

Calendar

For More Information or to submit your event, visit www.indybay.org/calendar

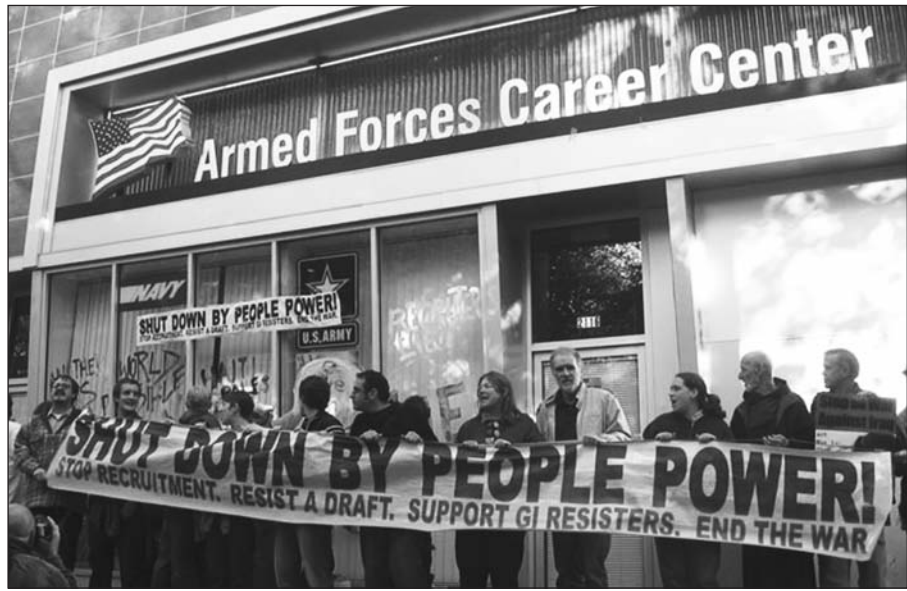


photo: Max Diorio

Oct 22 - Oct 23: On The Frontlines: Options for Youth in Times of War

A Conference co-sponsored by the Campus Antiwar Network and Military Out of Our Schools (Bay Area) that will bring together college students, youth, parents, educators, community activists and organizers. Join us, as we: expose military recruiters and the lies they tell young people; learn ways to get military recruiters out of our schools and communities; and build and strengthen the counter-recruitment movement. 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, University of California Berkeley. For more information contact: Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors, (510) 763-7078 x307, MOOS-Bay@riseup.net, <http://www.objector.org/moos-bay.html>.

Oct. 3: Introductory Meeting: Berkeley Biodiesel Collective

We hold monthly introductory presentations on the first Monday of (almost) every month. These presentations are for those who had no contact with the collective, are new to Biodiesel or know about biodiesel, but are new to the area. We talk about biodiesel emissions, homebrewing, types of vehicles and commercial availability. We will also talk about what our coop does, its history and vision. And, of course we will talk about how to get involved with the BBC or other regional groups. We will try to answer any questions about biofuels and the local biofuels scene. 7:30 pm Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo Ave, near Dwight Way, Berkeley. 510-594-4000 ext. 777, berkeleybiodiesel@yahoo.com,

Oct. 8: Basic Propagation Techniques Gardening Class

Get plants for free; grow your own! Learn (hands-on) how to take cuttings & root them, collect seeds & start seedlings. Be part of making San Francisco greener! Pre-registration required. 10am - noon. Garden for the Environment, 780 Frederick Street, San Francisco. Cost: \$15. Info: 415-731-5627, sfgcp@yahoo.com, <http://www.gardenfortheenvironment.org/>.

Oct. 8: The 11th Annual In The Street Festival Featuring

Over 40 performances and installations by more than 100 artists. ITS, San Francisco's most innovative street

theater festival, presents a wide range of experimental and traditional performances and uses all forms of the street, the sidewalks, rooftops, sides of buildings in its presentations and encourages audience participation. This year features a cross-disciplinary gamut of performers, artists and musicians including dance (belly, butoh, lindy, and hip hop), capoeira, visual arts, circus performance, women's skateboarding, burlesque, puppetry, fire arts, fire sculpture, spoken word, and aerial performance art. The In The Street Festival is 100% non-commercial: the admission is free, and the festival is vendorless. This year's festival is dedicated to world peace and to the memory of Tess Manalo-Ventresca, Tenderloin activist and advocate, who passed away this summer. Friday, Oct. 7, 5-10pm & Saturday, Oct. 8, 2005, 11am-6pm. 500 block of Ellis Street, between Hyde and Leavenworth, San Francisco. More info at: <http://www.luggagestore-gallery.org> or (415) 255-5971

Saturday Oct. 15, 2005 Queer History Tour Celebrate Queer History Month

with a tour of San Francisco's queer neighborhoods from the 30's to the present day. Learn how Halloween was celebrated as Gay Pride day in pre-stonewall SF. We will visit sites of queer community and resistance, including Compton's Cafeteria. The tour will end at the Wildside West in Bernal Heights for post-ride drinks and socializing. 10am-3pm, Justin Herman Plaza (Market @ Embarcadero) Co-sponsored by the GLBT Historical Society.

Oct. 16: Poor People's March

Join the march to demand: living wage jobs, universal health care, affordable housing, quality public education, progressive taxation of corporations and the wealthy. Assemble at 16th St. and Mission at 11:30 am, noon march to Horace Mann Middle School (3351 - 23rd Street). For more info contact: San Francisco Living Wage Coalition (415) 863-5543, sflivingwage@gmail.com.

Oct. 20: National Day of Action The 2005

National Day of Action is a call for young people to unite in solidarity across movements, to feel our power, and to secure our freedom. Day of Action is organized every Oct. by young people in their local communities. The day inspires grassroots activity to fight for reproductive

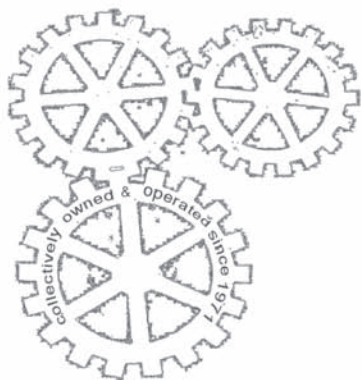
and sexual freedom, racial and economic justice, and calls for an end to violence in our communities. Actions have included teach-ins, marches, candlelight vigils, street theatre, poetry jams and slams, and fundraisers for local organizations. For information about organizing a Day of Action on your campus or community, visit <http://clpp.hampshire.edu/projects/nda>, e-mail the Civil Liberties and Public Policy Program at nywda@hampshire.edu, or call (413) 559-6976.

Oct. 23: The 24 Hour (Art) Show 24 Hours

6 Artists. 2 Rooms. 0 Sleep. Time is running out on six Bay Area-based Asian-American women artists as they escape into two motel rooms in the heart of San Francisco on Oct. 22 to conceive, create and unveil new work... in just 24 hours. The 24 Hour Show wrestles creativity back from the clock as these artists incubate new site-specific work spanning the mediums of dance, performance, written and spoken word, photography and multimedia. Date: Inspiration strikes at 8 pm on Saturday, Oct. 22 and closes with a reception at 8 pm on Sunday, Oct. 23. Valencia St. and Market St., San Francisco, CA. Secret location to be unveiled online at <http://24hourshow.com> on Oct. 22 at exactly 8 pm. The 24 Hour Show presents: Sita Bhaumik, Jez Kuono'ono Lee, Mia Nakano, Han Pham, Elizabeth Sy, Shawn Tamaribuchi. For more information, email info@24hourshow.com.

Nov. 4-5: Passing—less than satisfactory

So much emphasis in our culture centers around fitting into oppressive ideals of beauty, respectability and acceptability. How do we challenge these standards rather than consenting to disappear into them? Are you passing as the right race, class, gender, sexuality, age, weight, ability and astrological sign (this is California after all)? A night of performance by local visionaries, curated by Zee Boudreaux. Accompanying art show in lobby gallery and Reception. 8 pm. \$10-25. CounterPULSE! 1310 Mission Street @ 9th St. Res/Info: (415) 374-6697. www.counterpulse.org



Modern Times Bookstore

888 Valencia Street, San Francisco
www.moderntimesbookstore.com
 Mon-Sat 10-9:00 Sun 11-6:00
 415-282-9246

Sparrow America: A Prophecy and Stephen Elliot Looking Forward to It

Monday, September 26 7:30
 Manhattan writer Sparrow takes us on a hilarious romp of NY while SF writer and activist Stepehn Elliot gives his account of the 2004 presidential campaign.



Mary Gaitskill Veronica

Thursday, October 27 12:30
 The latest work of fiction by this acclaimed author, Veronica has the timeless depth and moral power of a fairy tale covering topics as varied as flesh and spirit, vanity, mortality and mortal affection.



Mary Roach Spook: Science Tackles the Afterlife

Monday, October 31 7:30
 The best-selling author of Stiff trains her wit and curiosity on the human soul and an array of scientist, mediums, and schemers, each trying to prove (or disprove) that life goes on after we die.



Plus Carol Queen, Violet Blue, Annalee Newitz & others from Best Sex Writing 2005; Litquake readings with Seal Press; Paul Buhle, Wobblies; a Suspect Thoughts Press Halloween celebration and much more!

Visit us online for a complete list of our events

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 A neighborhood bookstore for the Mission





**X-TREME ARTS:
LET THE SKATERS
SKATE! PAGE 11**



**SWAT VS. PLUR:
POLICE ATTACK UTAH RAVE
PAGE 5**



**INSIDE ROBERTS:
THE FUTURE OF THE
SUPREME COURT PAGE 9**

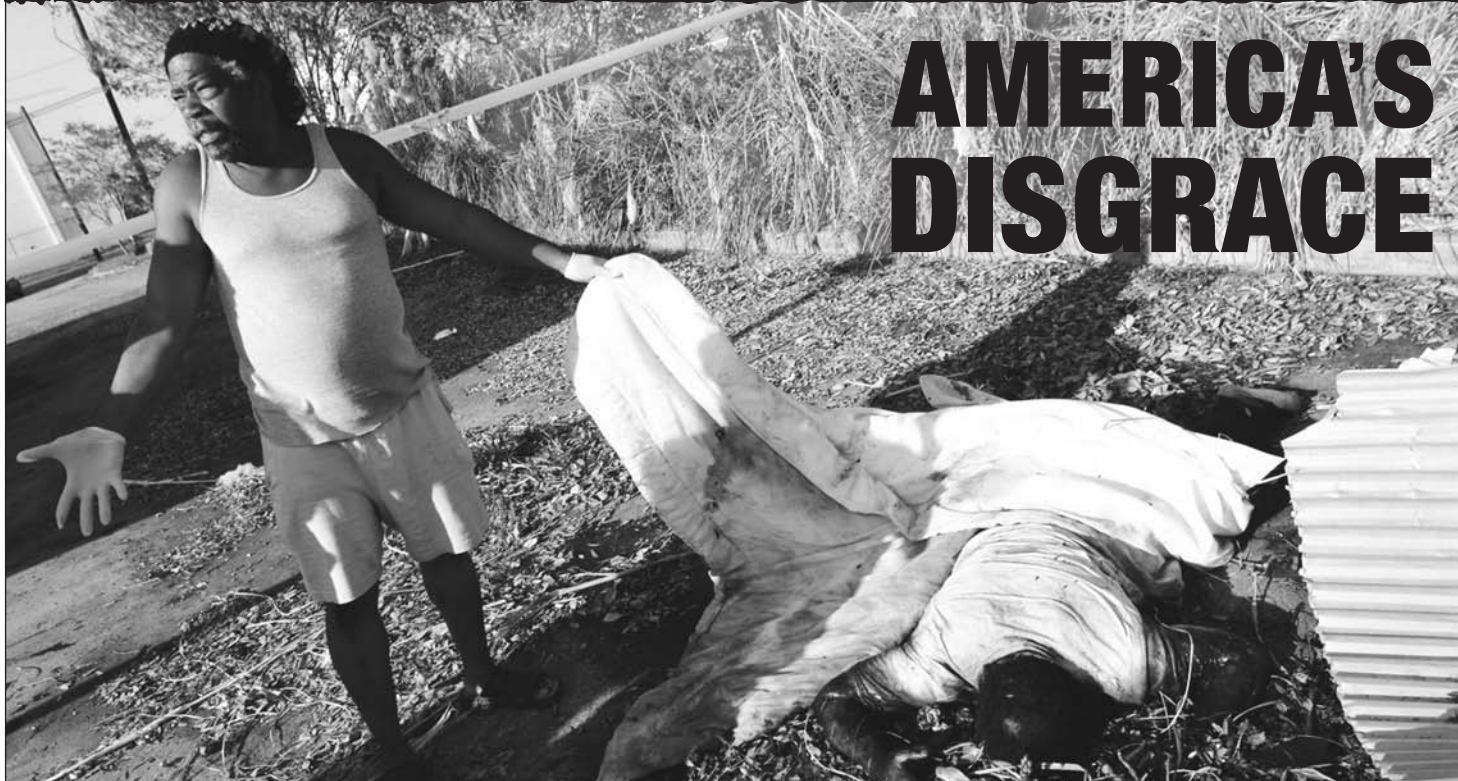
Fault Lines

NEWSPAPER OF THE SF BAY AREA INDEPENDENT MEDIA CENTER

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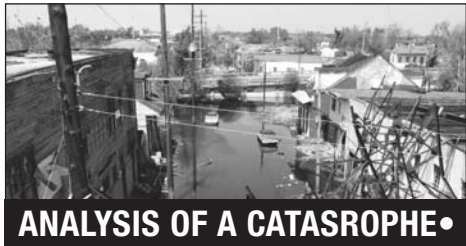
FALL 2005 FREE



AMERICA'S DISGRACE

RACISM • DISASTER PROFITEERING • HOMELAND INSECURITY • CLASS OPPRESSION • ECOCIDE

MALIK RAHIM, A NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC HOUSING ORGANIZER AND VETERAN OF THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY, uncovers a corpse ignored by military and police in his Algiers neighborhood. Urban inequality and re-directed funds made many in New Orleans vulnerable targets when Hurricane Katrina hit, and governmental disorganization left thousands of people without adequate aid or housing. A negligent evacuation effort left over 1,000 people dead in one of the most catastrophic disasters in American history. Grassroots relief efforts proved highly valuable and organizations were able to reach displaced citizens far more quickly than the federal government. When foreign aid was being turned away by the government, independent sources provided food, water, medical care and hope for many. New Orleans is now faced with the immense struggle of rebuilding. PHOTO: ANDREWSTERN.NET



ANALYSIS OF A CATASTROPHE •



BAY AREA EXPERIENCES •



GRASSROOTS RESPONSE •

Critical Mass is Thirteen THE CULTURE WAR IS OLDER (AND FAR FROM OVER)

BY CHRIS CARLSSON

Amazing to think it's been 13 years since the first "Commuter Clot" brought together about 50 bicyclists at "PeeWee" Herman Plaza at the foot of Market Street in San Francisco. Within a few short months it had gained the moniker "Critical Mass" and the excitement, euphoria, and sheer novelty of an "organized coincidence" that fills the streets with bicycles instead of cars was rapidly reproducing itself across the planet.

