

the
defenestrator
a journal of refusal and optimism



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The defenestrator is Philly's sporadic newspaper for resistance, creative revolution and action. To defenestrate Power means total refusal of its tools and tentacles. Like the Hussites had their oppressors thrown down from the Prague castle into the angry mob below, the defenestrator wrestles power and privilege from its highest and most protected strongholds and casts the beast out of the window and down into the angry hands of the people.

Deadlines for future issues:
March 15 * May 15

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Zapatista Community Evicted

Mexican armed forces have attacked the Chol indigenous community of Nuevo San Rafael, burning down 23 houses and violently evicting the inhabitants, who are Zapatista sympathisers. The attack, reported variously as happening on either 19 or 22 January, took place in the remote Montes Azules jungle area of Chiapas.

Resource-rich Montes Azules has long been coveted by multinationals. As the governments and multinationals press forward with the Plan Puebla Panama and Free Trade Area of the Americas, the "war of low intensity" against the thousand-plus Zapatista autonomous communities erupts into blatant repression. The Secretary of Government of Chiapas, Ruben Velazquez Lopez, promises more evictions, declaring that land invasions will no longer be tolerated.

The fate of the inhabitants of Nuevo San Rafael is unknown, as the army is preventing reporters and human rights observers from entering the area. Local indigenous Chol, Josue Jimenez Cruz, has been arrested, and is apparently imprisoned in the town of Ocosingo. International solidarity activity is vital, declare Zapatista solidarity groups.

Activists Honor MLK with Civil Disobedience

On Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 19, about 70 activists gathered for a peace vigil and act of nonviolent civil disobedience against the Lockheed Martin plant behind the King of Prussia Mall in Valley Forge, PA. Lockheed Martin is the world's largest weapons producer, the chief US producer of nuclear weapons, and has recently become involved in the privatization of Pennsylvania's and other states' welfare programs. Nine people were arrested for blocking the driveway entrance to Lockheed Martin and later released on criminal trespass citations. For more information visit www.phillyimc.org.

"...I refuse to accept the view that humanity is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace can never become a reality..." (Dr. Martin King, Jr. 1964)



New Year's Zapatista Solidarity March

Last night around 100 people took to the streets of Washington DC to celebrate a decade of Zapatista Autonomy. The march raged through the streets to the rhythm of bucket drums, saxophone and all sorts of other noise makers. Torches and black flags were carried, along with several banners that read: VIVA ZAPATISTA, JUSTICE AND DIGNITY, FROM CHIAPAS TO DC: CLASS WAR IN 04'.

Paint bombs hit the following corporate targets: CINGULAR WIRELESS, SUBWAY, STARBUCKS, RIGGS BANK and more.

The police attempted to shut down the gathering, but were foiled by the high spirits and determination of the crowd that outsmarted them at two attempted blockades. The march started on U street near the African Civil War Metro and ended at Dupont Circle. There were no arrests.

Radical Pro-Choice Demo in DC, April 25th!

On Sunday April 25, 2004 (the weekend of the annual IMF/World Bank Spring meetings) tens of thousands of feminists will converge in Washington, DC for the end-all-be-all of pro-choice marches, coined "The March for Women's Lives," which has been organized collaboratively over the past year by Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the Feminist Majority Foundation, the National Organization for Women, and NARAL Pro-choice America.

We are calling for a mobile black/purple/pink noise bloc concentrated on radical cheerleading within this larger march. We are asking for people to learn the cheers at home, and come prepared with flags, noise makers and a festive spirit. Because the bloc will be mobile, radical cheering will take a slightly different form than most squads are used to; we envision it as being vocally based, thus allowing anyone to join in. We are calling upon any squads or individuals who have PRO-CHOICE cheers to send them to the contact information below; we will then compile a master cheer list and put it up on a TBA website.

The late term abortion ban which was recently signed into law is the biggest blow to reproductive autonomy that many of us have experienced in our lifetimes. Government imperialism into women's bodies is a radical issue and requires radical action. This struggle is time sensitive, we dare not lay dormant any longer and risk the overturn of Roe v. Wade before the end of Bush's term. Therefore, we must pool all available resources and face the government in solidarity. Join us.

The Radical Cheerleaders of DC:

RCDC@mutualaid.org In addition, the specific organizers of this action can be reached directly:

Corie:

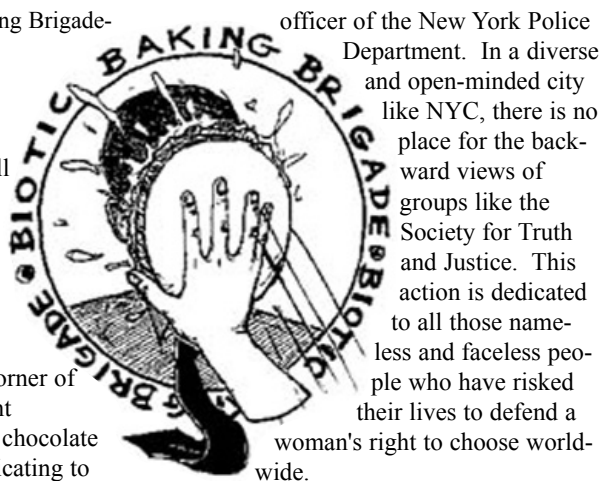
202-246-1822 corie@resist.ca Michael:

202-213-3365 michael@mutualaid.org

Operation Rescue Founder Randall Terry Pied by BBB in NYC

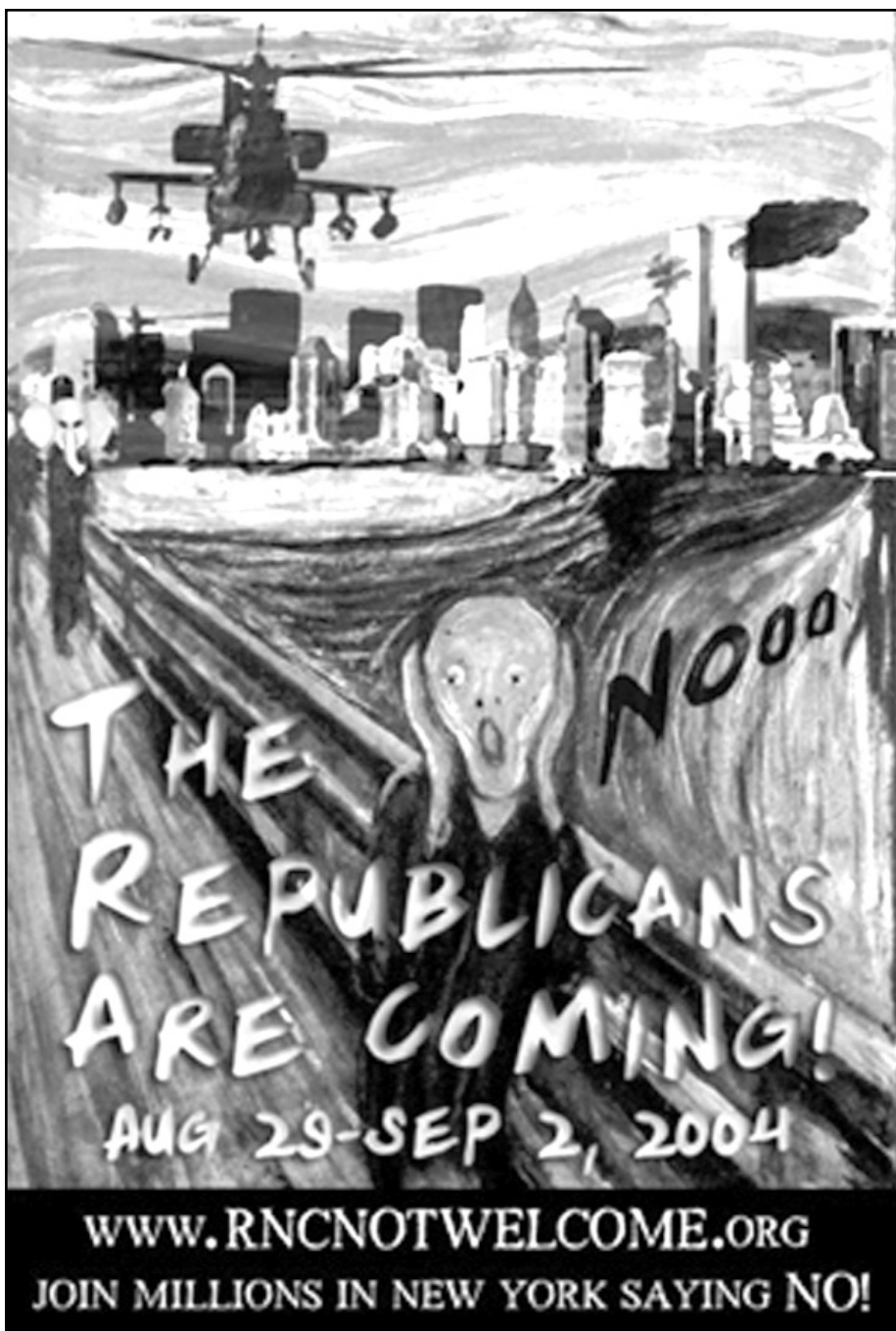
Communiqué from the Biotic Baking Brigade-NYC cell January 20, 2004

Agents of the Biotic Baking Brigade-NYC cell have pied Operation Rescue founder Randall Terry who was speaking on behalf of his new anti-abortion group, the Society for Truth and Justice. The anti-choice group was holding a meek protest and press conference outside Planned Parenthood's Manhattan office (corner of Mott and Bleecker Streets). Agent Cheesecake served up an organic chocolate cream pie while Terry was pontificating to the local media about the evils of homosexuality and women's right to control their own bodies. The pie slinging took place in front of a counter-protest and an absent-minded and slow witted 'community affairs'



Signed: Agent Key Lime-Media Spokes-pier, Biotic Baking Brigade-NYC cell

officer of the New York Police Department. In a diverse and open-minded city like NYC, there is no place for the backward views of groups like the Society for Truth and Justice. This action is dedicated to all those nameless and faceless people who have risked their lives to defend a woman's right to choose world-wide.



