appreciated.

#### This month includes:

Sunday, February 12- Craft Off! Learn to sew from patterns or B.Y.O.Craft. 11am-3pm.

Tuesday, February 21- Political Economy Book Club: Historical Capitalism, I. Wallerstein 8pm.

Thursday, February 23- Critical Maintenance: Fix yer bike for Critical Mass. 3-6pm.

February 25- MC Links hip-hop show. 5 pm

February 26- Solidarity Letter Writing. Co-hosted by California Anarchist Prisoner Solidarity (CAPS). 6:30 pm.

#### Ongoing:

Wednesdays, 9pm- Free Films. February's theme is Economic Migrants and Labor Diasporas.

Thursdays, 8pm- Anarchist Reading Group.

Sundays- 8pm- Spanish Language Potluck Dinners. Eat while practicing your Spanish.

Find Station 40 at: 3030B 16th Street (at Mission), SF. Info: [sfcoop@lists.riseup.net](mailto:sfcoop@lists.riseup.net)

#### Sunday, February 12

Cafe night: Radical Mental Health Group

Join us for food, discussion, a film or speaker about Radical Mental Health. 7:30 p.m. Long Haul Infoshop, 3124 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley. \$5-25 sliding scale (N.O.T.A.F.L.O.F). All money raised is going to support a Spring 2006 Radical Mental Health Conference.

#### Thursday, February 16

Radical Open Mic

Monthly anarchist open-mic. Readings, music and acoustic performances from local favorite Little Boy Blue and more. 8 pm. Nabolom Bakery 2708 Russel Ave, (at College) Berkeley. Free. Info: 510-845-BAKE

#### Wednesday, Feb 22, 2006

Pushed to the Altar: Marriage, Poverty, & Politics

A forum focusing on the Bush administration's marriage promotion policies as a quick-fix to end poverty for poor women and their children.

Featuring: Attorney Lena Ayoub from the National Center for Lesbian Rights; Jean Hardisty, founder and President Emerita of Political Research Associates; Jeanine Hays from Family Violence Prevention Fund Policy Associate; Activist Renita Pitts from the Welfare Radio Collaborative. 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. The Women's Building. 3543 18th St, SF. \$5-10 suggested donation (N.O.T.A.F.L.O.F) Info: The Women of Color Resource Center 510-444-2700 [www.coloredgirls.org](http://www.coloredgirls.org)

#### Thursday, February 23

Global Revolt: A Guide to the Movements Against Globalization

According to activist, sociologist, and documentary filmmaker Amory Starr, global justice activists' declaration that "another world is possible" is no hollow slogan. In this readable book drawing from both well-documented research and personal organizing experiences, Starr suggests that, "millions of people have already become active in rejecting corporate globalization and developing alternatives to it. Millions more know that something is terribly wrong and are ready to begin taking action. This book is for them." 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore 888 Valencia St. SF. Free. Info: 415-282-9246

#### Friday, February 24

Critical Mass

Cyclists gather the last Friday of each moth at Justin Herman Plaza, 6 p.m. Free.

#### Sunday February 26

Dissecting Dissent

Galvanized by social and political issues shaping this country and the world, West Coast artists have responded by creating work that conveys powerful political messages. Find out firsthand about the artist's place in the landscape of American and global politics from artists Travis Somerville, Enrique Chagoya, Hung Liu, and William Wiley. SJMA's Chief Curator Susan Landauer and Peter Selz, author of the book Art of Engagement: Visual Politics in California and Beyond and Professor Emeritus of the History of Art at the UC Berkeley will also be on hand for this scintillating discussion. Book signing to follow. 2 pm. San Jose Museum of Art, 110 South Market Street, SJ. \$12 General Public | \$8 Museum Members. Purchase tickets online: <http://www.sjma.com/specevtic.html> or call 408.271.6867

#### Tuesday, February 28

Yarn Divas Basic Knitting

Come learn the basics of knitting, such as casting on, knitting, purling, and more. Especially- but not exclusively- for women with cancer. Experienced participants are welcome. Learning materials provided. 7:30-9 pm. Women's Cancer Resource Center, 5741 Telegraph Ave, Oakland. Free. Info: 510-420-7900 x111, [margo@wrcr.org](mailto:margo@wrcr.org).