Now there are websites galore documenting Critical Masses in towns everywhere, from Australia to Italy, Chile to Canada. Of the more than 400 places where Critical Mass rides have taken place, hundreds continue to ride every month. In May 2005 an "Interplanetary Critical Mass" was held in Rome, Italy, drawing

several thousand riders from around Italy and the world. On Earth Day this past April, 10,000 riders staged a "Critical Mass" in Budapest, Hungary. Hundreds of rides occupy the streets of US cities on the

WHEN THE BASICALLY INNOCENT CYCLISTS PROTEST BEING TICKETED, MANHANDLED, AND OTHERWISE ABUSED BY THE POLICE, IT ONLY FUELS THE RAGE SIMMERING INSIDE THE LOCKED-DOWN, UNINSPIRED, UNCREATIVE BRAINS OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS IN BLUE

last Friday of each month, from big cities like Chicago and Los Angeles, to smaller burbs in the hinterlands like Cincinnati, Ohio, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Portland, Oregon. And of course thousands of us are still riding after all these years at

the birthplace here in San Francisco.

New York had seen Critical Mass grow from the mid-1990s until (during their 2003 Bikesummer) it finally topped 1000 riders on a gloriously balmy July evening. I was there that night, enjoying the thrill of crossing the Queensborough Bridge and looking south towards twinkling Manhattan and Brooklyn. The galvanizing impact of Critical Mass on bike commuting, bike communities, and pushing the boundaries of political imagination and tactics led more or less directly to the now infamous confrontation with the NY Police Department during the August '04 Republican National Convention (RNC), which resulted in the arrest of 264 riders. After an entire year of illegal and barbaric treatment by the NYPD, cyclists in New York have persevered, as portrayed in the new documentary "Still We Ride."

continued on page 10...

OAKLAND INFESTATION: TENANTS SUCKED DRY BY BED BUGS, SLUM LORDS

BY LYNDA CARSON



RESIDENTS OF THE CALIFORNIA HOTEL SIT IN THE LOBBY OF THE BUILDING

"Sleep tight and don't let the bed bugs bite" is an old saying, as far as sayings go, but some Oakland tenants have learned that this is more than just a cute rhyme that has been passed down through the years.

"I've heard the old saying about bed bugs since I was a child, but I never knew they were real until moving here," said 47-year-old Frank Benavidez, resident of North Oakland's California Hotel. "The bed bugs are drinking my blood and eating me alive."

On Tuesday August 2, 2005, 43 residential tenants of the historic landmark California Hotel on San Pablo Ave. in Oakland filed a lawsuit at the Alameda County Superior Court House against Oakland Community Housing Inc. (OCHI), a non-profit housing developer.

Mostly occupied by elderly, disabled African-Americans, each of the 43 tenants listed in the lawsuit are seeking \$50,000 in damages over rat infestations, bed bugs, cockroaches and other health and safety issues.

Backing the horrific claims of the tenants is a letter sent on July 22, 2005 from the Alameda County Health Services (ACHS), stating that the procedures being utilized by OCHI to control the bed bugs are inadequate. In the letter, ACHS biologist David K. James wrote, "A severe Norway rat infestation exists within these premises, and it appears that it's a long-established and large population."

Frank Benavidez said, "I can hear the rats scratching around in my ceiling at night and the noise keeps me from sleeping."

continued on 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

Katrina Malachowski, Liam O'Donoghue, Ali Tonak, Kelah Bott, Tim Simons, JankyHellface, Jamie Hurlbut, David Morse, Sakura Saunders, Carwil James, Bradley Allen, Kimber Hall, Tim Simons, Samantha Sage, Hunter Jackson, Guillermo Herrera

Fault Lines Thanks

Media Alliance, The Independent (NYC IMC), Street Level TV, Enemy Combatant Radio, Street Sheet, Station 40, Howard Quinn Press, CorpWatch, Cristina Kim, Elizabeth Sy and Iushorchid, Lani R, Nicole Mueller, Zulah, Chris Lem, Santa Cruz IMC, Michigan IMC, CMI México, Instant Asshole, Ghengis Khan, Jai G. and the SuperBad Lovleez and all the supporters who made it out to our "Extra! Extra!" party at ABCO Arts Space. Respect.

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.

Political Persecution: FROM THE SET-UP TO THE AMBUSH...

voices behind bars

By Kijana Tashiri Askari

"In prison, commitment to revolution has a special meaning, and the special price. To be identified as a revolutionary by the prison authorities means an almost permanent denial of parole, a separation from the other prisoners, solitary confinement (usually in maximum security wings of the prison), transfers from one prison to another, beating, bad food. It brings down on you the entire punitive and repressive force of a completely totalitarian system."

-Comrade George L. Jackson

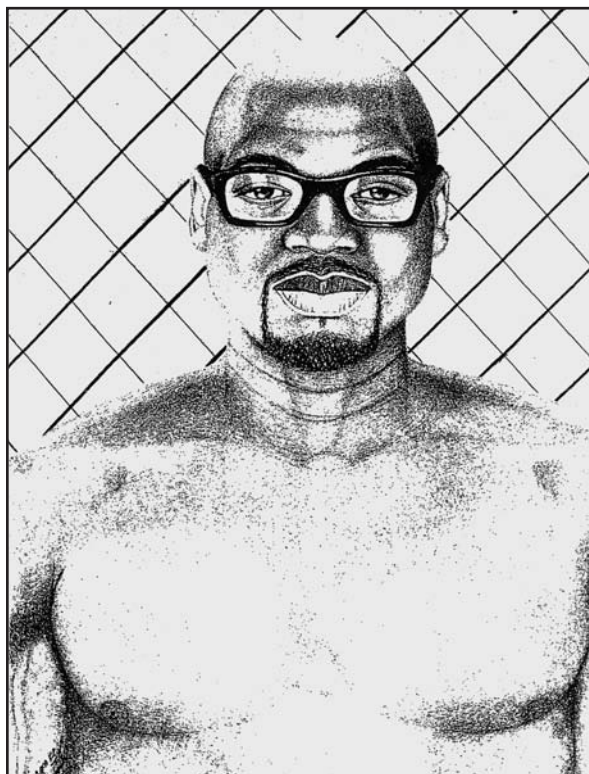
It is a historical fact that the U.S. colony of prisons are an extension of the U.S. Government. By virtue of this progrenic social relationship, the U.S. colony of prisons has taken on the distinctive characteristic traits of this racist colonial empire, known as the (un)United States of Amerikkka.

This racist government/empire has a long standing history of waging war against people and those who refuse to accept the social arrangement of being held in bondage. The budding/relative connection that the U.S. colony of prisons has with the U.S. government is that it operates in a punitive capacity of fascism, and sees that the central social objective of criminalizing/tormenting us as a people is met by brutal acts of terror, intimidation and suppression; mainly to prevent those such as myself from speaking out in a recalcitrant voices aimed at educating the people about the truth of our existence, and the means of betrayal/falsehoods that is associated with this government. These barbaric acts of terror are designed to create a culture of submissiveness. In light of the imperialistic culture that they aim to perpetuate at our expense of being robbed/exploited, and trampled over as if we are some kind of floor mat!

You see, the U.S. colony of prisons was formulated to take of the essential enforcement of the U.S. government's political agenda of criminalizing and enslaving our communities. This same premise was cultivated and practiced in the late 60's and early 70's. This racist government also relied on a similar form of despotism through their infamous COINTELPRO program (FBI), that was ran by it's head tyrant J. Edgar Hoover, among others. COINTELPRO's central task was to target/persecute those socio-political entities who sought to be freed/liberated from the oppressive grasp of this colonial empire. The groups that were targeted by COINTELPRO were numerous, but I'll only point out two, which were quite prominent during the late 60's to the 70's- The Black Panther Party and The Black Liberation Army (and any other functionaries who stood in solidarity with, and in support of

the Black Liberation movement, etc.).

The FBI had labeled the members/associates of these socio-political organizations as terrorist and imminent threats to the government. Immediately following was a flurry of events which shocked the consciousness of many innocents in the oppressed communities. They found themselves face to face with state terror/repression, by having their doors to their homes kicked in during early morning raids, under the comical suspicions of harboring/aiding a terrorist. Essentially creating the same hysteria that oppressed communities are dealing with today, in hindsight of the post 9/11 patriotic rhetoric. The state terror/repression that our fellow beloved brothas/sistas



Self-Portrait by Kijana Tashiri Askari

endured during the late 60's was definitely some very trying times, in which some were able to develop the necessary character/resolve, to dig their feet in, and resist the enemy with this newly discovered social consciousness. But as can be expected, there were many who did not answer the bell. We revolutionaries, prisoners of war, freedom fighters, and progressives continue to ride that momentum in our struggle for total liberation in the new millennium.

As circumstances of old remain in place, with this same diabolical Euro-Amerikkkan government still in power, murdering/killing innocents in the spirit of a so-called "democracy," my people we remain under attack. It's hired henchmen/women since have oppressed all those courageous comrade in arms from George L. Jackson; W.L. Nolan; Fred Hampton; Sojourner Truth; Harriet Tubman; Mark Clark; Marcus Garvey; Assata Shakur; Angela Davis; Kiilu Nyasha; to your everyday Joe, who refused to accept the oppressive bondage of captivity that our kaptors

have forge, and continue to forge upon our existence. These beautiful, determined brothas/sistas were arbitrarily persecuted for giving a voice to the collective plight of a protracted struggle that was aimed toward real freedom.

This historical social relationship of the government/prison regime has paved the way for many state sponsored acts of murder/genocide against the revolutionary class of prisoners, that were, and remain held captive in these concrete tombs. I am a living testament of this political masquerade of so-called justice.

As a New Afrikan Revolutionary, I have personally endured several set-ups by this prison regime/government in their bid to criminalize my existence- one whom is committed to struggling to liberate his people, to an individual whom is deemed to be a threat to the safety/security of some uniform of law, that I've never agreed to abide by. The most recent occurrence of political persecution that I was involved in occurred one afternoon as I was coming in from the S.H.U. exercise yard. As I was patiently waiting in front of my cell door, so that I could re-enter my cell, it just so happens, that there was an oppressive psychopath working in the control booth/gun tower that afternoon, whom decided to pop open the cell door of a white supremacist prisoner. He then tried to attack me, but little did he know, he was in for quite a surprise!

He had run right into the wrath of one skilled/determine New Afrikan, who wasn't about to be a victim of racist hatred. This was supposed to be an ambush on my life, as my kaptors all stood in shock astonishment, while also randomly commenting; "That guy must not had been ready for you, as that guy is pretty dangerous!" I am not moved by such a pseudo-flattery, as I am well aware of these racist pigs central task in perpetrating a culture, that is featured in a cycle of one against another. In spite of this ambush on my life, I refuse to be intimidated/frightened away from the stance that I have taken! I will forever remain committed to the struggle in seeking to liberate my people, even at the expense of my life, as my life belongs to the people.

For more info contact me at:
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Sponsored by:
 The New Afrikan Collective Think Tank (N.A.C.T.T.)

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 con-

trolled by the corporate media, industry and government, a free, independent and alternative press is essential for any hope of creating a just world.

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

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

Iraq Carnage: Bloodiest Post-War Month

U.S. raids Tal Afar, blames Zarqawi



While much of the country's attention remained focused on the fallout from Hurricane Katrina, massive offensives in Iraq from both U.S. and insurgent forces unleashed a torrent of bloodshed, making September an especially deadly month. At least 116 Iraqi forces and 346 Iraqi civilians have been killed in insurgent violence during the first 17 days of September alone.