Radio Conciencia is on the Air!

The Prometheus Radio Project and the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) successfully put a new Florida community radio station on the air this past December.

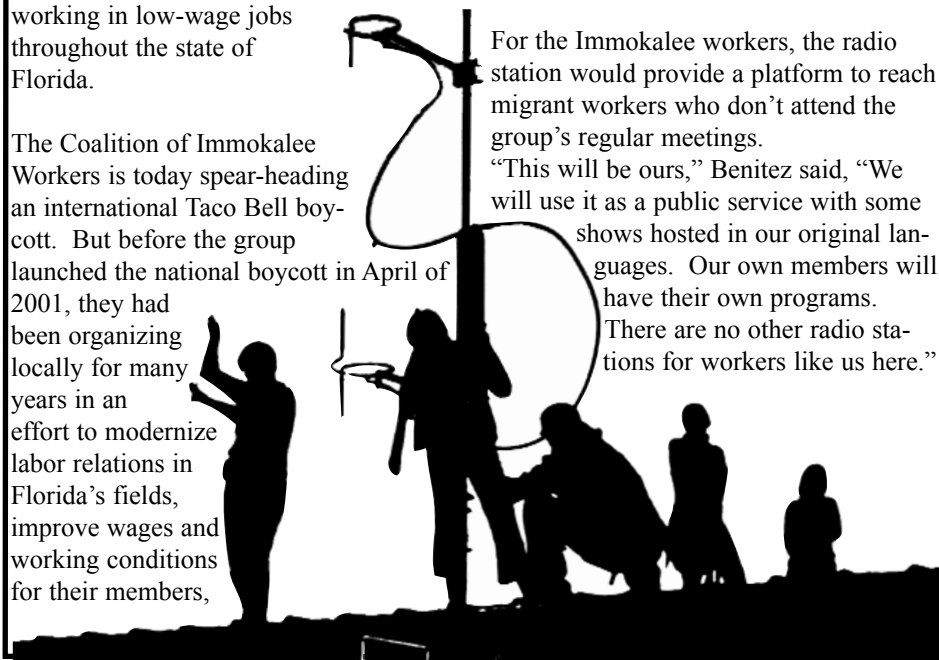
The radio "barn-raising" was carried out in partnership with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. The CIW is a community-based farm worker organization whose members are largely Latino, Haitian, and Mayan Indian immigrants working in low-wage jobs throughout the state of Florida.

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers is today spear-heading an international Taco Bell boycott. But before the group launched the national boycott in April of 2001, they had been organizing locally for many years in an effort to modernize labor relations in Florida's fields, improve wages and working conditions for their members,

and eliminate of modern-day slavery. The CIW has received international attention and acclaim for their boycott. Dozens of universities and towns have pushed out Taco Bells in response.

Riding on the edge of the radio dial — at 107.9 FM — the 100-watt WCTI hit the air, bringing news and information in Spanish, Creole and indigenous languages such as Zapotec and Quiche.

For the Immokalee workers, the radio station would provide a platform to reach migrant workers who don't attend the group's regular meetings. "This will be ours," Benitez said, "We will use it as a public service with some shows hosted in our original languages. Our own members will have their own programs. There are no other radio stations for workers like us here."



No Contracts, No Peace! Thousands of Angry workers Turn Out to Heckle Boston Mayor

Disassociated Press January 14, 2004 Boston -

Protected by a heavy police guard, Mayor Thomas M. Menino was quickly shuttled by SUV through a gauntlet of angry workers that stretched three full blocks along Berkeley Street (held back by double-reinforced police barricades), on route to deliver his 'State of the City' address at John Hancock Hall. The mayor was heckled as he entered the hall with frenzied chants of "Shame On You!"

Upwards of 5,000 workers braved the cold temperatures to embarrass the mayor on the night of his most important speech of the year in protest of the unions' protracted contract dispute with the city. Many union leaders promised that this demonstration was a small taste of the potential disruption that is expected to take place during the Democratic National Convention if the city does not meet the union's demands. Union leaders have suggested that Menino is refusing to negotiate contracts so he can spend the city's estimated \$400 million in surplus revenue on this summer's convention. Many people carried signs, which read "Our Raises Are Paying For Tom's Party". Thomas J. Nee, president of the patrolmen's association, said the mayor is focused on using city resources for the convention's "five days of fun," for "the sole purpose of building his legacy and making himself a star on the national stage." Protesters shouting "No contracts, no peace!" broke into a chant of "No contracts, no convention!" "After tonight, the day of reckoning is coming," said Lou Mandarin, president of the Greater Boston Labor Council, to roaring applause. "There will be no work done on this convention until he negotiates fairly and treats us right."

The thousands of union members - including teachers, firefighters, police, and mechanics -- who surrounded the building waved signs, chanted, hollered, and spit at politicians and assorted dignitaries who crossed the pickets. At one point during the evening, dozens of anarchists and rank-and-file members of the Boston Teachers Union attempted to block the entrance of the security perimeter, only to be shoved back behind the barricades by police. No arrests were made.

Book Review - We Are Everywhere:
The Irresistible Rise of Global
Anticapitalism. Ed. Notes from Nowhere
Verso \$16.99

We Are Everywhere!

Notes from Nowhere's Voices from Everywhere

*Rise like Lions after slumber
In unvanquishable number,
Shake your chains to earth like dew
which in sleep had fallen on you—
We are many—They are few—
Perce Bysshe Shelley*

*Turning and turning in the widening gyre
the falcon can not hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre can not hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world'
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity
from "The Second Coming," W.B. Yeats*

By Bronwyn Lepore

2003 was, in many ways, tragic and, after the great outpouring of energies on the streets last February, finally, demoralizing. Never, in the history of the world, have so many mobilized against a war that happened anyway. Demoralization, though psychologically painful, is the luxury of the privileged (those with most access to the resources necessary for sustaining life). There's a world of difference between being the direct victim (or even a combatant) of a war and feeling disappointment (no matter how great) at not being able to stop it. Such relativity should be used as a measure of human responsibility and to emphasize the importance of solidarity in struggle, not as an excuse for paralysis and out-of-sight/out-of-mind avoidance. Witness the ease [or unease/repression] with which so many fell back into the abyss of futility and daily life after war was officially declared last March, though the war rages on in the form of an increasingly ugly and unwanted occupation. While tragedy (often preventable) is so often more likely to be inflicted upon the already wretched, as in Iraq, or Africa, or Colombia, or even here in the US, among the poor and destitute, where agony's been heaped upon agony for so long. Struggle, loss, continuing human and environmental devastation, increased police repression and brutal militarization, continued weapons buildup, power winning and getting away, literally, with theft and murder, all are part of the tragedy that continues to unfold unabated. Screw the optimists who made redemptive end-of-year lists like Global Exchange's Medea Benjamin: things suck, power's run amuck, we're outta luck, pass the buck, better duck or you might get hit, by an m16, cluster bomb, big baton... don't feel like singing any protest songs today. "Might it not be better," Berger concludes "To see and declare that we are living through the most tyrannical because the most pervasive chaos that has ever existed."

But we can't really afford despair right now, as the world lurches towards its own ruin, can we? As Bertolt Brecht pointed out "defeats should be acknowledged; but one should never conclude from them that there should be no more struggles"- else where catharsis? Relief? Resistance? Revolution?

Hope? Change? "To tolerate life," Freud wrote. "remains, after all, the first duty of all human beings." (And even Freud, not necessarily the pessimist some make him out to be, believed eros/desire/joy could sometimes trump the death instinct).

We all have different ways of reengaging with hope, with the world, or not (sometimes we forget how; thus depression, apathy, despair) - making up rhymes, art, music, getting out of the house, reading, dreaming, reclaiming space, language...eros erupts, sometimes startling us awake, propelling us towards action, again into the breach. Peter Watkin's six hour staged documentary *La Commune* (1999) which premiered in Philadelphia in December, was such a wake up; the remembrance of tragedy (30, 000 communards were slaughtered by the Versailles troops and "order" restored to the streets of Paris which in two short months had witnessed an explosion of the wretched, the penniless, the overworked proclaiming their humanity and desire; the flowering of possibility) but mostly the sheer audacity and beauty of the struggle; the twisted ridiculousness of the rarity of such an event, (of the rarity of such a film being made). What's awesome about Watkin's film is that he's not just recreating history; he's using it, along with the film's participants, to create a dialectic of possibility for today; to emphasize what can happen when people work together, eschewing power, from the bottom up, to truly engage in participatory democracy; the imperfection and awkwardness of such an attempt its finest feature.