#### Saturday, March 18

11th Annual Anarchist Book Fair

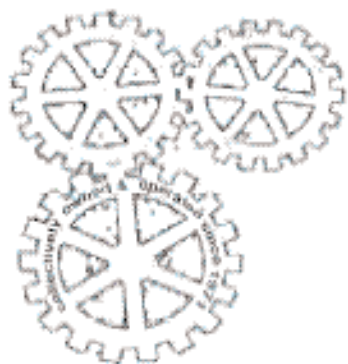
The name says it all- 'zines, books, workshops and more!

Speakers this year include: Liz Highleyman, Katya Komisaruk (author of Beat The Heat), Bo Brown (ex George Jackson Brigade), Ramor Ryan (author of forthcoming Clandestines: The Pirate Journals Of An Irish Exile), Ward Churchill, Chaz Bufe (translator, and editor, of Dreams Of Freedom: Ricardo Flores Magon Reader), Joe Biel (Microcosm Press) and Michelle Tea. 10 am -6 pm. San Francisco County Fair Building. Golden Gate Park, right inside at 9th and Lincoln, SF. Free.

#### Sunday, February 12

"The Sensual Body" -Discover empowerment through the art of exotic dancing.

Please bring heels, anything you feel sexy and comfortable in and a button down shirt. All self-identified womyn are welcome, regardless of experience or ability. 2-4 p.m. The Center for Sex and Culture 398 11th at Harrison. \$10 pre-registration. \$20 at the door. Info: [www.acticeva.com/go/exoticcevents](http://www.acticeva.com/go/exoticcevents)



## Modern Times Bookstore

888 Valencia Street, San Francisco

[www.moderntimesbookstore.com](http://www.moderntimesbookstore.com)

Mon-Sat 10-9:00 Sun 11-6:00

415-282-9246

#### Todd Gitlin

*The Intellectuals & the Flag: Reclaiming the American Liberal Tradition*

Tuesday, February 7 7:30

Renowned social critic Gitlin ponders the future of the left in America, and challenges us to once again engage in public life as an activist engaged force.



#### Amory Starr

*Global Revolt: A Guide to the Movements Against Globalization*

Thursday, February 23 7:30

Tonight's presenter is an activist and documentary filmmaker who proves that the declaration "another world is possible" is no hollow slogan.



#### Ahmed Shawki

*Black Liberation & Socialism*

Friday, February 24 7:30

Ahmed Shawki, editor of the *International Socialist Review*, gives a sharp and insightful analysis of historic movements against racism in the U.S.



Plus a staged reading by the Cutting Ball Theater; the continuation of our Ecstatic Monkey Reading Series; Daphne Gottlieb and the *Homewrecker* anthology; Stephen Elliot's Progressive Reading Series and much more!

Visit us online for a complete listing of our events

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By their accusations against SHAC and the ALF, some are trying to disguise where the real violence exists.

Jerry Vlasak

Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC):

[www.shac7.com](http://www.shac7.com) • [www.shacamerica.net](http://www.shacamerica.net)

Animal Liberation Front (ALF):

[www.animaliberationpressoffice.org](http://www.animaliberationpressoffice.org)

Earth Liberation Front (ELF):

[www.earthliberationfront.com](http://www.earthliberationfront.com)

Grand Juries and Government Harassment:

[www.fbiwitchhunt.com](http://www.fbiwitchhunt.com)

Direct Action News:

[www.nocompromise.org](http://www.nocompromise.org) • [www.directaction.info](http://www.directaction.info)

News, upcoming events, and resources of the Bay Area and beyond:  
[indybay.org/animalliberation](http://indybay.org/animalliberation)

The FBI is now publicly claiming that ELF, ALF, SHAC, and other direct action activists are the #1 terrorist threat in America today. The FBI and CA National Guard have recently been found to be spying on Greenpeace, PETA, anti-war groups, and others. The SHAC7 are about to go on trial for maintaining a website supportive of direct action. There are currently Grand Juries set up to attack and intimidate activists all over the country, including in San Francisco. All the while, the US govt continues to protect and refuses to extradite for trial Cuban mass murderer Luis Posada Carriles; and Michael Fortier, who had foreknowledge of the OK City bombing, which killed over 130 people, was set free the very same day eleven environmental and animal activists were arrested by the FBI for supposed acts of property destruction. Many activists are currently facing decades of jailtime. The time to stand up for them is now!