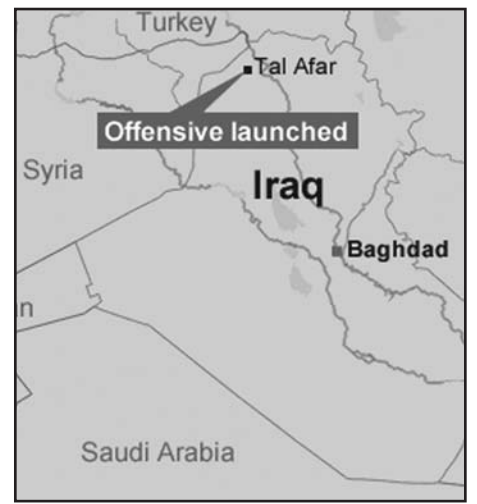
One two day period in Baghdad during the second week of the month left nearly 190 people killed in a series of bombings and shootings. Daily violence on that scale has not been seen in Baghdad since the 2003 invasion.

Shiites and other Iraqis cooperating with the U.S. occupation have been the primary targets of the recent insurgent violence. U.S. forces are still killed on a daily basis and the overall U.S. death toll is quickly nearing 2000. Yet the tactics of some insurgents are clearly shifting towards further expanding the already bloody civil conflict sparked and fueled by a continued U.S.-led occupation. Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the suspected leader of Al Qaida in Iraq has claimed

responsibility for much of the violence. In a recent communiqué, Zarqawi declared a "full-scale war on Shiites all over Iraq, wherever and whenever they are found."

This massive bloodshed has coincided with U.S.-led offensives across the north and west of the country. The largest such operation has been aimed at the city of Tal Afar in the north, leading to a humanitarian catastrophe and the forced exodus of much of Tal Afar's population of 300,000. 6000 U.S. troops backed by 4000 Iraqi soldiers laid siege to this city in a similar fashion as the devastating siege of Falluja during April 2004. A near complete media blackout of the developments in Tal Afar has prevented the disclosure of any accurate body count but it is likely the offensive has unleashed carnage on the same scale or greater than the recent insurgent violence in Baghdad.

The U.S. military has continually cited Zarqawi and his organization as the primary target of their recent assaults. Similarly, Zarqawi has suggested the recent



bombings were revenge for attacks on Sunnis in Tal Afar. Yet Tal Afar is a predominantly Turkomen city and Sunnis make up a small minority of the overall population and the resistance in the city is clearly not foreign terrorists but local residents resisting the U.S. occupation. Regardless of the fact that their numbers remain small and their ideology does not reflect much of the diverse Iraqi resistance, Zarqawi has become the perfect excuse for U.S. operations.

MORE INFORMATION:
INDYBAY.ORG/INTERNATIONAL/IRAQ

Haiti's Cops on Rampage

Lavalas crackdown continues, U.S. journalist arrested

BY BEN TERRAL

On Friday, September 9, US filmmaker Kevin Pina and Haitian journalist Jean Restil Jean-Baptiste were arrested by Haitian National Police (HNP). At the time, they were attempting to observe a police search of the residence of Father Gerard Jean-Juste, an Amnesty International-designated prisoner of conscience. Activists hope their arrest will attract more attention to the dire situation of political prisoners in Haiti.

Pina and Ristil were being held in a small cell with six other men. In the brief time I was allowed to speak to him, Pina explained that he and Ristil were covering the search of Jean-Juste's property because of concern that weapons might be planted if no reporters were present. Both Pina and Ristil have previously faced harassment at the hands of Haitian police.

After international pressure made the unlawful incarceration high-profile, the two men were released on September 12 with no charges. Unfortunately, there are still more than 1,000 other political prisoners behind bars that have been incarcerated since the February 29, 2004 U.S.-backed coup which ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and his government. Their imprisonment has been facilitated by a demonization of ousted President Aristide's Lavalas Party waged by Haiti's elite-owned right-wing media.

Lavalas has maintained consistent demands regarding Haitian elections that the U.S., Canada and France have arranged for November and December. The party continues to argue that elections cannot be free and fair unless extra-judicial executions, rapes, and other repression of Lavalas supporters ends, political prisoners are freed, and President Aristide and other exiles are allowed to return to Haiti to help restore constitutional democracy. Many poor Haitians were hoping Jean-Juste would be named as a presidential candidate, but electoral authorities blocked attempts to register the priest.

Mario Joseph, Jean-Juste's Port-au-

Prince based lawyer, told me, "The Father has the trust and love of the people for all he has done for them, which is why the government wants to stop him and he is in jail. The U.S. embassy and UN don't want to use him as a peacemaker, because that would make him politically stronger and a threat to elite interests."

Prime Minister Yvon Neptune, another high profile prisoner the coup regime is refusing to release despite sustained international pressure, is confined in a separate wing of the facility Jean-Juste has been moved to. Jean-Juste has not been allowed to visit Neptune, but briefly saw him and said his health was "bad". Jean-Juste himself is in need of blood and other tests, which he has not yet received. When I asked if he felt confident of his security in the current facility, he answered "no". The



A plainclothes Haitian police officer stands next to corpse of Lavalas demonstrator after planting a handgun. An anonymous journalist declared, "I filmed the dead bodies of demonstrators killed by the police. The police put a gun in the left hand of one of the corpses. After they saw me filming they asked me to come and film the gun in his hand. I couldn't believe it."

-Photo and caption from Haiti Information Project

priest expressed appreciation for international solidarity, and asked that it be continued as much as possible. To disheartened fellow Haitians, he said, "Don't cry too much, there's work to do. Let's do it."

MORE INFO: HAITIACTION.NET

SIEG HOWDY, PARDNERS!



For those of you still reeling in the wake of *Never Breathe What You Can't See*, here's some more! Further off the deep end and more Melvinoid this time, **Jello and the Melvins** serve up six more studio tracks (including a cover of **Alice Cooper's** "Halo of Flies"), remixes by **Al Jourgensen**, **Dalek**, and the **Deaf Nephews**, and to top it off: an all-new live version of the DKlassic "Kali-förnia Über Alles" - this time about the gubernator, Schwarzenegger himself - and not a moment too soon! Featuring killer artwork by Camille Rose Garcia! Say it loud, say it proud - "Sieg Howdy!"

JELLO BIAFRA WITH THE MELVINS SIEG HOWDY!

F-MINUS
WONT BLEED ME / FAILED SOCIETY

Two EPs and unreleased cover songs comprise this essential album of no-bullshit Hardcore from scene veterans F-Minus. 20 songs of in-your-face, to-the-point, straightforward HC blasts! Featuring Brad from Leftover Crack, the band employs a killer two-pronged, male/female vocal assault that gets their point across loud and clear!

REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

Vic Bondi of Articles of Faith and ex-Jawbox member and producer extraordinaire J. Robbins join forces to forge RSA from unadulterated anger and politically-charged venom. Punishing grooves, a few post-Hardcore elements, and raw, honest, energy coalesce into a massive album that demands to be heard.

Tarantella.
Esqueletos

From the fertile breeding ground of Denver, Colorado, comes Tarantella. A heady mix of spaghetti western twang, south American mystique, gritty Americana and lush, seductive female vocals. Tarantella sounds like the soundtrack to a movie that would be fucking awesome. Featuring former and current members of 16 Horsepower, Slim Cessna's Auto Club, Woven Hand, Lillium, and Blood Axis.

16HORSEPOWER

Olden Hoarse

From the Rocky Mountain state of Colorado comes "the best band my home state ever produced," according to Jello Biafra. Finally available again, these two albums are essential listening. Somewhere between alt-country, dark Americana, blues, and... a lot of other stuff, 16 HP may no longer be a band, but their music survives them via these mandatory reissues.

turn me on dead man
god bless the electric freak

TMODM meld mind-altering psych and mind-numbing heaviness into a musical cocktail of extreme rock that combines everything that kicks ass and leaves out anything that doesn't. "God Bless the Electric Freak" is a lysergic spectacle of feedback-drenched aural decadence!

STILL AVAILABLE: Skarp "Roquiem", Nausea "The Punk Terrorist Anthology Vol. II", Ani Kyd "Evil Needs Candy Too", Nob Dylan and his Nobsolets "12 Positively Stiff Dylans", Blowfly "Fahrenheit 69", Buzzov'en "Welcome to Violence" Jello Biafra and the Melvins "Never Breathe What You Can't See"

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The Social Strike Continues A Report from the MUNI fare strike

BY TOM WETZEL

UFW VICTORY FOLLOWS GALLO BOYCOTT

The United Farm Workers and Gallo Vineyards Inc. have reached an agreement on a new contract providing Gallo of Sonoma workers with many important gains. The workers voted nearly unanimously to ratify the agreement. The Gallo wine boycott has ended.

The Sonoma workers will see their base hourly pay rise 9.5% to \$8.98 by the end of the 30-month contract. In addition, 228 contract employees will for the first time have the right to file grievances over discipline and seniority issues.

Gallo employs more than 4,400 workers and produced about 58 million cases of California wine last year, accounting for about one of every four bottles made in the state.

BERKELEY USES BIODIESEL TO SLASH CARBON EMISSIONS

Berkeley reduced greenhouse gas emissions in the city by 14 percent during the past two years with conservation measures that included running cars on vegetable oil, according to city officials.

The dramatic drop in carbon emissions puts Berkeley at the forefront of a handful of cities that are legally committing themselves to reducing the pollution that many scientists have blamed for global warming.

"Berkeley's groundbreaking efforts to be a model environmental city are beginning to show dramatic results," said Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates.

The city calculated that its carbon emissions in 2004 were 2,066 metric tons less than its baseline number. To get equivalent air-quality benefits, the city would have had to plant 52,000 trees or remove 450 cars from the road, Bates said.

The greatest cut in greenhouse gases, 47 percent, came from city vehicles -- particularly as a result of the use of biodiesel fuel but also through use of electric, natural gas and hybrid electric-gasoline powered vehicles.

BUBONIC PLAGUE-INFESTED MICE DISAPPEAR FROM BIOTERROR LAB.



Three mice infected with the bacteria that causes bubonic plague disappeared from a laboratory in Newark, NJ, in early September. The mice are missing from the Public Health Research Institute at the University of Medicine and Dentistry. This lab conducts bio-terrorism research for the federal government. One of the ways people contract bubonic plague is from infected rodents.

The three missing mice are from a group of 24 mice who have been injected with a bacterium that causes various forms of the plague, including bubonic plague. These mice are part of a massive government project to develop vaccines against biological weapons.

Several thousand passengers rode the buses for free in San Francisco on Thursday, September 1, the opening day of a fare strike in North America's most bus-intensive city. In the days leading up to September 1, 20,000 leaflets and 10,000 stickers in English, Chinese, and Spanish were attached to bus shelters and poles throughout the city to promote the strike.

As well as raising fares to \$1.50, MUNI has slashed service on many lines, starting September 24. Layoff notices were issued earlier in the year to 150 drivers. MUNI management is eliminating 83 of these jobs through early retirement and for the rest of the job cuts, they're firing all of the part-timers.

The fare strike has three demands: No fare hike, no service cuts, no layoffs.

On the morning of September 1, fare strike groups focused on eight major nodes in the MUNI bus network with banners, strike placards, bullhorns, and leaflets. About half of these nodes were on the Mission-Van Ness corridor. With over 85,000 rides on a typical weekday, Mission-Van Ness is one of the world's busiest bus operations. In the heart of San Francisco's Mission District, local day laborers got involved in the fare strike campaign and took over the tabling and leafleting in areas of the city with large numbers of Spanish-speaking immigrants.

OAKLAND INFESTATION

Built in 1929 and presently valued at \$4,853,722, OCHI bought the historic 150 unit California Hotel in 1990 for \$1,910,000.

The tenants reside in Single Room Occupancy units (SROs), and pay their rent by the month. "We are charged either \$395.00 for a basic room per month or as much as \$466.00 a month for a small kitchenette," said three-year tenant Lisa Grisolia. "They charge us an extra \$7.50 a night if we have a guest stay over."

According to Grisolia, after the lawsuit was filed OCHI management moved quickly to clean up the building. "I never seen them move so fast to clean up this mess since moving here," Grisolia said.

The filed complaint/lawsuit also detailed such problems as inadequate and defective electrical systems and outlets, including exposed wiring, defective plumbing, infestation of vermin, roaches and insects, in addition to other dangerous, inhospitable conditions.

"I believe that OCHI and this property is being run by slumlords, and they are sucking the system dry," said tenant activist Linda Stephens, who started the tenant rebellion at the property after contacting local attorney John Murcko for assistance.

"It's a terrible situation with fleas, rats, bed bugs, and bad odors coming from the vents and the floors," Murcko said. "It's the worst infestation I have seen in the last 20 years as an attorney. OCHI received a notice last November from vector control and nothing was done."

According to Stephens, OCHI is still making big prof-

its, despite the deplorable conditions. She said, "These guys are really raking in the dough from plenty of HUD funding, because tenants normally pay \$395.00 a month, but when they move in tenants from the Shelter Plus Program which is subsidized by local housing authorities using HUD funding, OCHI then charges \$795.00 a month for the same unit."

According to Rashid Mohammed, the lead desk clerk



RESIDENT LISA G. REVEALES A FRESH SPIDER BITE

at the California Hotel, they are currently accepting applications and are presently asking \$622.00 per month for some units and \$645.00 a month for larger units.

Eleanor Piez, director of community relations for OCHI said, "We know there are some serious problems with rats and bed bugs, and we have faced some difficult repairs lately while installing a new sprinkler system."

"If the tenants had communicated closer with manage-

ment about these problems instead of going to the courts or the media, our problems would not be as severe as they currently are. Now it's totally adversarial and very tense," said Piez. "We have 120 tenants and 150 units, and believe that the infestations became worse due to moving the tenants around to different rooms while the repairs have been going on lately."

Indeed, bed bugs have made a big comeback in recent years and are increasingly found in shelters, apartments, and hotels. Bed bugs are active at night while sucking the blood of sleeping humans and they like to hide during the daylight hours close to where people usually sleep at night. Once they pierce the skin of their victim with an elongated beak through which they can suck the blood of their prey, they feed for around three to ten minutes until full.