**"...the present pain of living in the world is perhaps unprecedented..."
"Where are We?" John Berger, 2003**

Notes from Nowhere's *We Are Everywhere: The Irresistible Rise of Global Anticapitalism* creates a similar dialectic of hope, an opportunity for activists to take stock in what's been accomplished, what's been lost, what's up in other parts of the world, to gain inspiration and evaluate where to go next and for those unfamiliar with the global anticapitalist movement to discover and share in resistance and alternatives to a soul-sucking, life destroying mode of life that benefits only the very few. DIY manual, "collision of subjectivities," history/chronicle, full of agitprop, dialogue, testimonials, critical analysis, eulogies to fallen comrades, photographs, and artwork, the book documents the breadth and diversity of the global anti-capitalist movement, from the Zapatistas to the urban street reclaimers in London and land squatters in Brazil, from the Tute Bianche (White Overalls) of Italy to Indian farmers protesting GM crops...from Chiapas to Seattle, to Genoa to Bangalore and the former Yugoslavia.



Members of the editorial collective, Notes from Nowhere (a rejection of borders), who produced the book, are themselves activists involved in anti-capitalist work (indymedia, street reclaiming, global grassroots support) and "... wanted a way to document, broadcast, and amplify these unheard stories from the grassroots movements that have woven a global fabric of struggle during the last decade." The book is both inspirational and practical, offering useful instructions for street reclaiming, guerilla gardening, squatting spaces and jail solidarity, as well as analysis of the importance of autonomy and do it yourself attitude (the collective's essays are some of the best in the book) and a timeline/chronicle of 'moments of resistance' from 1994 to 2003.

The book dates the spawning of the global anticapitalist movement with the Zapatista Uprising in Chiapas when in response to the proposals of NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) "...as the clock chimed midnight on 1 January 1994, indigenous Zapatista rebels emerged for the first time from the mists of the Lacondan rainforest" to proclaim their resistance to the policies of neoliberalism, inspiring activists everywhere who heeded the call

with solidarity and a renewal of hope. The movements and moments and mobilizations that followed the Zapatista uprising diverged from the hierarchical, dogmatic, leftist organizing, groups of previous generations as, according to the authors "people were sick of sacrificing themselves for the sake of gigantic game plans which didn't account for their individual needs, their humanity, their culture, their creativity." The failures of both imagination and egalitarianism in numerous Marxist/Leninist groups of the 70's and 80's left an unpleasant taste in the mouths of many and the simplistic vision of the revolutionary proletariat (an often repressive 'we') against the evil oppressor boss/owner ('them') hadn't kept pace with the changing face and increasing invisibility of global capitalism and its environmentally destructive impact. Grassroots movements of the 90's instead represented " a diverse band of marginal people - vagabonds, sweatshop workers, indigenous peoples, illegal immigrants, squatters, intellectuals, factory workers, tree-sitters, and peasants." The dead and uninspiring language of much leftist writing was thrown out and replaced by the poetry of the people: "The air force of the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN) swoops down in its hundreds on the unprepared troops...an army of paper aeroplanes, which soar, curve and dive in the dappled forest sunlight...heavily armed with words of resistance and launched over the fence by the local people, indigenous Tzeltals." There was also a renewed emphasis on caring for the environment, for sustainability of all creatures and resources.

The romance of Bush and Fox

By L.A.

Mere months from the 2004 presidential election, Bush is looking to win the favor of the latino population in the country by means of the introduction into Congress of a legislative proposal that would grant 3-year renewable work visas to an indeterminate number of undocumented mexican workers. The said accord arrives conveniently at a moment in which both presidents claim to have recovered popular support and are looking towards the coming elections. Mexican president Vicente Fox has intended for the last three years by means of intense negotiations with US politicians and unions to change the treaty relating to the treatment of undocumented mexican immigrants, a population calculated to include around 10 million people. The Fox government, ceding to social organizations on both sides of the border which have been demanding intervention to stop the sistematic violation of the human rights of immigrants, sought an accord that would permit the fulfillment of his campaign promises and so legitimate itself as the "government for change."

The weak accord also has its price: during the past meeting in Monterrey, Mexico, Fox and Bush reaffirmed their agreement to promote at all cost the Free Trade Area of the Americas, making Fox one of the most ardent supporters of the treaty in Latin America.

The change in the immigration policy, however, has raised the indignation of latino organizations in the United States such as the National Council de la Raza, unions and social organizations, that have been fighting to reach a general amnesty in which families which would otherwise be seperated could be kept together. According to these organizations, the new law mostly benefits companies which hire undocumented workers, not the workers themselves which it claims to

protect.

And that's not all. While it has been introduced into Congress, the law is unlikely to pass.

The Act itself is nothing more than an amplification of the guest-worker program in which solicitors can work legally in the US for a period of 3 years, at the end of which they can be deported if they do not renew their contract. The Act would also oblige all of these people to register, giving the government wide control over this population.

One of the biggest downfalls of this proposal is that it doesn't grant protection against deportation to those workers who have been in the country for many years and whose children have been born here and are citizens. It also means that when employers threaten a layoff, they are also threatening deportation. To those workers who are actively searching for ways to better their circumstances, by organizing unions, for example, the law only hurts.

The companies that exploit the cheap manpower of undocumented workers are probably the ones who benefit most from the act, allowing them to pit workers against workers in a race to the bottom for wages and benefits, while at the same time dismantling recent efforts at unionization by undocumented workers which has revitalized the labor movement in this country.

The project looks to create a class of workers that are nearly enslaved, who would work for less and who, if they should try to improve their conditions, could be easily replaced by discount labor. The Bush plan is plain: Mexicans are useful to employers because they work for less money in the most dangerous and dirties jobs, but they aren't to be granted rights in this country.

Act Up visits Greg Smith's killer

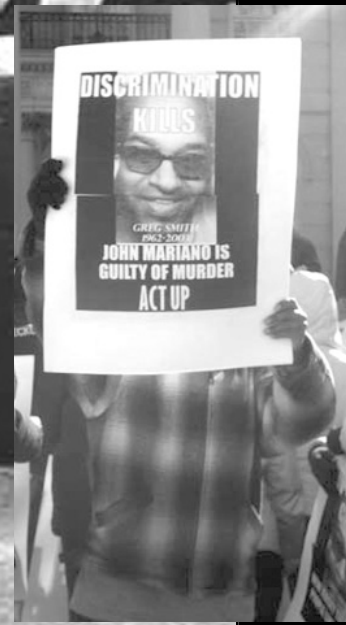


On January 29th, a crowd of about 100 made their way from Philadelphia and around New Jersey to raise hell in the quaint suburban neighborhood of Haddonfield, NJ. After winding through the quiet streets carrying a mock coffin, drumming and chanting the group of AIDS activists descended on the house of John Mariano, the retired judge who in 1990 sentenced Greg Smith to 25 years of prison for attempted murder in 1990. Greg's alleged crime was having bitten an abusive prison guard with the intent of infecting him with HIV. But well educated in such matters, Greg knew very well there was no possible way to infect anyone in this way. His awareness of this was brought before the jury that found him guilty. For Greg, who had AIDS, judge Mariano's sentence amounted in practice to nothing short of a death sentence.

The protest later found its way to borough hall where Waheedah Shabazz-El called for a "judicial review of the sentences gay people and people with AIDS received under Judge Mariano" and for "an independent blue ribbon panel to investigate the state of inmate health care in New Jersey."

Had it been someone else involved in a scuffle with a guard, Rebecca Ewing said, "he would have gotten 30 days segregation."

"Because he was gay, and black, and had HIV," she said, "he got 25 years in prison."



The Fire and the Word

by Loretta Aguilar

This January 1st commemorates the tenth anniversary of the Zapatista uprising and the past 17th of November twenty years since the establishment of the EZLN (Zapatista National Liberation Army) in the jungles of Chiapas. Looking back on the last decade we can say that the gains of the first postmodern guerilla war of the 21st century have been impressive. Few organizations of such short span have been able to create such a radical change in the collective global consciousness as the Zapatistas have. The context of the rebellion is seen in the post cold-war, the Berlin wall gone, the communist block - which at the least balanced out the capitalist equation - with it. The world is at the mercy of rampant multinationals. It is a world disenchanted, and at the same time fooled by the claims of this promised globalization with which we are assured all of humanity's problems will be solved.

The indigenous people of Mexico are not given a place in this scheme. They are denied economic justice and excluded from the national identity. They live isolated by the state of Mexico which refuses to recognize in them its own roots, denying its own indigenous origins. Living in the worst of conditions, marginalized as second class citizens, Mexico's indigenous have demonstrated their capacity to organize; this is their heritage and the reason they have been able to resist and survive for more than 500 years.

On the day NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement), the first of many similar treaties, was enacted, January 1st 1994, the thousand Mayan peoples awoke. Mexico offered a new humanism to the world. "We want a world in which many worlds are possible." The fundamental offering which the Zapatistas have given to the world is that of hope, the knowledge that it is possible to change the world, and not only possible, but necessary.

The symbolism of the mask, the anonymity of the 'faceless', the forgotten, the excluded, is reflected throughout the world, and therein, perhaps, lies the success of their invitation. Anyone can be Zapatista, as long as they fight against the economic and political systems that strip people of their humanity. "Behing the mask, we are you." But above all, there is no need to call oneself a Zapatista, or leftist, rightist, or anarchist, or to marry oneself to an ideology or wrap oneself in a flag. It is enough to resist. The only plan is that there is none, except the humble recognition that their might not exist an absolute truth; that the Zapatistas definitely don't possess it. These rebels look for and find themselves in their own midst. The second of their offerings is the inclusion of diverse ideologies. The recognition that we are different and a respect for different forms of struggle. Zapatismo doesn't look to impose its own ideology; as they themselves put it, "we are the bridge, but not the way." All forms of struggle are valid so long as they respect the principles of democracy, justice and dignity.