Repeated efforts to reach Dwight Dickerson, executive director of OCHI, have not been successful, but records show that while his tenants at the California Hotel have been plagued by rats and bed bugs, Dickerson himself is raking in well over \$80,000 a year from his salary, plus extras.

Recent records indicate that it would be difficult for OCHI to blame budget woes on its failure to rid the California Hotel of its dangerous infestation. With nearly 1,000 rental units under their control,

WORKING WITH THE DRIVERS

The young anarchists who formed MUNI Social Strike wanted to encourage a driver/rider alliance in San Francisco. For several months, the Social Strike group focused its efforts on outreach to the drivers.



Some drivers were playing by the Muni management game plan, refusing to move the bus if people didn't pay. But this seemed to be a small minority. As some MUNI drivers told us, the union contract only requires the drivers to tell people what the fare is. In one incident, when an activist announced he was on fare strike, the driver said "The fare is \$1.50. You know the rules." She then stared straight ahead, smiling as he moved into the bus without paying. On another occasion, when a group of people got on the bus with money in their hands, ready to pay, the driver told them "Why pay? Today is the fare strike."

To read a longer version of this account visit the Muni Social Strike website at www.socialstrike.net.

More information also available at www.munifairstrike.net

continued from front page

records show that from 2002 through 2003, OCHI profited by as much as \$2,203,920 for services performed, merchandise, gifts, and other related activities of the non-profit housing organization. According to its website, OCHI has developed over 1,000 units of affordable housing since the organization was formed in 1973, and it currently manages over 900 units.

However, despite the multi-million dollar profits of their landlord, OCHI's SRO tenants are forced to live in truly nightmarish conditions. "A few months back, we had a dead man here for 12 days in his room before the body was discovered, and the smell of dead rats in the walls were so strong that we could not make the distinction between the dead man's body and the dead rats in the walls," said Linda Stephens.

"Now they are spreading lime around the building to kill the stench of all the dead rats in the walls," Stephens added. "This is a national historic building with Black Heritage, and it really angers me to see how OCHI has exploited and sucked up every last dime they can get out of this building. Many of us residing here are the working class poor, but Dwight Dickerson and the management staff of OCHI are trying to paint most of us as being mentally challenged, in an effort to divert attention away from the slum-like conditions that they have had us residing in."

Lynda Carson may be reached at tenantsrule@yahoo.com or (510)763-1085

Utah Cops Squash Legal Rave with Helicopters, Teargas

BY

APOLLO

A DJ DESCRIBES THE POLICE BRUTALITY AT DANCE PARTY

Last night, I was booked to play an event near Salt Lake City, Utah. The hype was huge, they presold 700 tickets and they expected up to 3,000 people. The show was all outdoors, in a valley surrounded by huge mountains. They had an amazing light show flashing onto a mountain behind the site, the sound was booming and everything just seemed too good to be true...

At about 11:30, I was standing behind the stage when I noticed a helicopter pulling over one of the mountain tops. I jokingly said, "Oh look, here comes Big Brother" to the person I was with—I wasn't far off. The helicopter dipped lower and lower and shined its lights on the crowd. I was kind of in awe as this thing circling us, but then I looked towards the crowd and saw a guy dressed in camouflage walking by, toting an assault rifle. At this point, a few "troops" rushed the stage and cut the sound off and started yelling that everyone "get the fuck out of here or go to jail." This is where it got really sticky.

No one resisted. That's for sure. I saw one of the police dogs signal out a guy who obviously had some drugs on him. The soldiers attacked the guy (four of them on one), and kicked him in the ribs and had their knees in his back and sides. As they were cuffing him, there were about 1,000 kids trying to leave in the backdrop, peacefully. Right then, a can of fucking TEAR GAS is launched into the crowd. People are running and screaming at this point. Girls are crying, guys are cussing. . . bad scene.

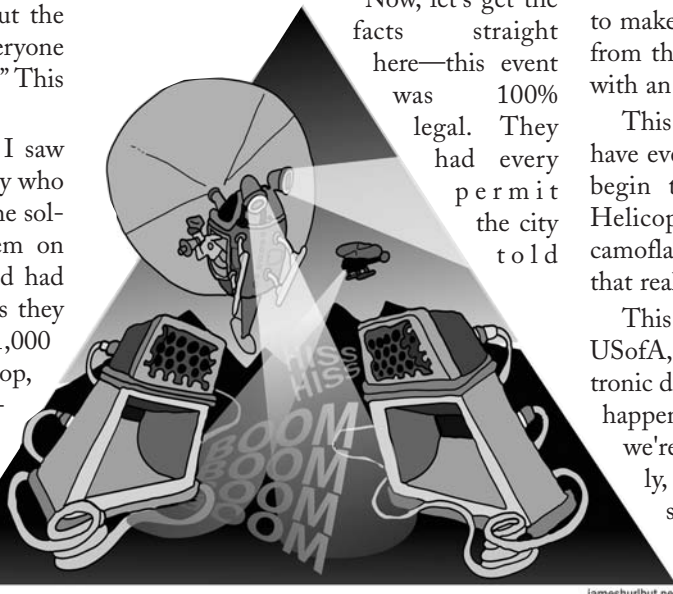
Now, this is all I saw with my own eyes, but I heard plenty of other accounts of the night. This isn't gossip I heard from some candy raver, these are instances cited straight out of the promoter's mouth:

-One of the promoter's friends (a very small female) was attacked by one of the police dogs. As she struggled to get away from it, the police tackled her. Three grown men proceeded to KICK HER IN THE STOMACH.

-The police confiscated at least three video tapes.

-When the main promoter tried to show the police that he had a permit, they said, "No, you don't," ripped the permit from his hand, put an assault rifle to his forehead and said, "Get the fuck out of here right now."

Now, let's get the facts straight here—this event was 100% legal. They had every permit the city told



them they needed. They had a 2 MILLION DOLLAR insurance policy for the event. They had licensed security guards at the gates confiscating any alcohol or drugs found upon entry (the security guards were all arrested for possession).

Oh, another interesting fact: The police did not have a warrant. The owner of the land already has a lawsuit against the city for a party they busted on her land a few months ago (at which they didn't arrest her, but they FORCED HER TO LEAVE HER OWN PERSONAL PROPERTY!).

Don't get it twisted, this is all going down in probably THE most conservative state in the USA. Even though everything about this event was legal, the police wanted this party shut down, so they made it happen. The promoters spent over \$20,000 on this show and did everything they had to make it legit, only to have it taken away from them by a group of radical neo-cons with an agenda.

This was one of the scariest things I have ever witnessed in person. I can't even begin to describe how surreal it was. Helicopters, assault rifles, tear gas, camoflauged soldiers.... why? Was that really necessary?

This needs to be big news across the USofA, especially in our music scene (electronic dance music, as a whole). This could happen to any of us at any time. When we're losing the right to gather peacefully, we're also letting the police set a standard of what we can get away with. And I think that's BULLSHIT!

Young Workers United Wins \$4.5 Million

BY SONYA MEHTA

Rafa Gutierrez and over 180 other Cheesecake Factory restaurant workers know what it's like to savor the sweet taste of justice. Through organizing their coworkers, taking legal action, and teaming up with community organization Young Workers United (YWU), former and current Cheesecake Factory workers across the state have won a \$4.5 million settlement and seen concrete improvements at their work.

From 2001 to 2004, the Cheesecake Factory management denied workers their legal right to a break after six hours of work in the busiest

year, YWU organizers met Marilyn during their frequent restaurant outreach. Marilyn laughs when she recalls the meeting. "The organizers asked how conditions were at the Cheesecake. I told them things are horrible! At that point we had been waiting on the DLSE for a year."

Young Workers United is a community and workers' center dedicated to improving conditions for service sector workers. YWU and former and current Cheesecake workers started meeting regularly as an organizing committee. After analyzing the conditions at work, the organizing committee came up with a list of demands includ-

ing back pay, respect, fairer systems for schedules and promotions, and no retaliation for organizing activities. They then planned a campaign for worker organizing and community solidarity to pressure Cheesecake.

Workers gave each other flyers at work and defended each other when called in for discipline. Workers and allies formed delegations to confront the management. The community was highly supportive of workers and participated in a call-in to the company as well as actions of upwards of 80 people. San Francisco Supervisor Chris Daly and former Supervisor Matt Gonzalez spoke at the rallies. Four other Supervisors signed an Appeal for Justice to the corporation. YWU also went into the restaurant and released balloons with "jus-

ice" and "breaks" written on them. Meanwhile, other YWUers were handing out flyers and informing customers of the labor violations.

As YWU's actions escalated through 2004 and 2005, Cheesecake Factory had to change their breaks system and began paying servers higher wages instead of making the workers on break pay their substitute \$5 to take their table. In the kitchen, workers saw huge improvements through their collective action. Management was forced to stop changing timecards and charging workers for food. When management would randomly harass, fire, or deny some-

one unemployment benefits, YWU was able to immediately respond with action on the inside.

In December, Governor Schwarzenegger changed break law, letting corporations with pending lawsuits off the hook. Cheesecake settled despite the new law because of worker and community pressure. Cheesecake Factory claimants and other restaurant workers held a press conference Thursday, September 1 to announce the successful settlement of the Cheesecake lawsuit and to discuss current struggles. Sonia Cano, a YWU member and restaurant worker, told the crowd, "This is not an isolated incident. Violations are standard in the restaurant industry and we have to fight as workers and the community to get our rights."

"THEY TREATED US LIKE SERVANTS, BUT PEOPLE UNITED AND FOUGHT FOR THEIR RIGHTS. CHEESECAKE KNOWS NOW THEY CAN'T TREAT US LIKE THAT." RAFAEL GUTIERREZ, FORMER CHEESECAKE FACTORY COOK

and most profitable restaurant in San Francisco.

Workers were compelled to work while hungry and tired. Former server and YWU member Patty Senecal recalls: "I was on my feet for eight hours a day! I couldn't eat or sit down. I would be running from table to table, sneaking candy in the bathroom." After research into labor law, Marilyn and others started organizing their coworkers to file claims with the Division of Labor Standards and Enforcement, the state agency in charge of enforcing labor law. Claims ranged from a few hundred to tens of thousands of dollars. At the same time a lawsuit was filed in Southern California.

The Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE) watched the number of claims rise to over 80. Cheesecake Factory workers waited more than a year for a response. Towards the end of that

U.S. POULTRY GIANT UNDER FIRE AFTER SEGREGATION SCANDAL IS REVEALED

A group of black workers is suing the world's largest poultry meat producer, accusing it of tolerating a racist workplace where African Americans were routinely abused and a "whites only" sign was pinned to the lavatory door.

Tyson Foods is accused by 13 workers of maintaining a segregated system in a break area at one of its plants in Ashland, AL, that was "reminiscent of the Jim Crow era".

In addition to the posting of the "whites only" sign, the workers allege that the lavatory was padlocked and only white workers were given a key, that workers hung a noose in one of the recreation rooms, and annotated a picture of monkeys with the names of black staff. When the workers complained, they say the plant manager told them the facilities had been locked because they were "nasty, dirty [and] behaved like children."

Speaking for the first time about the lawsuit, Jake Whetstone, one of the workers, told *The Independent*: "When I saw that sign it really hurt me. I'm 50. I grew up during a time when there was segregation. I thought we had gotten over it and moved on, but seeing that sign I had a flashback." (Andrew Buncombe/*Independent UK*)

NIKE PULLS MAJOR THREAT AD, ISSUES APOLOGY



Earlier this summer, Nike Skateboarding used a classic Minor Threat album cover for its "Major Threat" 2005 East Coast Tour posters without asking permission. According to Dischord Records, "Nike never contacted Dischord to obtain permission to use this imagery, nor was any permission granted. Simply put, Nike stole it and we're not happy about it." Following this outraged response from Dischord (and their fans, who bombarded Nike with angry phone calls and emails), Nike pulled the ad and issued a formal apology.

In its letter of mea culpa, Nike Skateboarding states, "Because of the album's strong imagery, and because our East Coast tour ends in Washington, DC, we felt it was a perfect fit. This was a poor judgment call and should not have been executed without consulting Minor Threat and Dischord Records."

In an attempt to make peace with the legendary hardcore band, the letter extends this olive branch: "All of the Nike employees responsible for the creation of the tour flyer are fans of both Minor Threat and Dischord records [sic] and have nothing but respect for both."

Dischord decided not to take legal action against Nike, but posted this message to its website: "It is disheartening to us to think that Nike may be successful in using this imagery to fool kids, just beginning to becoming familiar with skate culture, underground music and DIY ideals, into thinking that the general ethos of this label, and Minor Threat in particular, can somehow be linked to Nike's mission."

Newswire ((i))



Mali'q Williams lies on a cot in the Houston Astrodome. He escaped from New Orleans with his family. Their home was completely destroyed and they lost all of their possessions. They made it to the roof of the Mahalia Jackson school and were eventually rescued from the roof by a Coast Guard helicopter and then transported to Houston in a bus. PHOTO: ANDREWSTERN.NET

NEW ORLEANS: THE MAKING OF AN URBAN CATASTROPHE

BY ROBERT CADWELL

Most residents of New Orleans were unaware of the potential destruction of Katrina until Saturday, August 28, less than 48 hours before it struck. Hurricane Katrina was the most awesome disaster that Louisiana has ever seen. But the deadly results of Katrina were as much a product of human callousness as an act of nature. The world watched as people were herded into the Superdome only to find themselves

in a wretched and unsanitary place without food, water, or proper medical care. Those in areas of high flooding fled to rooftops begging rescue helicopters to save them. Many died trapped in their attics or waiting to be rescued. Meanwhile, several police officers were dispatched to protect property from looters. As Hurricane Katrina promises to be the new textbook case for urban "natural" disasters, social dislocation, and (lack of) urban planning, it's important to examine the failed policies that contributed to the disaster.

MISGUIDED PRIORITIES

Social services are underfunded while working people depend on low wage service jobs and send their kids to dysfunctional public schools. Largely, the city depends on the scraps of the tourism industry for its sustenance. Therefore, it's of no surprise that in the lead up to Katrina, hurricane preparedness was woefully underfunded by the federal government. President Bush and Congress ignored those who explained that solid infrastructure would prevent flooding in New Orleans in the event of a levy break. According to columnist Sidney Blumenthal, "FEMA warned that a hurricane striking New

Orleans was one of the three most likely disasters in the U.S. But the Bush administration cut New Orleans flood control funding by 44 percent to pay for the Iraq war." Beyond the monetary cost, almost half of the Louisiana National Guard was deployed outside the state when the hurricane hit. Meanwhile, about 3,000 members of the 256th Infantry Brigade were equipped with high water gear in Iraq.

RACE AND CLASS DYNAMICS

Katrina wasn't the first hurricane, or the first major flooding disaster, to hit Louisiana. During Hurricane Betsy, Lower Ninth Ward, an area almost entirely under the poverty line and 99 percent Black was intentionally flooded to "save" the wealthy white uptown neighborhoods.

The poverty and blackness of those bearing the brunt of the hurricane is obvious to anyone. The plight of these victims underscores the existing race and class inequalities in New Orleans, but also provides a lens through which to understand another facet of racism that is ever-present in the U.S. poor people were the least prepared for a hurricane.

During a benefit concert, rapper Kanye West explains: "George Bush doesn't care about Black people, ...[America was set up] to help the poor, Blacks, and the less well-off as slow as possible." Tulane Hospital (a private hospital) was evacuated well before Charity Hospital, the region's trauma hospital whose patients are poor and predominantly Black.

There is also a surge in more explicit racism. According to Malik Rahim, white vigilante gangs were patrolling Algiers, riding around in pickup trucks, armed, and searching for young Blacks whom they figured didn't belong in their community.

BLAMING VICTIMS

Both former FEMA chief Michael Brown and the media were announcing that the high death toll would be "attributable a lot to people who didn't heed advance warnings." Brown's comments suggest that hundreds chose not to evacuate, but the reality is that hundreds of New Orleanians didn't have the means to comply with an evacuation order.

Reporters and right-wing Internet trolls filled news outlets and message boards with stories of looting, while thousands in the city begged for help. The lawlessness of looting, full of drama and intrigue of savage Blacks, provided a narrative that shifted away from the thousands still stuck in the horror and the political decisions that kept them there.

Officials comforted tense onlookers with a promise of order: they would use troops to protect stores from looting. But by doing so, they shifted scarce resources away from the search, rescue, and evacuation of residents whose lives they deemed less important. As convoys of National Guard reinforcements finally rolled into New Orleans, Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco used the occasion to warn looters and assure the ruling class that troops were under her orders to "shoot and kill" if needed.

LACKLUSTER RESPONSE

The response from Federal agencies was too little too late. While the U.S. has a history of dropping humanitarian relief to famine and disaster *continued on next page...*



Common Ground Health Clinic offers temporary assistance and mutual aid to the people of Algiers. PHOTO: BRADLEY ALLEN

to underserved and ignored parts of the ravaged city. Free from the constraints of excessive regulations and bureaucracy, in many cases these groups are doing far more than government agencies to address the needs of those still in New Orleans.

Much of the grassroots response is concentrated in Algiers, a predominately black neighborhood across the Mississippi River from downtown that was not flooded during Hurricane Katrina. As a result, survivors gravitated towards the area, one of the few not destroyed. Nonetheless, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Red Cross, two of the most visible relief organizations, have been largely absent from the neighborhood and its inhabitants left to fend for themselves.

"Nobody in the state, federal, or local government is interested in helping us," says Malik Rahim, former Black Panther and long-time resident of Algiers.

To fill the gaps, radical grassroots groups have stepped up to offer support to the

neglected people of Algiers. When medics from Mayday DC, a housing activist group, reached the neighborhood nearly two weeks after the hurricane hit, they brought the first medical care its residents had seen. Now Algiers has Food Not Bombs serving regular hot meals, a pirate radio station called "The Battle of Algiers," and Common Ground, a fully functioning medical clinic and mutual aid collective. In contradiction to the mass media reports of chaos and looting, Algiers has seen an outpouring of solidarity and constructive cooperation as its residents work with volunteers to rebuild their community.

Common Ground is providing many local residents with the first primary care they've received in years. The clinic is stocked with both medical and non-medical supplies and has been treating 50 patients or more a day. Medics on bikes patrol the streets and make visits to those unable to leave their homes.

But the clinic is not simply a charity—it's an exercise in solidarity. "We're taking every opportunity to incorporate community members into the working of the clinic," says Dr. Michael Kozart, a member of the Bay Area Radical Health Collective. Volunteers are teaching interested people

how to take blood pressures and maintain medical charts so they can help out. Plans are in the works for free health care classes.

In contrast, the government response has been largely militaristic and unproductive—soldiers, police, and contracted private security forces roam the streets, enforcing a dusk-to-dawn curfew and martial law. Though the military reportedly asked for assistance from Common Ground's doctors and medics, they have since begun working to duplicate the collective's efforts and open their own clinic.

"Nobody wants to get [medical] care from people dressed up in military gear who drive around in shiny new Humvees," Kozart says. "They are scaring the shit out of people."

Common Ground intends to remain open as long as possible and establish satellite clinics in other neighborhoods. "This place is my home now," says Noah, an EMT volunteer from Rhode Island. "I can come back to Algiers anytime and I'll be welcomed with open arms."

More information about Common Ground can be found at: www.commongroundrelief.org

SOLIDARITY NOT CHARITY: GRASSROOTS RELIEF EFFORTS FILL IN THE GAPS IN NEW ORLEANS

BY HUNTER JACKSON

In the wake of botched relief efforts on the state and federal levels, grassroots volunteers from around the country have traveled to New Orleans to provide mutual aid

2001- The Federal Emergency Management Agency: a major hurricane hitting New Orleans is one of the three "likeliest, most catastrophic disasters facing this country."

MARCH, 2003- The U.S. invades Iraq and 40% of Mississippi's National Guard force and 35% of Louisiana's are eventually deployed in the ongoing occupation.

MARCH, 2003- FEMA becomes part of the Department of Homeland Security, within the Emergency Planning and Response Directorate.

APRIL 28, 2004- Two Louisiana Senators ask the federal government for more money for environmental restoration and water projects and receive little of their request

MAY 1, 2005- With no public announcement the U.S. awards Haliburton subsidiary KBR 4.9 billion dollars in contracts for work on military bases in Iraq

AUGUST 23, 2005- a Tropical Depression Twelve had formed over the southeastern Bahamas.

AUGUST 24, 2005- Katrina becomes a Category 1 hurricane, as it creeps toward an overnight landfall killing two on Florida's southeast coast

AUGUST 25, 2005- Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco declares state of emergency. -The storm is the fourth hurricane of the 2005 season, and at least 11 deaths are attributed to it in Florida so far.

AUGUST 27, 2005- President Bush declares a state of emergency in Louisiana

AUGUST 28, 2005- New Orleans' Mayor Ray Nagin orders a mandatory evacuation of the city. For residents who lacked the means to leave the city, Nagin orders the Superdome opened as a shelter of last resort.

AUGUST 29, 2005- Katrina makes Landfall in Louisiana at 6:10am -17th street Canal levee breaks in New Orleans.

-The Red Cross, while providing relief and support across the Gulf Coast, does not enter New Orleans

-President Bush shares birthday photo-op at Luke AFB in Arizona with Senator John McCain. **AUGUST 30, 2005**- Thousands of people are

stranded in flooded homes, attics and rooftops across the city. -The number of evacuees in the Superdome swells to 20,000 and many more flee to the city's Convention Center.

AUGUST 31, 2005- 80 percent of New Orleans is underwater. The city has no electricity and little drinkable water.

-Bush declares a Public Health Emergency along the Gulf Coast -As Air Force One flies over the Gulf Coast, the pilot descends for the President to take a glimpse at the devastation. He then returns to the White House, ending his vacation prematurely.

-Some 6,000 members of the Louisiana and Mississippi Guard have been forced to watch the catastrophe from 7,000 miles away in Iraq.

-FEMA's lists founded by Cl Robertson as taking relief

SEPTEMBER Ray Nagin issues -Fights and fire the open, and enforcement of stricken New Orleans -A "witch's brew" of sewage, through New Orleans and -The U.S. Naval facilities Katrina. The v subsidiary, KE

New Orleans continued... affected areas, media reported that supplies were being diverted because helicopters couldn't land due to hostile gunfire. If the U.S. is capable of sending planes that can withstand enemy fire to drop bombs in Iraq, certainly they are capable of air dropping supplies into a US city.

On NPR's September 1 broadcast of *All Things Considered*, Homeland Security Czar Michael Chertoff dismissed an NPR field reporter's claim that 2,000 or more were at the convention center without food or water and in unsanitary conditions. Subsequent reports verified that 15,000-20,000 were at the convention center. Deplorable conditions including dead bodies. The Convention Center was on dry ground and could have been accessible by military ground transport vehicles.

Mayor Ray Nagin blasted the slow response: "They're not here. It's too dog-gone late. Now get off your asses and do something, and let's fix the biggest god-

damn crisis in the history of this country."

ENVIRONMENTAL TRIGGER

The ecological component of this disaster is clear. New Orleans, like many major cities, was built in a dangerous location, but environmental problems like global warming and coastal erosion have exacerbated the precariousness of the City.

Marshes and wetlands help to slow a hurricane's effects as it approaches. But erosion has diminished the size and ability of coastal marshes and swamps to absorb a hurricane's force. Coastal erosion is due to the redirection the river silt that built the delta to the deep waters of the continental shelf. It's also attributable to salt-water intrusion from canals built for oil and natural gas drilling and pipeline needs.

Global warming also contributed to the deadly hurricane. Ross Gelbspan, columnist for the *Boston Globe*, explains that global warming "generates longer droughts, more intense downpours, more-frequent

heat waves, and more severe storms." While Katrina began as a relatively small hurricane off south Florida, it was supercharged with extraordinary intensity by blistering sea surface temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico.

THE UNHAPPY ENDING

The Bush administration fiddled while New Orleans flooded. The federal government failed to provide basic preventative infrastructure. It didn't even have a rescue plan. Instead, tax cuts for the rich and spending for the war in Iraq were given priority. Many perceive this as a "war at home" on poor and Black people. Many hurricane refugees feel abandoned. But the ruling class abandoned New Orleans long before Katrina hit. Racism, environmental disregard, and capitalist deference to social planning set the stage for this catastrophe. As money begins to trickle in, hotels, casinos, chain stores, and commercial developments will compete for money needed to reinforce

a system that was unable to respond to people's needs in the first place. But New Orleans can be rebuilt with a different ethos: environmental sustainability, transportation infrastructure upgrades, public evacuation plans, a bolstered public works system, stable union jobs, better public schools, compassionate healthcare, and the cultivation of participatory neighborhood councils that engage the working class, poor, and oppressed in governance. The people of the U.S. can help with an alternative vision too. First, we should demand that troops deployed in Iraq return. Then, we should move to change national priorities to focus on the needs of the oppressed and working class. This should begin with rebuilding New Orleans and the U.S. Gulf South.

Robert Caldwell Jr. is a resident of the Ninth Ward in New Orleans and a member of the Green Party and Solidarity. He can be reached at jamais.vu@gmail.com.



Flooding and debris on the deserted streets of New Orleans, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

PHOTO: ANDREWSTERN.NET

to rise. The hotels turned us out and locked their doors, telling us that "officials" had told us to report to the convention center to wait for more buses. As we entered the center of the city, we finally encountered the National Guard.

The guard members told us we wouldn't be allowed into the Superdome, as the city's primary shelter had descended into a humanitarian and health hellhole. They further told us that the city's only other shelter--the convention center--was also descending into chaos and squalor, and that the police weren't allowing anyone else in.

Quite naturally, we asked, "If we can't go to the only two shelters in the city, what was our alternative?" The guards told us that this was our problem--and no, they didn't have extra water to give to us. This would be the start of our numerous encounters with callous and hostile "law enforcement."

WE WALKED to the police command center at Harrah's on Canal Street and were told the same thing--that we were on our own, and no, they didn't have water to give us. We now numbered several hundred.

We held a mass meeting to decide a course of action. We agreed to camp outside the police command post. We would be plainly visible to the media and constitute a highly visible embarrassment to city officials. The police told us that we couldn't stay. Regardless, we began to settle in and set up camp.

In short order, the police commander came across the street to address our group. He told us he had a solution: we should walk to the Pontchartrain Expressway and cross the greater New Orleans Bridge to the south side of the Mississippi, where the police had buses lined up to take us out of the city.

The crowd cheered and began to move. We called everyone back and explained to the commander that there had been lots of misinformation, so was he sure that there were buses waiting for us. The commander turned to the crowd and stated emphatically, "I swear to you that the buses are there."

The 200 of us set off for the bridge with great excitement and hope. As we marched past the convention center, many locals saw our determined and optimistic group, and asked where we were headed.