From the symbolic anonymity of the mask worn by the Zapatistas, the excluded of the world empathize and begin to understand the commonalities they share. Born of the most distinct ideological and philosophical currents, zapatismo opens up a space for all. In the form of a national and international assembly the first gatherings were realized in 1996 and 1997. "For humanity. Against neoliberalism." These were probably the predecessors of other social movements which were then in formation. Zapatismo has reached further than its latin-american guerilla predecessors. Calling out for international solidarity, it asks that the struggle be brought home to its birthplace, to the centers of power, to old Europe, to the belly of the beast. The solidarity style of the 60's has been outgrown. It is not enough to support distant struggles - one must take up the fight at home. The living word spreads itself and begins to germinate in fertile soil, the seeds of regionalized global insurrection.

The introduction of the Zapatista Word into virtual space was necessary to break the media's informational barrier. It made an opening for itself and resulted, most importantly in the creation of a shared space, a forum for debate that will help to articulate the networks of global resistance.

The Zapatista uprising is situated at the historic watershed that made possible the world-wide mobilizations against NAFTA, the IMF, The World Bank, and all of the organizations that represent globalization and the concentration of the world's resources into the hands of transnational corporations, already more powerful than most modern states. Its irreverence before this power is contagious. If the Mayan people have found themselves able to storm heaven despite their economic burdens then so should we.

An abundance of art thrived as people painted puppets, participated in theater, painted murals and engaged in projects of documentation and video showing. Roxana Cuba, an artist from Peru, said the inclusion of art in the encuentro was essential. "As we are all in the process of creating something new here, art is fundamental to the movement," she said.

What was distinct about Enero Autonomo was not the particular workshops, but the organization of the event's logistics, gathering spaces and communication. The responsibilities of maintenance, cooking and cleaning belonged to all who attended the gathering, which was organized by a system of colored registration cards. Various counter-information collectives collaborated on coverage of the event, gathering reports on Enero Autonomo together and publishing them collectively each evening on a free and accessible Web site and network of communication groups.

Anniversaries of Zapatista Rebellion and Argentine Uprising

by Jennifer Schockemoehl
Jennifer Lawhorne

The opening to the Enero Autonomo (Autonomous January) gathering in Buenos Aires, Argentina was called by its children, dancing and shaking to the drumbeat of traditional Argentine dance, the Murga. The dancing children led people into an enormous shed where they opened into a great circle "shoulder to shoulder" to begin the gathering's first night of round discussions with group presentations.

MTDs (unemployed workers' movements) at the gathering walked about aimlessly, then collected into one communal embrace, jumping and singing. Mapuches played traditional instruments. Assemblies joined, raising their hands to vote on proposals, speaking without listening and arguing without arguing while a group of North Americans preferred to present themselves as an imperialist puppet monster, claiming, "We are all from different places and collectives in the United States, but we all want one thing: to destroy the monster." Almost one thousand people participated from Jan.8 to Jan.11 in Enero Autonomo at the space of Roca Negra in Buenos Aires. People from 15 different countries in Europe, North America and South America convened for four days of workshops, video showing, art, information sharing, creation and discussion of different aspects of autonomy, the political belief and practice of horizontalism, self-management, solidarity and struggle for a better world outside of the traditional political realm of parties and unions.

Julia arrived from Bolivia to take part in the encuentro. "I came here to witness the reflection of different social movements who are apart from traditional politics. People here have a certain social practice with a vision of caring and respect for each other," she said.

The location of the encuentro at Roca Negra perhaps best symbolized the meaning of the event. A factory abandoned at the start of liberalization of Argentina's market, then reclaimed for neighborhood use, Roca Negra was a rotting piece of industrialized land transformed into a large garden with farm animals, a large kitchen, grill and neighborhood trading fair. "Roca Negra was once something dead but now that we have been here using it, it feels so alive and more alive with all of these people here," said Neka Jarra of MTD Solano, a group that shares the space.

Enero Autonomo marks a year from the first round of autonomous thought when MTD Solano invited friends from assemblies, art and counter-information collectives, squats and occupied factories to Roca Negra for political discussion. At the tenth monthly round in October 2003, someone pointed out the interesting proximity of three anniversaries: ten years since the Zapatista rebellion, two years since Argentina's Dec. 19 and 20 uprising and a year since the round's own conception. This reflection nurtured the proposal to open the round to the rest of the world to what became Enero Autonomo.

Workshop topics included autonomy and education, indigenous experiences in South America, art, health, communication, economics, information on different struggles abroad and international solidarity. Every evening concluded with a round discussion with different focuses: practices, organization and construction of autonomy; relation of autonomist organizations with power, the market, the state and repression and a final synthesis of the discussions and send-off.

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For a world without cops or bosses

defenestrator copwatch



By Avenging Angel

Greetings from a new column documenting the deeds of Philly's finest. Despite the fact that we have a police force notorious the world over for the blood on its hands and is generally taken for granted as an integral part of life, like the weather maybe for many Philadelphians, the apparent lack of interest, let alone rage from many folks in the community, notably many white radicals; makes the need for something like a regular column of this type seem crucial nowadays. Beyond that this column hopes to be a basic service exposing infiltrators, undercover cops and the most dangerous elements amongst the Phila PD. Check the police and legal page on our website for future updates and photos! Also feel free to drop us a line with info to share! Just keep tips coming in!

2003 RECOP

During the last year, cops have left their fair share of terror to haunt Philly streets: Winding up 2002 known brutal cop Anthony Johnson suffered a heart attack while attacking 19 year old Donald Simpkin Moore in the halls of Overbrook High School. (this writer found himself looking down this psycho cops gun barrel alone in a West Philly alley and then was then threatened by Johnson with being framed on felonies some 6 years ago) Many Philadelphians no doubt let a sigh of relief seeing Johnson take himself out in the act. Poetic justice indeed. But by the end of January the creativity of the DA's office reasserted itself, pressing charges of Aggravated Assault Against an Officer against Simpkins and slapped him with a \$250,000 bail.

* In January of 2003, 2 Philly cops: James Fallon and Timothy Carre were charged with raping an exotic dancer in the Northeast. When the story hit the press over 10 other women came forward to testify about being sexually assaulted, raped or harassed by the cops. It was one of the few cases to seem to be taken at all seriously by DA Lynn Abraham who's always made it a point to make sure brutal and killer cops stay exempt from their legal system.



rapist cops Fallon and Carre

* In June, a cop shot 20 year old Milo Fornwald dead in a supposed drug bust. Officer Frederick Girardo jumped out of his car and killed Milo shooting him in the head and killing him.

* In July Anthony "Tony" Overton died in the custody of State Troopers. Police later made up a story claiming he'd committed suicide under near impossible circumstances. Their story of his suicide flies in the face of what his friends knew about him as someone who loved life.

* August saw the murder of Edward "Boo" Pickens who was killed on the corner of 52nd and Warrington in West Philly by John Ramirez, an undercover narcotics cop.

According to witnesses, Boo was unarmed and posing no threat to anyone. Even police who claim he'd shot at them didn't turn up a weapon, nor any drugs (for which they were allegedly busting him for). To date no action was taken against the offending cops.

* In November 4 cops Jose Morales, Victor Ortiz, William and Sherman Washington were busted stealing \$3,500 from a motorist they'd pulled over in Kensington.



Everything about these 2 spells pig. Here they were photographed taking close up snap shots of nearly everyone in the anti-capitalist contingent at a Philly anti war protest last winter.

Recent activity

December 31, 2003 - Tiyone McNatt and his cousin Raymond McNatt were killed while playing video games in their living room in North Philly. They were shot by a 40 caliber weapon. Tiyone's mother accused cops of the murders, having occurred almost immediately after her son had gone to Internal Affairs to report himself and his cousin being harassed and threatened by 2 cops.



OK Kwan murdered by cops in SW Phila

December 24, 2003 - Cops shot 53 year old Ok Kwan just before Christmas near 70th St. in SW Philadelphia. She had been arguing with her son when neighbors called police. Police say she'd refused to comply with orders

and shot Ok Kwan in the chest.

Dec 26 , 2003 - Calvin Buchanan of Coatesville,PA (about 50miles west of Philadelphia) is suing Coatesville cops for over \$150,000 after being jumped and beaten. The Arresting cops complained to the Daily

Local News that "Buchanan did not respond to the pepper spray nor baton strikes" after they had invaded his back yard when they saw him what they assumed was a joint. Buchanan was cuffed and with the help of backup, he was then further beaten and stamped on, fracturing a leg, a rib and injuring his head. Good luck with the lawsuit Calvin!

March 20: Calling all anti-capitalists against the war in Iraq and Afghanistan!

We call upon all people to question the role that capitalism plays in the creation of wars. Some wars claim to liberate people, some wars claim to be fought over border disputes of neighboring countries, but wars have always been fought in order to gain profits from, and maintain state control of the lives of the working class. We call for an anti-capitalist contingent during the March 20th protest in Philadelphia, the anniversary of the escalation of the war in Iraq. These wars are fought in order to expand capitalism, open up new global markets and exploit resources (such as oil). Massive environmental damage, the destruction of cultural artifacts and daily repression of Iraqi workers continues daily.