Families immediately grabbed their few belongings, and quickly our numbers doubled and then doubled again. Babies in strollers now joined us, as did people using

crutches, elderly clasping walkers and other people in wheelchairs. We marched the two to three miles to the freeway and up the steep incline to the bridge. It now began to pour down rain, but it didn't dampen our enthusiasm.

As we approached the bridge, armed sheriffs formed a line across the foot of the bridge. Before we were close enough to speak, they began firing their weapons over our heads. This sent the crowd fleeing in various directions.

As the crowd scattered and dissipated, a few of us inched forward and managed to engage some of the sheriffs in conversation. We told them of our conversation with the police commander and the commander's assurances. The sheriffs informed us that there were no buses waiting. The commander had lied to us to get us to move.

We questioned why we couldn't cross the bridge anyway, especially as there was little traffic on the six-lane highway. They responded that the West Bank was not going to become New Orleans, and there would be no Superdomes in their city.

ALL DAY LONG, we saw other families, individuals, and groups make the same trip up the incline in an attempt to cross the bridge, only to be turned away. Thousands of New Orleaners were prevented and prohibited from self-evacuating the city on foot.

Meanwhile, the only two city shelters sank further into squalor and disrepair, but our little encampment began to blossom. Someone stole a water delivery truck and brought it up to us. A mile or so down the freeway, an Army truck lost a couple of pallets of C-rations on a tight turn.

Now--secure with these two necessities, food and water--cooperation, community, and creativity flowered. We organized a clean-up, made beds from wood pallets and cardboard, designated a storm drain as the bathroom, and the kids built an elaborate enclosure for privacy out of plastic, broken umbrellas and other scraps.

JUST AS DUSK SET IN, a sheriff showed up, jumped out of his patrol vehicle, aimed his gun at our faces and screamed, "Get off the fucking freeway." A helicopter arrived and used the wind from its blades to blow away our flimsy structures. As we retreated, the sheriff loaded up his truck with our food and water.

IN THE PANDEMONIUM of having our camp raided and destroyed, we scattered once again. Reduced to a small group of eight people, in the dark, we sought refuge in an abandoned school bus, under the freeway on Cilo Street. We were hiding from possible criminal elements, but equally and definitely, we were hiding from the police and sheriffs with their martial law, curfew and shoot-to-kill policies.

LAW & ORDER IN NoLA:

BAY AREA RESIDENTS WITNESS
COMMUNITY ORGANIZING IN
THE FACE OF DISASTER

Bay Area residents and emergency medical service workers Lorrie Beth Slonsky and Larry Bradshaw were in New Orleans, attending a conference, during the levee disaster. Their story, published the day they were airlifted out of the city, quickly became one of the most circulated accounts on the internet. Below we are publishing an excerpt from their piece titled "The Real Heroes and Sheriffs of New Orleans," for the full article visit:

http://www.socialistworker.org/2005-2/556/556_04_RealHeroes.shtml

By day four, our hotels had run out of fuel and water. Sanitation was dangerously bad. As the desperation and despair increased, street crime as well as water levels began

Operation Blessing, which was Christian televangelist Pat Robertson, one of it's top three charities donations.

1, 2005- New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin issues a "Desperate SOS" as looting breaks out, corpses lay out in the streets, rescue helicopters and law enforcement officers were shot at as floodwaters in Orleans slipped toward chaos. A "rew" of heavy metals, chemicals, fuel and pesticides is swilling in the waterways of Orleans and the waterways of other US coastal states. The U.S. asks Halliburton to repair the levees destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Work is assigned to Halliburton to repair the levees, under a \$500 million work

package signed in 2004. -Blackwater joins the relief effort, deploying armed mercenaries on the streets of NoLa. Hired by the Dept. Of Homeland Security, these professional killers are authorized to use lethal force.

SEPTEMBER 2, 2005- Bush tours the hurricane-battered Gulf Coast, saying that he is ordering additional active duty forces to the region. He also authorizes a drawdown of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. -Large-scale aid is at last beginning to arrive in the swamped and lawless city. -The U.S. launches the largest military offensive on an urban area since the attack on Fallujah in the Ethnic Turkish city of Tal Afar in Northern Iraq.

SEPTEMBER 4, 2005-Cuban President Fidel Castro offers to send more than 1,500 doctors to aid the relief effort and receives no response.

SEPTEMBER 5, 2005- President Bush admits that the rescue effort was "not acceptable." -Chicago Mayor Daley offers food and supplies as emergency aid, but only one tanker truck is accepted.

SEPTEMBER 7, 2005- Offers of aid from abroad for Hurricane Katrina victims, from cellular telephone networks to water purification system, have reportedly been delayed for days waiting for clearance from U.S. authorities.

SEPTEMBER 8, 2005- President Bush suspends application of the federal law governing workers' pay on federal contracts in the

Hurricane Katrina, allowing contractors to pay less than the prevailing wage for reconstruction efforts.

SEPTEMBER 10, 2005- Bechtel asked by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to assess the need for, and then to provide, temporary "trailer" housing in the hardest hit areas. In total, Bechtel wins \$100 million for Gulf reconstruction.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2005- Toxic chemicals in the New Orleans flood waters will make the city unsafe for full human habitation for a decade, a U.S. government official has told The Independent.

SEPTEMBER 12, 2005- FEMA director Michael Brown resigns from the department for "the best interest of the agency and the best interest of the president."

SEPTEMBER 19, 2005- After starting to allow residents back into the city, the Mayor of New Orleans orders another evacuation for fear of Hurricane Rita

SEPTEMBER 23, 2005- Repaired levees break as water levels raise from Rita re-flooding much of the city including the ninth ward

The Blind Leading the Relief Efforts:

Thai communities come together despite well-meaning foreign aid

By SAKURA SAUNDERS

At 6:30 AM, the day after Christmas, Bodhi Garrett received a phone call. A tsunami had hit Thailand, and the island eco-resort that employed him had been destroyed. Almost immediately, Garrett was put to task, contacting families of the deceased, organizing search parties and preparing for the relief effort from his parent's home in Carmel Valley, CA. With no prior tsunami warning, it was pure luck that he had left Thailand two days before the tsunami hit, visiting his family after a year and a half absence.

Upon his return to Thailand, Garrett and a group of dedicated volunteers noticed the deficiencies in the local relief efforts.

"The first thing that I saw that there was more instant noodles and rice than you



Lucy Dixon-Clarke

could swim in, and there were no fresh vegetables and no cash to buy them. So we gave cash to the poor families and started to deliver fresh vegetables," he recalled.

This was the first project of what grew into North Andaman Tsunami Relief (NATR), an NGO with over 60 active or completed projects in 12 villages. With their knowledge of the communities before the tsunami hit, NATR is able to see what needs are and aren't being filled and use small amounts of resources to leverage change.

In managing this new organization, Garrett was struck by the misuse of resources dedicated to tsunami relief.

"If you don't understand the culture, you can't devise appropriate use," he explained as he pointed to the four offers, each totaling over \$100,000, which he had received for building orphanages in Thailand. "Families in Thailand are extended and have strong kinship networks, so people are taken in by their larger families... there is no need for an orphanage in Thailand. But, so much money is locked up for useless projects, that there is no money for needy projects, such as long-term scholarships."

Garrett also pointed to more severe mismanagement issues, such as a lack of coordination amongst reconstruction efforts. An example he used was the village of Bak Jok, one of the three well-established vil-

lages on his island, where the Lyons Club International, French Popular Rescue, the French Red Cross, and the Swiss government are each rebuilding houses in separate areas. "It's a tragedy - it is going to split these communities up and it is a waste of resources, when you could just build one sufficient village," he explained.

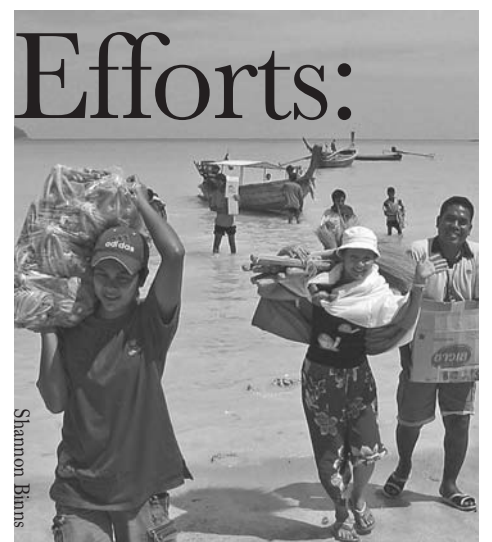
The misuse of resources is but one of the criticisms levied against the flood of outside relief dollars. Garrett also feels that the outside management accompanying this aid has its consequences. "There is

no devolution of authority to the community level, that's why all hell breaks loose, because nobody feels responsible in the community; the people that do are too busy protecting themselves and those that feel disenfranchised run rampant."

There is also an inequity with which the resources are being distributed. Garrett witnessed funds going to Buddhists much faster than the Muslim Thai. And the Sea Gypsies, impoverished people regarded as the indigenous guardians of the Andaman Sea, received almost no aid and were forced to beg for rice.

But as time rolled forward, the community came together.

"What I saw was initially there was some looting, but then people came through for each other because there was this feeling of



Shannon Brians

local identity," Garrett recollected.

On Koh Phratong Island, where Garrett's Eco-resort once stood, a native Sea Gypsy, Arun Khlatalay, even ran for and got elected to the village council. Encouraged by the Buddhist monks who had taken him in after the tsunami hit, Arun ran for office after he had learned that the village leaders were skimming government funds intended to compensate the Sea Gypsies for their damaged and destroyed boats.

The Sea Gypsies had already suffered years of exploitation by the *Naihua*, or property lenders, who would pay the gypsies a pittance for their fish, while subjecting them to exorbitant loans for their boats.

"It made me realize that we had to change," said Arun, in an interview with the *Washington Post*. "We cannot be enslaved anymore."

North Andaman Tsunami Relief provides assistance to tsunami impacted coastal communities on and near Koh Phratong. NATR currently has 10 staff (primarily Thai), and is in the process of transitioning to entirely local leadership.

Learning Your Cycle

BY LARISSA SHAPIRO

Avoiding pregnancy, getting pregnant, PMS... these are some of the most frequently discussed topics among my female friends, and I think among many women. Yet, there really aren't many commonly understood ways of managing each of these issues without pharmaceutical intervention. I avoided birth control for many years because I was exclusively involved with women. When I got involved with a man for the first time, I was suddenly interested in the world of contraception, and sorted through a barrage of options before settling on condoms, basically out of fear and ignorance of other methods.

That worked fine for years. After meeting and falling in love with my future husband, the idea of starting a family came into play. We tried just not using any protection for a while, but no pregnancy ensued. At some point, a dear friend recommended I read *Taking Charge of Your Own Fertility* by Toni Weschler. This book got me hooked on the Fertility Awareness Method. I've used the method ever since, and as a result, our three year old daughter was conceived. Many women use this method not just to avoid pregnancy, but also to increase their chances of getting pregnant. It relies on learning and observing the state of your body at different moments in your monthly cycle.

Cervical Mucus Monitoring

Cervical mucus changes consistency during the menstrual cycles and plays a vital role in fertilization of the egg. Present in the days preceding ovulation, fertile cervical mucus aids in drawing sperm up to the fallopian tubes where fertilization usually takes place. It also helps maintain the survival of sperm inside the woman's body.

In a "typical cycle", after 5 days of menstruation there are 3-4 "dry" days, and then wetness begins with sticky, cloudy, whitish, or yellowish secretions. The wetness increases to the wettest day when mucus is quite distinctive: abundant, slippery, clear and very stretchy (like egg

whites). Ovulation occurs sometime in the 2 days before or up to 2 days after the peak day of stretchy fertile mucus.

To chart you cervical mucus, observe and record your cervical secretions every day on a calendar or chart, with day 1 as the first day of your menstrual period.

Basal Body Temperature (BBT)

When a woman monitors her Basal Body Temperature (BBT), she can see when ovulation occurred. BBT helps identify post-ovulatory infertile days.

Using an easy-to-read thermometer, take your temperature every morning immediately upon waking and before any activity. If possible, use graph paper so you can see the rise and fall of temperature.

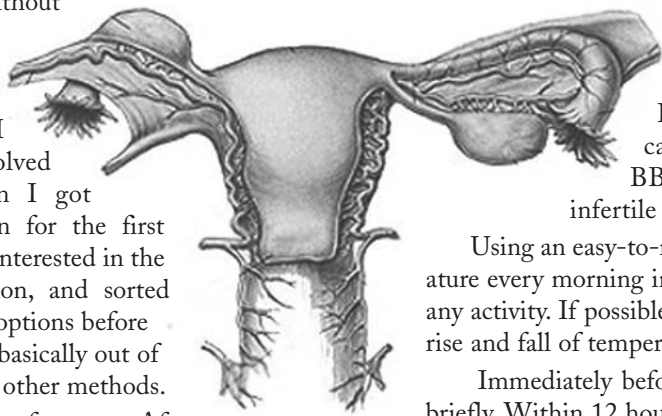
Immediately before ovulation, the temperature drops briefly. Within 12 hours of ovulation, the BBT rises sever-

al tenths of a degree and remains up until the next menstrual period. When your temperature stays high for 3 days in a row, the fertile period is over and the infertile time begins.

The main drawback of using the BBT method by itself is that several factors can influence your BBT, including illness, lack of sleep, alcohol or drug use. You may choose to keep a chart of your BBT over a period of 8-12 consecutive months to determine the time in your cycle when you usually ovulate.

One of the most valuable things I have ever done is to get more in touch with my own body by charting my cycles. Not only did it help manage my fertility, PMS, and other related issues, but it brought me closer to my cycles, moods, and really, my own essential femininity.