We call for an appeal with the working class soldiers who are being used to fight this war to realize that they are being manipulated by the power elite to expand control and capital. The United States is using the corporate media for propaganda. We oppose imbedded reporters and the hidden casualties and violations of these wars.

We call for an end to mass detentions and deporta-

tions of innocent immigrants in the name of fighting terrorism. We reject the Patriot Act, Homeland Security, and demand an end to the illegal round ups and racial profiling of immigrant workers.

Come to the Anti-capitalist contingent planning meeting Thursday February 11, 2004 for info contact:




Total Information Awareness

DUTV on cable
www.dutv.org online

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The Defenestrator needs money! As we go to press we have a mere \$90 at our disposal. If you are reading this, it is because one(or more) members of the Defenestrator collective have sold themselves into indentured servitude for the \$500 needed to print this!

Help us get them out!
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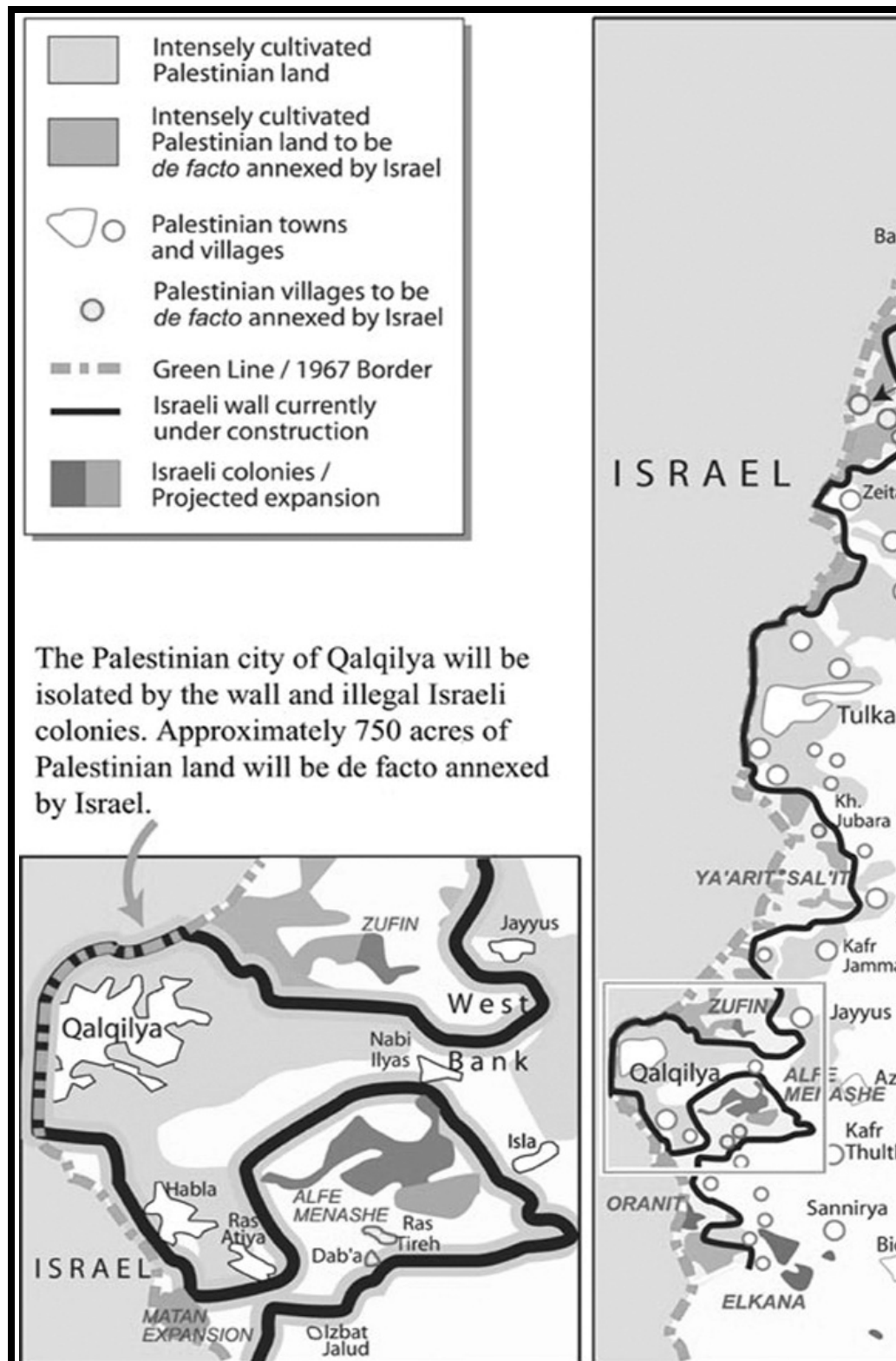
Israel's "Separation Barrier"

The Apartheid

I am still haunted by the faces and stories of Abdel Rahim Khalib and Fayez Audeh, Palestinian trade unionists that toured the U.S. last Fall as representatives of the Stop the Wall in Palestine campaign. Both men, who gave slide presentations on the Wall to my classes at Community College of Philadelphia, have five children. Abdel Rahim used to work as a bartender in Jerusalem, making a fairly decent living, but due to the Wall it is no longer possible for him to work. He told me he was once a "fat man," but because he walks so many miles now every day for his organizing work and to help others (and this is typical for Palestinians who often have to travel miles and hours out of their way to get to a place that would normally be a short distance) and has little income, he has lost close to 60 pounds. Fayez, a farmer, is now separated from and can no longer work his land. Unemployment, in parts of Palestine, is as high as 78%. 78%!

Different aspects of our conversation over a large plate of Middle Eastern food (Abdel put the plate in the middle of the table and handed me a fork to share; both men told me how surprised they were to see so many street people unfed and uncared for in every city they'd visited in the U.S. - even when there is hardly anything, they said, in Palestine it is shared) come back to me: their families going without any access to water for over 30 days, a pregnant friend stuck at a checkpoint and unable to get to the hospital, losing her baby, their childrens many missed days of school, the daily humiliations, the marital discord and hopelessness, the memories of better days, the friends killed, beaten and detained, Fayez asking me if I knew how it felt to have my own child ask for a piece of bread and not having it to give. But mostly I remember that while the one talked to the class, pointing to a big map to show the separations from livelihood, community, healthcare, and education the Wall is causing, the other would scan the audience, to garner the response, and, I think, to see if the imminence, the absolute inhumanity of their crisis was discernible, believable; if people understood the implications and realities of what they were trying to describe.

When the talk was finished, Fayez said: "This is what is happening to our land and to our people; if you don't believe what we are saying, we have nothing really to say to each other; if you believe that the evidence, the stories we have told you are true, we ask that you tell others, that you put pressure on your government to stop this"(the building of the wall, the huge militarized state that Israel has become, would be impossible without U.S. aid - since 1973 U.S. tax funded aid to Israel has reached 1.6 trillion dollars). Similar statements appear in Wendy Pearlman's recently published *Occupied Voices* (Thunder Mouth Press 2003) where Ahmed, a psychologist, explains "I hope that some Americans will come here and investigate, and see what is happening with their own eyes. I hope that they will listen to what we have to say." Fayez and Abdel Rahim were also clearly distressed by the obvious bias in U.S. media. At night they would call their wives who asked: "did the news show the Palestinians shot today; the homes destroyed?" And none of it was reported. Only suicide-bombers, Israeli deaths. Fayez and Abdel Rahim don't believe in violence, in the tactics of suicide bombers. Intelligent, articulate and dignified men, I think they still believe that if they, and others like them, get the information out, that solidarity will come, that the world won't allow this to continue. When a student asked: "Why don't you leave and go somewhere else?" both men looked very sad and tired. Forced emigration through systematic humiliation and deprivation, many have come to



believe, is exactly what the Israeli military/government wants.

The Wall, formally called Israel's Separation Barrier, has been dubbed the Apartheid Wall or Berlin Wall by Palestinians. The Berlin Wall was 96 miles long and 11.8 feet high. This Wall is expected to reach at least 403 miles and, in places, will be 25 feet high. "In addition to the concrete wall and fencing materials used in the construction of the structure, sections of Israel's Separation Barrier additionally include electrified fencing, two-meter-deep trenches, roads for patrol vehicles, electronic

Barrier” Wall

by Bronwyn Lepore



ground/fence sensors, thermal imaging and video cameras, unmanned aerial vehicles, sniper towers and razor wire."

Israel also plans to put up fences, or cages, enclosing villages and essentially separating them from each other. "If the barrier is intended for security [as Israel has proclaimed] ... its course is very odd," writes Michael Schwarz of Challenge (an alternative Israeli news magazine). "It does not separate Jews from Arabs, or Arab villages from settlements. It separates Arabs from Arabs...the wall continues the policy of annexation of 1967...separating the store from its customers, the farmer from his lands, the pupils from their school, the sick from the hospital, the dead from the cemetery."

Stop the Wall in Palestine: Facts, Testimonies, Analysis and Call to Action produced by PENGON (The Palestinian Environmental NGOs Network) is a well-researched and documented guide that carefully and methodically explains the effects of the Wall on Palestinians, and includes a section on International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law which describes the illegality of the occupation, of many of the settlements and of the Wall: "Violations include the principle of collective punishment, the seizing of property by an occupying power, demolition of houses to build the wall, the violation of such basic human rights as the right of work and freedom of movement, and the separation of people from their families, and other violations of basic human rights." The building of the wall has caused the destruction of water networks, separated Palestinians from vital water resources, uprooted hundreds of thousands of olive trees, separated farmers from their land, and caused the demolition of factories, homes, shops and playgrounds. It has cut off access to income by taking away land from farmers and cutting off the ability of movement for workers to get to places of employment. It has perpetuated the confiscation and destruction of Palestinian land. It has cut off access to healthcare (the number of women giving births in hospitals has decreased from 95 to 50 %) and education (teachers are typically at least 1-2 hours late to school, due to checkpoints and roadblocks and children rarely make a full week of school). It has caused dispossession, poverty, joblessness, psychological and physical problems, and a huge percentage of the population to become refugees (75% of Palestinians globally). The daily trauma of tear gas, broken bones, shootings, detentions, home demolitions, loss of family members and curfews has caused irreparable psychological damage to children (who suffer from sleep disorders, loss of appetite, abnormal thoughts of death and hopelessness) and adults. Dramatic unemployment has caused malnutrition (30 % of children under five suffer from chronic malnutrition, 21 % from acute malnutrition) and heads of households to leave families in search of income - the number of people living off of less than 2 U.S. dollars per day rose from 600, 000 in September 2000 to between 1.2 and 1.5 million by the end of 2001. Families are separated, and people are unable to visit relatives or attend functions such as weddings and funerals or other aspects of community life that are key to human health

and happiness. Grandparents and parents fearful of leaving their land (due to confiscation) can not visit children. Parents are under extreme stress because they can not provide children with food, money for school, or adequate health care. Khalid Yousef Zeet, of Qalqiliya, for example, a farmer who has had all but three dunums of his land taken (the rest, where he grew orange, lemon, guava, and olive trees has been confiscated for the Wall; he is harassed daily by Israeli soldiers and is often denied access to a well on his property) "suffered a heart attack one year ago, [and] doesn't foresee

alternative income sources to support his five small children."

PENGON has many goals, including grassroots mobilization, national coordination, information collection, international advocacy, public awareness, and the ultimate goal of stopping the Wall and the return of lands as well as compensation of damages and lost income. Further Information (how to get publications, offer support, etc.) is available at www.pengon.org, www.stophthewall.org and through SUSTAIN (Stop U.S. Tax-Funded Aid to Israel Now) at www.sustaincampaign.org. "In Palestine alone," wrote Palestinian activist and intellectual Edward Said in an article for CounterPunch last year "there are over 1000 NGO's (Non Governmental Organizations) and it is this vitality and this kind of activity that has kept society going, despite every American and Israeli effort made to vilify, stop or mutilate it on a daily basis. Under the worst possible circumstances, Palestinian society has neither been defeated nor has it crumbled completely." It is this tireless vitality that Fayez and Abdel Rahim brought with them on their speaking tour to the U.S. We must offer to them our solidarity and aid in dismantling this Wall of Apartheid.

Actions Against the Wall

Since the Israeli State has begun erecting the Apartheid Wall, Palestinians have been resisting. Over the last year especially, Palestinians together with Israelis opposing the occupation and folks working with the International Solidarity Movement (ISM) have been pulling off regular actions against the wall. These actions have included graffiti rampages, blocking bulldozers and machinery, protecting olive groves slated for destruction and physically tearing down f. Though these actions rarely make headlines in the west, unable to compete with more spectacular suicide bombings and airstrikes, its not for a lack of danger the activists face, nor for the breadth of involvement of those who do take part in direct action. Activists regularly are shot at, teargassed, injured and sometimes killed during actions against Israeli occupations.

A recent December 26th, demonstration and action against the wall had just gotten on their way. Upon seeing soldiers some of the crowd started chanting in Hebrew: "Refuse, Refuse!" and where promptly met with rounds of gunfire (not bothering to give warning or otherwise disperse the protest before firing). Gil Na'amati, an Israeli who participated in the protest was shot in the leg. Undeterred by a familiar situation, the Palestinians present took straight to the fence and proceeded to tear down a section in the midst of gunfire before retreating.

December 31, a protest took place in Budrus against the demolition of an olive grove to make way for the wall. IOF soldiers brought on an onslaught of rocks from Palestinian kids after shooting tear gas, firing rubber bullets and LIVE ammunition, beatings, and stun grenades at activists blocking bulldozers. Over 60 people were injured by IOF violence and a number of Palestinians and internationals were detained during this action. The next day around 15 people were wounded as they took part in another protest against the construction of the security fence. Two of those injured were foreign peace activists.





Penn Buys Post Office

by Paul Walker

In a clear demonstration that the city belongs to the powerful, not to the people, U Penn has purchased the 30th Street Post Office from the city for somewhere in the neighborhood of \$50 million. According to a Philadelphia Inquirer article, the Post Office will lease the main building from Penn, while the annex and other adjacent facilities will move to Eastwick in southwest Philadelphia. Once vacated, Penn envisions transforming this area into a yuppie playground and an extension of downtown. At the center of the plan are two highrise office towers, surrounded by street level shopping.

"University City District" named "Downtown of the Month"

It might help to start out by saying that the University City District (UCD) refers to an organization and a place. UCD the organization has its office on 39th and Chestnut, near the University of Penn campus. Established by Penn and funded by private grant money the UCD is the mechanism through which Penn shapes the world around it. While many could rightly ask "What has Penn (or the UCD for that matter) done for me lately...", the UCD are after you. Or your houses at least. You can find them in alliance with concerned developers, business owners and neighborhood groups attempting to transform West Philly from a somewhat gritty, largely poor and african american urban neighborhood into a paradise for students, well to do homeowners and yuppies.

Which brings us to the other University City - the city that isn't. While it would be fair to call the blocks more immediately surrounding U Penn 'University City', the University wants a little more. According to the UCD University City's boundaries are, on the east, 29th Street and the Schuylkill River; on the west, 50th Street; on the north, Spring Garden Street (to 40th Street), Powelton Avenue (to 44th Street), and Market Street; and on the south, Civic Center Boulevard, University Avenue and Woodland Avenue. Quite a helping, and quite an insult. It would take days to walk the boundary of this University City, and if you did you would see how little the University has to do with any of it. The concept for this uncinity was born out of real-estate interests and speculation, in an attempt to market racially and economically "scary" neighborhoods to the priveleged and sheltered.

The University City District (UCD) has been named "Downtown of the Month" by the International Downtown Association. While the UCD claims to have West Philly's indigenous population close to it's heart, it is fairly transparent what they really want: a playground for sheltered Penn students and neighborhoods for their facul-

ty, with enough of a buffer zone around it to keep the students (and their parents) from worrying too much about the problems in America today: racism, poverty and violence. According to the article:

"To ensure consistent, concerted brand growth, UCD must play a leadership role as the centralized marketing arm of University City as well as its brand manager -bridging the gap between relevant constituencies individual efforts, ensuring that University City has a unified marketing voice."

You won't hear Eric Goldstein, UCD President, talking to West Philly neighbours in quite these words, but make no mistake about what they want: neighborhoods marketable to and safe for yuppies.

48th & Spruce Beware

Let's revisit for a moment the controversy that sprung up recently on Baltimore Avenue. Eli Masser, Baltimore Avenue Planning Commisioner, Appointee of the University City District (or whatever his title is) decided that the pace of "improvement" (see above for definition of improvement) along Baltimore Avenue wasn't up to speed, so he called in L&I to put a spring into the step of Baltimore Avenue Businesses. Citations resulted, as well as the closing of a storefront church's sidewalk sale. Go get 'em, Eli. Having made no friends doing this he now consistently denies that it is "UCD policy" to use L&I enforcement. Perhaps it is not policy. But practice?

The question arises: who invited the UCD to manage the affairs of Baltimore Avenue? Well, some years back a survey was undertaken. A number of business owners, neighborhood professionals and homeowners seemed dissatisfied with services available on Baltimore Avenue. This proved to be the perfect opportunity for big brother Penn to shove their noses a little further west, and the UCD was contracted to clean things up. They undertook a "retail market study" of Baltimore Avenue surveying people on the street and, primarily, online. Finding just what they were looking for: dissatisfaction, especially among the largest group surveyed, white professionals, they set about setting things straight.

As the saying goes, history repeats itself. The Garden Court Community Association, following the Baltimore Avenue Model, has hired the same marketing agent to conduct a survey regarding the 48th and Spruce shopping area. Home to a Dollarland, a grocery store, beer distributor, beauty shop auto-parts store, pizza shop, corporate video joint, deli and more, the area is a hub for low income people who do their shopping in the neighborhood. From sun-up to well past sundown the three or four block area bustles as neighbors get their chores done. While I don't want to cast doubts upon anyone's intentions, I am skeptical about the outcome of such a survey. The process taking place along Baltimore Avenue has shown that the opinions of the working poor residents of West Philly will be used to justify the actions of Penn and other commercial and real-estate interests, while actively driving up property values, further closing the door on affordable housing and other options for low-income people.

It is clear that Penn and the people who flock to them for support are the most active and most organized group in this neighborhood. While it has been demonstrated that they will be checked when they overstep too far, their approach has been steady and will continue to be through the years to come. Their agenda is clear and they do not have the interests of West Phillys working and poor at heart.