This article is excerpted from Down There Magazine, a woman-run and operated resource for feminist and alternative women's health issues. View the entire article at down-theremagazine.com



Recipes for Comfort

ROOT TEA FOR PMS

1 PART SARSAPARILLA
1/2 PART BURDOCK
1 PART DANDELION ROOT
1/4 PART YELLOW DOCK ROOT
1/2 PART GINGER ROOT
1/2 PART CINNAMON TWIGS

COOK FOR 15 MINUTES OVER HEAT WITH THE LID ON

DRINK 1-2 CUP A DAY

BLOAT TEA

1 PART NETTLES
1 PART DANDELION ROOT
1 PART CHICKWEED (2 PARTS IF FRESH, WHICH IS PREFERABLE)
1/2 PART PEPPERMINT (1 PART IF FRESH)

CRAMP TEA

1 PART CRAMP BARK OR MOTHERWORT
1/2 PART BLACK HAW
1/2 PART VALERIAN
1 PART GINGER
1/2 PART KAVA

CRAMP BARK CAN ALSO BE CHEWED FOR PAIN RELIEF.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CRAMPING

DON'T EAT OR DRINK ANY COLD FOODS
PLACE A HEATING PAD OR WARM GINGER POUltICE OVER THE PELVIC AREA. TO MAKE A GINGER COMPRESS, GRATE 1/4 CUP GINGER AND BOIL IN 1 CUP WATER FOR 20 MINUTES, DIP WASHCLOTH IN TEA AND PLACE OVER PELVIC AREA.

AVOID COFFEE, AND OTHER PRO-INFLAMMATORY FOODS AND DRINKS.

Tipping the Scales:

Conservative Appointments threaten Supreme Court's balance



BY NATALIE CADRANEL

The shoe-in for the next Chief Justice of the Supreme Court may have evaded the tough questions posed by the Senate Judiciary Committee, but based on the few documents the White House agreed to make public, it is clear that John Roberts is indeed the "ideologue" he explicitly claims not to be. Having publicly stated his position on civil and constitutional rights issues such as abortion, domestic violence, voting rights, desegregation, low-income housing, gender discrimination, affirmative action, sexual harassment, and school prayer, Robert's views have sent up red flags for those who believe in the constitutional protection of women's and minority's rights and economic justice.

Roberts' appointment will pose challenges to more than just individual and civil liberties; it will also directly impact key federal issues that eked by on 5-4 rulings, where O'Connor's vote determined the outcome. The results of some of these key cases are outlined below:

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AND PRIVACY

Stenberg v. Carhart (2000) overturned a state law that would have had the effect of banning abortion as early as the 12th week of pregnancy and that lacked any exception to protect a woman's health.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS:

In the *Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation v. EPA* (2004) decision, O'Connor's vote determined that

when a state conservation agency fails to act, the EPA could intervene to reduce air pollution under the Clean Air Act.

CONSUMER PROTECTIONS

In the *Rush Prudential HMO, Inc. v. Moran* (2002) decision, the Supreme Court ruling upheld state laws giving people the right to a second doctor's opinion if their HMO's tried to deny them treatment.

SEX DISCRIMINATION

Jackson v. Birmingham Board. Of Education (2005) ruled that federal law protects against retaliation against someone for complaining about illegal sex discrimination in federally assisted education programs.

DISABILITY RIGHTS

Tennessee v. Lane (2004) upheld the constitutionality of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and required that courtrooms be physically accessible to the disabled.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Grutter v. Bollinger (2003) affirmed the right of state colleges and universities to use affirmative action in their admissions policies to increase educational opportunities for minorities and promote racial diversity on campus.

DISCRIMINATION

Morse v. Republican Party of Virginia (1996) said key anti-discrimination provisions of the Voting Rights Act apply to political conventions that choose party candidates.

Hunt v. Cromartie (2001) affirmed the right of state legislators to take race into account to secure minority-voting rights

in redistricting.

Brown v. Legal Foundation of Washington (2003) maintained a key source of funding for legal assistance for the poor.

SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

McCreary County v. ACLU of Kentucky (2005) upheld the principle of government neutrality towards religion and ruled unconstitutional Ten Commandments displays in several courthouses.

Lee v. Weisman (1992) continued the tradition of government neutrality toward religion, finding that government-sponsored prayer is unacceptable at graduations and other public school events.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

McCormack v. Federal Election Commission (2003) upheld most of the landmark McCain-Feingold campaign finance law, including its ban on political parties' use of unlimited soft money contributions.

Federal Election Commission v. Colorado Republican Federal Campaign Committee (2001) upheld laws that limit political party expenditures that are coordinated with a candidate and seek to evade campaign contribution limits.

Many of Roberts' previous rulings and statements support his opposition to the outcomes of the above cases. In a brief for George H.W. Bush's administration that Roberts co-authored for the respondent Rust in *Rust v. Sullivan*, he states that, "We continue to believe that Roe was wrongly decided and should be overruled."

In public statements on "Talk of the Nation", 6/24/99 and on "News Hour" with Jim Lehrer, 7/2/97, Roberts denies Congress' authority to support state employees' rights to sue their employers for refusing to pay overtime, to endorse the protection of the victims of gender-motivated violence, to require background checks of gun buyers by local police, and to further defend the right to religious expression.

Robert's lack of support for women who seek sexual harassment suits is exemplified in a friend-of-the-court brief, which stated that a 1972 law that banned sex discrimination in schools could not be used to allow a girl to sue a teacher who had repeatedly sexually harassed her for compensatory damages.

He also argued in favor of the expansion of the role of religion in public schools. In his friend-of-the-court for *Lee v. Weisman* (1992) he affirmed that religious prayers in graduation ceremonies at public high schools should be allowed.

While Roberts clearly would like to limit protecting Federal controls over the previously mentioned issues, he has put forth rulings and opinions that indicate his strong support for expanding the powers of the executive branch. In a recent D.C. court decision, *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld* (2005) Roberts ruled that the Geneva Convention is unenforceable in U.S. courts and adopted the Bush administration's position that once accused, enemy combatants can be tried before military courts without fundamental routine protections that are afforded to U.S. citizens.

Whether it is limiting civil liberties or federal jurisdiction, Roberts' future, and pivotal votes, will surely be in opposition to O'Connor's record, and thus may put into question the very cornerstones of modern American justice.

The most violent weapon on earth is the table fork.

Mahatma Gandhi

Philosophical implications of exploiting animals must-read:
Animal Liberation: A New Ethics for Our Treatment of Animals
by Peter Singer

Social & advocacy events/Ultimate Guide to Veg Living:
www.bayareaveg.org

Advocacy events in the East Bay/Open rescues of farm animals:
www.eastbayanimaladvocates.org

News, upcoming events, and resources of the Bay Area and beyond:
indybay.org/animalliberation

©cpa

While no one can tell you what to eat, you owe it to yourself to examine the ramifications of what you put in your body every day. The Union of Concerned Scientists identified the meat-based diet as one of the two most harmful things individuals can do to our environment. By going vegetarian (or vegan) today, you can effect positive change right now.



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CRITICAL MASS

Civil libertarians and anyone concerned about basic rights to assemble, protest, celebrate, and speak have flocked to defend the New York Critical Mass. Several lawsuits and criminal cases are still pending, as the local authorities have suspended normal legalities to carry out a witchhunt against Critical Mass in New York. At times this has even meant the blatant theft of dozens of bicycles by none other than the police department itself!

When confronted by the curiously vitriolic anger and belligerence of the police (not just in New York, either, but in SF, LA, Portland, Minneapolis, Austin, and more), a lot of cyclists are puzzled. Why do the police react so strongly to CM? Why does a simple crowd of bicyclists seem to inspire such fear and loathing on the part of the authorities? We have to take a deeper look to understand it.

There are two basic factors that explain what's going on: "Culture War" and a conflict between old-style hierarchy and the emergence of flexible network-based social movements.

Individual police are usually people who more or less blindly believe in the "American Way" of life. That means they've literally "bought in" to the automobile/oil debt cycle for themselves and think that embracing the bicycle as alternative transportation is childish and immature. They believe that the way things are in the US is

truly the "best of all possible worlds." They find it deeply disturbing (as do some motorized citizens) to encounter an amorphous crowd of people on bicycles rolling through town (and stoplights), talking and laughing, tinkling bells and generally having fun while suspending the "normal" (anti-)life that predominates on the streets.

Police officers, who are not instructed otherwise, feel it's their duty to punish these scofflaw cyclists and to make them pay a price for their ostensible pleasure. When the basically innocent cyclists protest being ticketed, manhandled,

and otherwise abused by the police, it only fuels the rage simmering inside the locked-down, uninspired, uncreative brains of the boys and girls in blue. In other words, these moments become a front-line confrontation in a vast, confusing and inchoate Culture War that is in some ways reproducing historic cleavages that divided Americans during the Vietnam era, and even longer ago during the Civil War era. Vicious racism and manifest destiny (white man's burden) imperialism mirror the underlying forces driving the conflict between those who would "progress" to an era of cooperation, mutual aid, peace, and tolerance and those who fear change and cling with violent intensity to a world palpably collapsing around them.

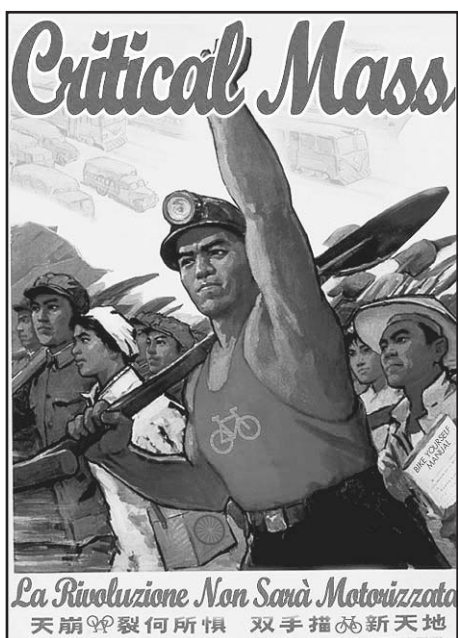
People who embrace cycling and come out to ride in Critical Mass come from all walks of life, have widely varying incomes and housing situations, and cannot be characterized accurately as part of a "class" as it is commonly understood. Also, the folks stuck in traffic in cars or on busses are clearly more like than unlike the riders who are temporarily altering the rhythm of urban life by seizing the streets on bicycles. Nevertheless, Critical Mass cyclists are the most visible practitioners of a new kind of social conflict. The "assertive desertion" embodied in bicycling erodes the system of social exploitation organized through private car ownership and the oil industry. And by cycling in urban centers in the heart of the Empire, we join a growing movement around the world that is repudiating the social and economic models controlled by multinational capital and imposed on us without any form of democratic consent.

This mass seizure of the streets by a swarming mob of bicyclists without leaders is precisely the kind of self-directing, network-ing logic that is transforming our economic lives and threatening the structure of government, business, and (as more imaginative military strategists are coming to understand) policing and war-making too. So the local police and authorities often respond with great frustration and confusion to the eruption of a tactical flexibility for which they're simply unprepared. And

in classic patriarchal fashion, they lash out with physical punishment as best they can, trying to repress what they cannot understand or control. But like the insurgency in Iraq, or any guerrilla war, when a blundering monster attacks in classic old-style ways, the new, mobile, decentralized networks just vanish, leaving the attackers swinging at air. Perhaps they "catch" a few individuals now and then, but the structure that is threatening them remains intact and often grows stronger—just like Critical Mass has in most places it has been attacked.

So on our bucolic 13th birthday ride in San Francisco we should take some time to reflect on the larger national and international dynamics of which we are a small part. We can be thankful that our local police have been taught to tolerate us, but that gift to us comes with an interesting obligation: to extend the logic of our resistance and innovation into new areas of contestation, to link up with people elsewhere who are not so lucky and provide material aid and strategic support whenever we can.

Chris Carlsson edited "Critical Mass: Bicycling's Defiant Celebration" (AK Press) and has written extensively on Critical Mass and San Francisco history. His bicycling utopia "After The Deluge" was published in 2004. Check his website www.chriscarlsson.com.



BERKELEY SKATERS FIND REFUGE

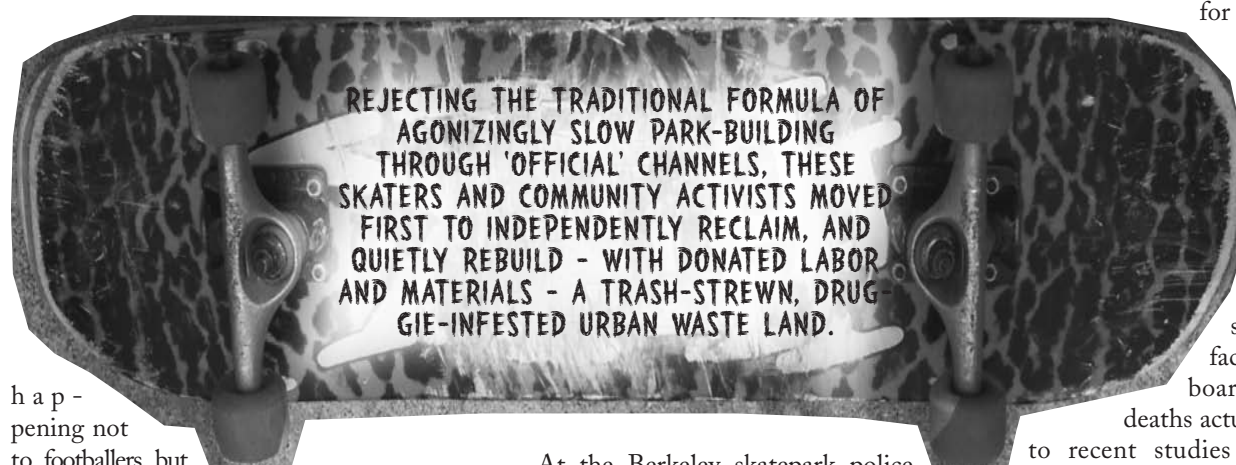
BY DAVID OCHS KEENAN

Imagine for a moment the following scenario: You're watching some friends playing a game of touch football at a local ball field like you've done for years. Suddenly, out of nowhere, police paddy wagons pull up to the curb, officers stream out, block the exits, and line everyone up against a fence. Overnight, not wearing helmets or shin guards is a serious crime. You watch incredulously as everyone gets yelled at, ID'd, then finally, ticketed. But these aren't parking tickets. They're full fledged misdemeanor offenses and they're the beginning of a criminal record. And they start at \$100. You realize that some of those kids will not be able to pay, and these tickets will go to warrants before many of them can even drive. Imagine this happening several times a week, and worse, imagine that there's absolutely no compelling

legal reason for it to happen in the first place. and now understand that this is

to pointlessly socialize their youth population to resent authority figures.