When Freedom is Outlawed, Only the Outlaws will be Free...

by Robert X - Prison Correspondent

Secret detention's. Secret Courts and Evidence. Closed Courtrooms. Racial Profiling. Indefinite imprisonment based on secret evidence or hearsay. Isolation and Sensory Deprivation inflicted on detained terrorist suspects to pry secrets from them. Americans seem shocked that their government is forced to resort to such measures in its ongoing War Against Terrorism (or is it a War Against Dissent). Yet many believe these tactics are necessary to protect the homeland against terrorists bent on mass murder (Do the former sanctions on Iraq that claimed 1.5 million lives classify as mass murder?). Many Americans can rest well since the government has plenty of experience in the techniques it is now using to fight terrorism, as America has been perfecting its repressive methods within its vast prison system.

Indefinite confinement in isolation based on secret evidence and hearsay, closed tribunals, racial profiling and sensory deprivation are standard within the American prison system (a.k.a. American Gulag). Tens of thousands of prisoners, so-called American citizens, languish in American SuperMax prisons and Control Units in conditions not unsimilar to the treatment Al Qaeda and Taliban suspects and whoever else fits the government's vague definition of terrorism find themselves in when they are captured (or is it detained?) by America's global police. To languish in isolation in a prison cell for years based on secret charges and evidence or mere hearsay is a common feature in American prisons. The U.S. Supreme Court has sanctioned these authoritarian practices within American prisons in the name of preserving prison order and security. Should anyone be so naive to believe that it would forbid the indefinite imprisonment of foreign prisoners

of war captured in America's so-called War on Terrorism?

The government has also used 9/11 as an opportunity to strip Americans of many of their most important civil liberties, and as a justification for waging its so-called War on Terror, and while many Americans, scared and in fear, are willing to sacrifice many of their core civil liberties, in the long run, these same people will come to regret their passivity in the face of unchecked government repression. The constitutional amendments that guarantee the people's right to be free of unwarranted searches and seizures, the right to privacy, and, to an extent, the freedom of speech and association have all been gutted by an overzealous and fanatical Attorney General in his personal crusade to fashion a dissent-free society. The same ease with which prison authorities deprive prisoners of our constitutional rights in the name of the ever-ambiguous "preservation of institutional security", the government now use to deprive citizens of their constitutional rights in the name of "preserving Homeland Security". Due process of law has become a mere formality to impose and legitimize government repression.

For a society that so often ignores the issues and plight of prisoners it is ironic that the government is now subjecting them to repressive practices perfected in American prisons. While a majority of citizens go about their travels unconcerned until the government boot lands on their heads, prisoners can only watch as the walls and barbed wire fences extend further and further as the perimeters of prisons now engulf society. The Police State is not coming, it has arrived. There is no need to keep looking for it, it is already here.

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SCI Greene
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Waynesburg, P7X 15370

SHAM ELECTION

ANOTHER

by Paul Walker

"YOU WATCH AT A DISTANCE FROM THE SIDE YOU HAVE CHOSEN. WHOSE ANSWERS SERVE YOU BEST? WHO WILL SAVE YOU FROM CONFUSION? WHO WILL LEAVE YOU AN EXIT, AND A COMFORTABLE COVER? WHO WILL YOU UP SO CLOSE TO THE EDGE, BUT NEVER DROP YOU OVER?"

EVE LIBERTINE, CRASS

Go on. Do it. Just vote. A few minutes from your busy day on every fourth year isn't going to kill you. Besides, it might

help. You can have a hand in deciding which bastard we'll curse and slander for the next four years. And anyone will be better than Bush. My friend John used to say that he wished we could vote against candidates. Pure genius. Voter turnout would skyrocket! Candidates would win by negative numbers. Imagine the sublime farce of it: Bush manages to beat Gore in the 2000 elections with a 'popular' vote of 145,000 negative votes against Gore's 135,000 votes against. A narrow margin of...victory?

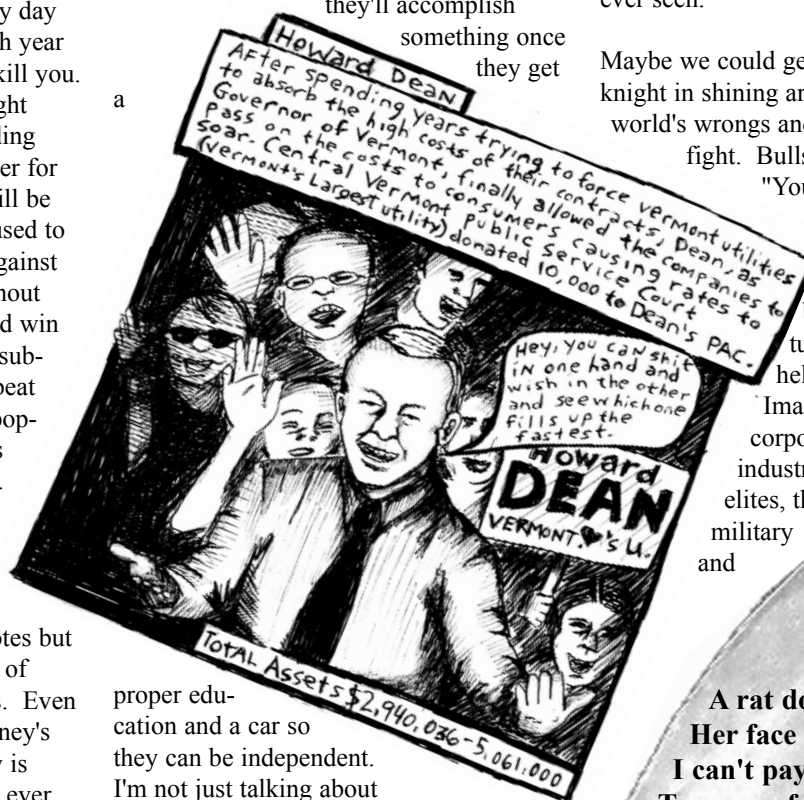
The election exposes itself as a farce. The 2000 election wasn't decided by the number of votes but by whose brother was the governor of Florida. We all know who that was. Even as laws are put in place to limit money's influence on elections, more money is being poured into this election than ever before in history. Even the partisanship of campaign contributions is diminishing. Hell, someone has to win the election. Wouldn't it be safer for Wall Street to just buy both candidates?

They can afford to. Once their man is in office it's smooth sailing. They can relax knowing that the new Clean Air Act won't require their coal-burning electric plant any costly upgrades. One good turn deserves another. How about a timber tycoon to head the department of interior? It could happen.

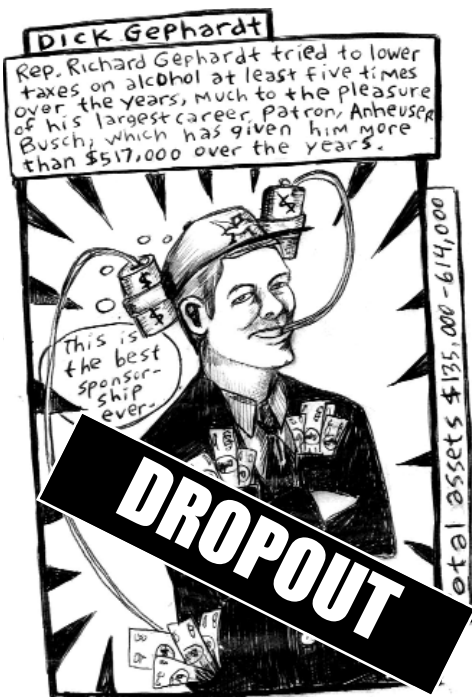
Remove the two smiling faces of the candidates faces from atop their respective piles of cash and you are looking at two piles of cash. It could be argued that it is the cash that wins the election, not the face. The cash buys the airtime for the face, shuttles the face around on expensive first-class flights, hires the secretaries, lawyers,

and statisticians, rents the campaign halls and feeds the lackeys. The corporations funding the election might regard the whole process the way their CEOs' might

deal with their spoiled children. Sure, they cost a lot, but hopefully they'll accomplish something once they get



proper education and a car so they can be independent. I'm not just talking about Republicans. Remember Bill Clinton? Sure, he could play saxophone, but he also



signed NAFTA, essentially laying off millions of workers so corporations could improve their profit margins on the backs of underpaid, unprotected Mexican labor. (He continued papa-Bush's policy of death for Iraqis as well.)

As mayor of Cleveland, Kucinich - populist firebrand, after the hearts of liberals everywhere - kept his word to the working people that elected him and fought to wrest control from the hands of the corporate elite - and failed. Holding the title of mayor was not enough once the moneyed apparati of the city decided they wouldn't play ball with a disrespectful upstart. Instead of becoming a workers' paradise, Cleveland ceased to function, sinking into the worst debt it had ever seen.

Maybe we could get him elected. Our knight in shining armor to right the world's wrongs and fight the good

fight. Bullshit. Witness Iraq.