- including Berkeley - interpret the same statute laws as an excuse to harass skaters for ticket money.



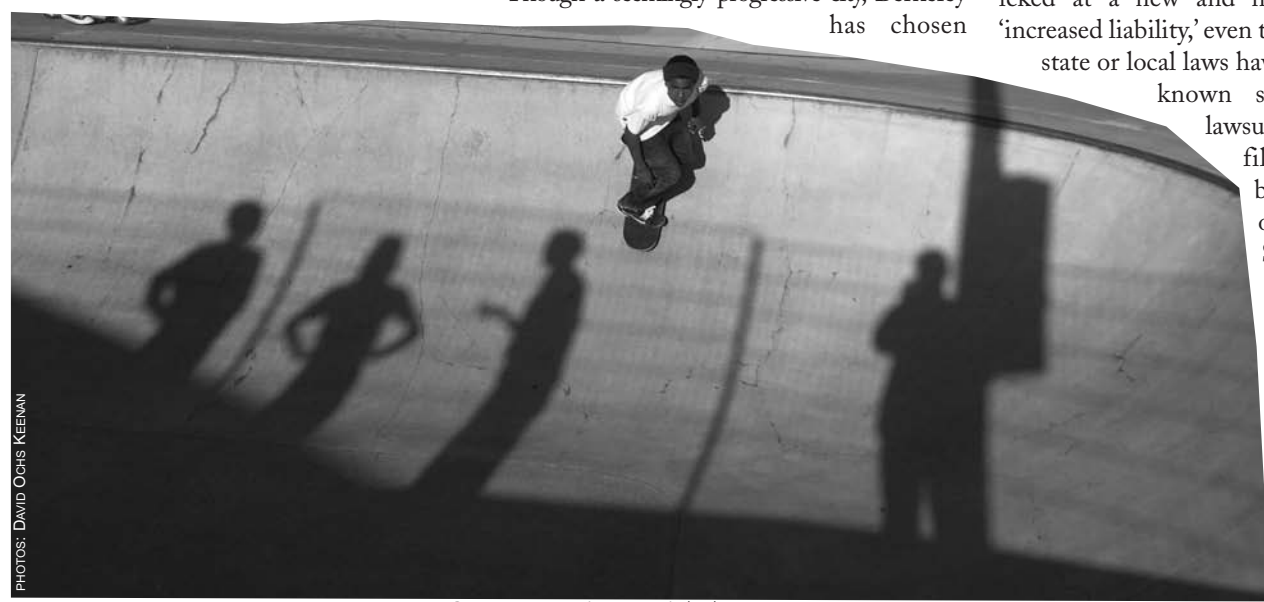
happening not to footballers, but skateboarders, for not wearing a full suit of elbow, knee, and helmet protection at the skatepark immediately adjacent to the ball fields off Harrison Street in Berkeley. Though a seemingly progressive city, Berkeley has chosen

At the Berkeley skatepark police have been handing out criminal records like candy to Berkeley's youth since last April. After four years of tolerance, the Berkeley City Attorney's office inexplicably panicked at a new and mysterious fear of 'increased liability,' even though none of the state or local laws have changed and no

known skate park-injury lawsuit has ever been filed by a skateboarder in the state of California. Statutes have been in effect since the late 90's with the specific purpose of indemnifying local cities against skatepark injuries. But unfortunately, about half of California cities with skateparks

The relentless harassment provided reason enough for local skaters to spend months secretly pouring their own concrete to build a park less than five miles down the road, nestled under a freeway overpass. West Oakland's own 'Bordertown' is a DIY park whose unlikely survival made local headlines in early August, when the already built, established, and skateable park was finally 'discovered' by CalTrans as they were serving eviction notices to homeless encampments under the same freeway.

Almost overnight, Bordertown was spared CalTrans' threatened demolition and sanctioned with the help of an ad-hoc coalition that included Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown and Senator Barbara Boxer. As



OAKLANDER 'MAJOR' (14) DROPS IN

"Do It or Shut the Fuck Up"

Review of *Heartcheck*

BY TED E. RUXPIN

That blunt statement basically sums up this recently released zine by political prisoners Jeffrey 'Free' Leurs and Rob 'Los Ricos' Thaxton.

The core concept that unites the 11 essays that make up the zine also happens to be the publication's name; *Heartcheck*. As the authors explain in the opening remarks, the slang term "heartcheck" was developed in prison and it means "to call someone out when you grow weary of listening to him run his neck or talk out of his ass." Jeff and Rob choose to use this term to call out what they identify as a widespread problem plaguing resistance movements operating within Empire's core; all talk and no action.

It's not a new statement by any means, but within these essays, one can find an insightful articulation of these frustrations that many radicals and anarchists in this country share. Throughout the zine, there are continual references to 1999 and the hope that filled radical communities following the unprecedented disruption of the WTO summit in Seattle. It is clear that much of *Heartcheck's* writing comes out of the frustration and disappointment that has accompanied the "movement of movements" stagnation in the past six years after the brilliance of November 30th, 1999.

The authors attempt to provide some examples of positive developments that should be replicated and built upon, such as the autonomous community uprisings in the Kabilya region of Algeria or the targeted organizing against specific corporate executives that formed the backbone of the Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty campaign. However, other than discussing the need for action in a somewhat removed and



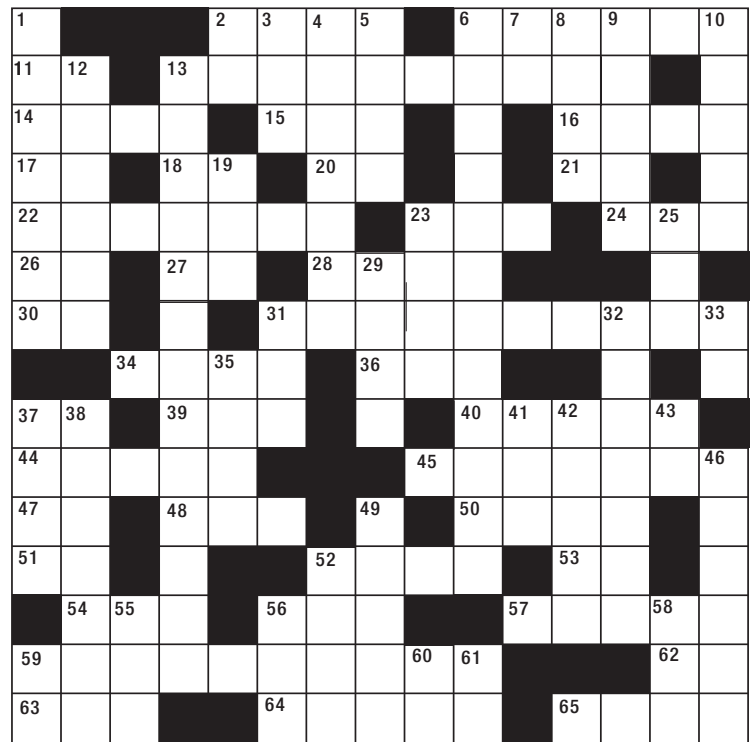
JEFFREY 'FREE' LEURS AND ROB 'LOS RICOS' THAXTON

abstracted sense, the zine also fails to paint a coherent picture of concrete steps our diverse movements can take to truly pose a serious threat to power. This ends up making the entire collection of

essays on the frustrations with the failures of U.S. radicals a somewhat frustrating read in itself.

The one essay that clearly stands out in *Heartcheck* as a truly visionary and inspiring piece of writing is Jeff's 'Building a Foundation for Change' in which he discusses the complex support structures and community networks that must be nurtured in order for an armed revolt to truly be successful. Within this piece, Jeff displays an impressive level of depth and maturity lacking in much of the rest of the zine. While there are definitely gems scattered throughout all the essays, this piece alone makes the publication a worthwhile read.

CRYPTO compiled by Iain Boal #12



Across

- 2. miscellaneous (abbrev) (4)
- 6. unsuited (6)
- 11. police department (2)
- 13. movement for clean energy? (5,5)
- 14. hollow cylinder (4)
- 15. French friend (3)
- 16. Indian water (4)
- 17. not out (2)
- 18. nickel (2)
- 20. apothecaries' (abbrev) (2)
- 21. thulium (2)
- 22. awkward sounding bike (7)
- 23. and the rest (3)
- 24. day before (3)
- 26. account of (abbrev) (2)
- 27. thou plural (2)
- 28. Hurricane Hayworth? (4)
- 30. long player (2)
- 31. bicycle bread basket? (7,3)
- 34. prayer beads (4)
- 36. direct action network (3)
- 37. pertaining to (2)
- 39. outer ring, edge (3)
- 40. Iraq's main port (5)
- 44. infernal epic writer (5)
- 45. inflater (3,4)
- 47. Old Testament (2)
- 48. busy center (3)
- 50. SF TV channel (4)
- 51. radio telephony (2)
- 52. wheel spindle (4)
- 53. kilodalton (abbrev) (2)
- 54. charged atom (3)
- 56. father of (Arabic) (3)
- 57. natural religion (5)
- 59. Ohio cycling fraternity (6,4)
- 62. Old English (2)
- 63. rubbery solution (3)
- 64. forbidden behavior (5)
- 65. dread (4)

Down

- 1. kind of illusion (7)
- 2. I, myself (2)
- 3. International Development Agency (3)
- 4. 9thC. Muslim capital (7)
- 5. trouser-leg confiner (4)
- 6. high wheeler? (8,4)
- 7. unworldly wobbles? (2)
- 8. seventh Irish clan? (4)
- 9. set up? (5)
- 10. three-wheeler (5)
- 12. inventor of pneumatic tire (6)
- 13. cheap bike for acrobats? (5,8)
- 19. Cold War president (3)
- 23. Sicilian volcano (4)
- 25. Voice of America (3)
- 29. independent, alternatively (4)
- 31. little Pamela (3)
- 32. Rwanda's neighbor (7)
- 33. grunt (2)
- 35. instead of a French place? (4)
- 37. smell (4)
- 38. not your skinny wheel! (3,4)
- 41. briefly arranged (3)
- 42. said to be radial connector? (5)
- 43. exist before noon? (2)
- 46. introductory text (6)
- 49. edge city (5)
- 52. Swedish kitsch supergroup (4)
- 55. black gold (3)
- 56. old telephone monopolist (3)
- 58. School of the Americas (3)
- 59. Doctor cricket (2)
- 60. licensed to kill (2)
- 61. south, as such (2)

Answers to this and last months crypto can be found on indybay.org/faultlines

IN DIY PARK

the *East Bay Express* detailed on August 10th, the once-illegal parks' victory was the result of swiftly executed behind-the-scenes preparation and savvy media management. The coverage powerfully reframed the image of skaters from the 'default' negative stereotype of reckless deviants who go out of their way to make trouble for cops, to that of initiative-taking, urban-blight-removing, can-do community-builders. As the community-positive story spread quickly through mainstream news, the skate park's status morphed from illicit to legitimate in mere days, and marked the latest victory in a string of unlikely successes for a small number of similar DIY skateparks from San Diego to Portland:

Rejecting the traditional formula of agonizingly slow park-building through 'official' channels, these skaters and community activists moved first to independently reclaim, and quietly rebuild - with donated labor and materials - a trash-strewn, drugie-infested urban wasteland. When parks like these are 'discovered', skaters then agitate for political approval at the highest levels by courting public opinion in the mainstream press. Since its merit as a valuable community project of urban renewal is already established, the park becomes a politically powerful reality.

The Bordertown project helped people to appreciate what Berkeley seems to have forgotten - that skateparks offer a uniquely collaborative and creative nexus of positive social space. It leaves traditional ethnora- cial, generational, and class divisions in the dust, a phenomenon all too rare in today's urban centers, and one that quite rightfully needs to be built up and nurtured, not torn

down or criminalized.

SKATE OR DIE

-Right now, it is not possible to skate or volunteer at Bordertown, as it is currently unskateably closed pending its rebirth as an official, nonprofit entity. Rather, donations of money and materials are most needed, and can be made directly through: <http://bordertownskatepark.org>.

-Want to do something about police harassment at the Berkeley skatepark? Check out the forums on <http://skatersforpublicskateparks.org>; Berkeleyans can write their local city councilperson (see <http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/Elected/default.htm>), otherwise, write to Mayor Bradley (mayor@ci.berkeley.ca.us) and copy the City Attorney (attorney@ci.berkeley.ca.us).



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