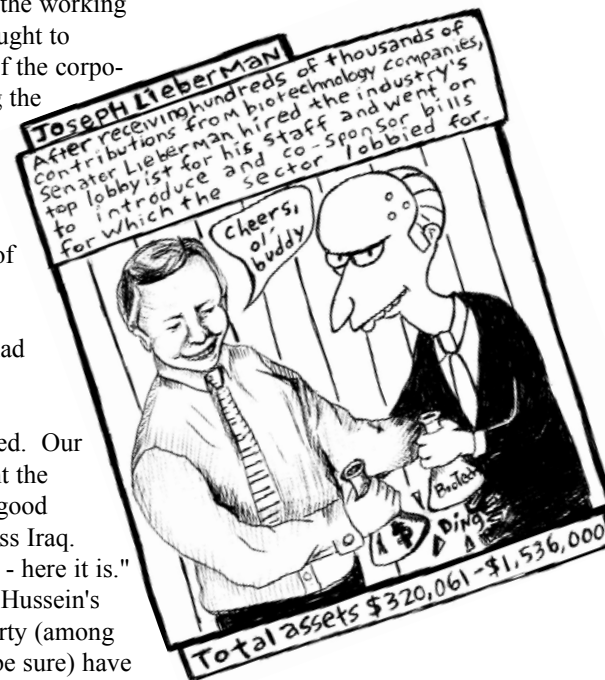
"You want Iraq - here it is."

Saddam Hussein's Baath party (among others to be sure) have been very successful in turning Iraq into a living hell for its new owners.

Imagine what the corporate and industrial elites, the military and

political machine, the holders of power will do when they lose the U.S. While trying not to be cynical I imagine that the turning of the tide will be much more difficult than the five minute exercise of pulling the lever in a voting booth. Not that the gesture is meaningless.

I'm sure it means something.



Whitey on the Moon

By GIL-SCOTT HERON

A rat done bit my sister Nell with Whitey on the moon.
Her face and arms began to swell and Whitey's on the moon.
I can't pay no doctor bills but Whitey's on the moon.
Ten years from now I'll be payin' still while Whitey's on the moon.

The man just upped my rent last night cuz Whitey's on the moon.
No hot water, no toilets, no lights but Whitey's on the moon.
I wonder why he's uppinn me. Cuz Whitey's on the moon?
I was already givin' him fifty a week but now Whitey's on the moon.

Taxes takin' my whole damn check,
The junkies makin' me a nervous wreck,
The price of food is goin' up,
And as if all that shit wasn't enough:

A rat done bit my sister Nell with Whitey on the moon.
Her face and arms began to swell but Whitey's on the moon.
Was all that money I made last year for Whitey on the moon?
How come there ain't no money here? Hmm! Whitey's on the moon.

Ya know, I just about had my fill of Whitey on the moon.
I think I'll send these doctor bills
airmail special...
to Whitey on the moon.

The Battle for Hearts and Minds.

by Rob Eshelman

In the Iraqi town of Samarra, thick mud obscures the walkways leading into an immaculate gold-domed mosque and towering minaret in the town center. Iranian pilgrims walking through the busy market surrounding the place of worship have their worn leather shoes and long robes splattered with the wet paste of the city streets.

Samarra is also the site of new and aggressive US Army tactics that are similar to Israeli-style counterinsurgency. The methods involve house-to-house searches, curfews, neighborhood-wide closures, and retaliatory home demolitions. The US military says they are targeting resistance cells, however, the people of Sumarra say that it's indiscriminate punishment and intimidation.

Abu Mohammed, a taxi driver born and raised in Samarra, knows about these tactics first hand. He shows a small group of journalists the remains of his brother's house now a pile of rubble and twisted rebar. He says that this house and another in the neighborhood were demolished on December 22nd by bulldozers from the American military. Four days before the demolition, one of the US Army's new Stryker vehicles was hit by a mine in front of the house. A blackened patch and the twisted wire remains of burnt Stryker tires are visible out front.

According to residents living along the street where the attack occurred, the ten-vehicle convoy responded by shooting large caliber machine gun rounds into surrounding homes.

Across the street from where the attack took

place, a neighbor, Mr. Nuri, points out shattered windows and pockmarked walls inside his home. The lock on the back door has also been shot out when soldiers stormed in, searching for the triggerman. They occupied the home and surrounding area well into the evening.



Abu Mohammed, a taxi driver born and raised in Samarra, showing a small group of journalists the remains of his brother's house -- now a pile of rubble and twisted rebar.

"I'm angry and afraid of the Americans now," says the gray-bearded Mr. Nuri, his wife and sons standing behind him.

A kilometer away, two helicopters circle low over a sprawling neighborhood of brown, boxy, two-story homes. Beneath them, The

23rd Armored Infantry is hard at work stopping cars, searching homes, and interrogating suspects.

Seven Strikers have set up a perimeter and are IDing and searching vehicles as they enter and exit the neighborhood. Two Army soldiers are

splayed out in the dirt sporting 50-caliber machine guns trained on the cars passing through one side of the checkpoint. Around the corner two more kneeling soldiers point their machine guns down an alleyway.

At the other end of the dragnet, two of the eight-wheeled Strykers straddle the road.

Providing backup at this end of the operation, another Stryker aims its heavy machine gun on the beat-up Iraqi cars - many with bullet holes in their windows - as they pass through.

As we enter the checkpoint, a well-tanned soldier with streamlined sunglasses and a smile that could sell a million tubes of toothpaste greets us.

"How's it going", one of us asks.

The people of Samarra are wonderful," responds the soldier in sunglasses. "What's" going on in the outside world? We haven't gotten any mail and we don't have phones or e-mail."

Another soldier appearing pensive and nervous confirms that a Stryker had been hit in the location we had just visited and that another had been hit elsewhere in Samarra. He says that in the three weeks they've been in Iraq five soldiers from the 1-23 have been killed. "Has that been reported in the news?" asks the soldier in the wrap-around shades.

Needing to get back to Baghdad before nightfall when the Ali Babas appear on the roadways, we leave the scene. As we drive out, a black-hooded Iraqi translator and several soldiers are interrogating a man - hands bound - with a sack over his head, while another squad from the 1-23 is finishing up a house search. On the perimeter of the operation, more soldiers hunker down behind rusty steel drums - guns spotted on nearby Iraqis.

If the track record of Israel's occupation of Palestine is any barometer for how these tactics work, then the US Army needs to prepare for what happens when the hearts and minds of Iraqis are not won.

It's not the intelligence (stupid), it's the politics

by Kitty Bryant

Finally David Kay, the top US-appointed weapons expert, has concluded that no evidence supports the claim that Iraq, in 2003, threatened the world with "weapons of mass destruction." The damning truth of the non-existence of WMD can't be covered up as an "intelligence failure," an excuse made absurd by the attention Iraq received from the scientific intelligence community, in the US and Britain, from 1991 to 2003. Responsible, neutral weapons inspectors should have concluded by 1996 (at the latest) that Iraq no longer possessed stockpiles of dangerous weapons or the programs to produce them. In 1996 Saddam Hussein's son-in-law defected and was debriefed by the CIA; he confirmed what UN inspectors (working as Unsc) had been told by Iraqi scientists: Saddam Hussein ordered the destruction of Iraq's illegal weapons and scuttled its WMD programs in 1991.

Throughout the years of inspections (1991 to 1998) Iraq tried to hide its state secrets from the prying eyes of UN inspectors who were neither paid by the UN nor loyal to the UN. In violation of UN rules of neutrality, the US packed Unsc with agents who placed their obedience to the US above their pledge to international law. While the US waged war on Iraq with economic sanctions, naval blockade, and bombing, CIA agents disguised as UN technicians infiltrated US spying devices into the remote surveillance system Iraq was forced to accept by UN mandate.

By 1998 these devices were monitoring Iraq's industries to detect any telltale signs of weapons productions, and inspections were failing to produce evidence of WMD. Yet the Clinton administration kept up its false and exaggerated rhetoric of threat, greatly aided by the new Unsc chief Richard Butler. Butler worked intimately alongside US officials (behind the backs of other UN Security Council members) to plan and time inspections in 1998.

The US was determined to maintain sanctions against Iraq, which required keeping the threat of Iraq's WMD alive and kicking. As time went on, the threat of Iraq was undermined, not supported by Unsc inspections, and the dramatic face-offs in 1998 between the US and Iraq over inspections were designed to culminate in the withdrawal of inspectors and the bombing of Iraq, which finally occurred in December 1998. The WMD hoax pulled off by Clinton in 1998 was no less crafty or blatant than the Bush hoax, and it was no less supported by a network of military-industrial-political-media insiders who wanted to be fooled and fool others.

When we ask Why the US withdrew weapons inspectors in 1998 and bombed Iraq, when we ask Why the US rejected intrusive weapons inspections in 2003 and invaded Iraq, we must not accept the answer: this was an intelligence failure. The overwhelming weight of the intelligence pointed one way, and the US acted in contradiction, by choice. The exaggerated

threat of WMD was the pretext for thirteen years of brutal economic sanctions in Iraq. The US war on Iraq, extending from 1991 to the invasion/occupation of 2003, was a bi-partisan political choice.

It wasn't intelligence (or the lack of it) that led the American people to accept sanctions, bombing and invasion, it was war propaganda driven by a political agenda we in the US don't want to acknowledge. We don't want to look at the falsehoods, the deliberate exaggerations that would condemn President and Senate, Republican and Democrat. From 1991 US actions have been driven by a political agenda that required the destruction of the sovereign nation of Iraq, by whatever means necessary. No US President on his own can commit over one hundred thousand troops to the project of invasion and occupation, nor can one Party or one ideology. It's too big an enterprise, like the enterprise of Empire, to succeed without the approval of a big swath of the people with money and influence to say no.

Car Chases, Big Mouths, Snitch Sex and Praying on Duty

Greatest hits from the report on police discipline

by dave onion

Raising a stir in the local news lately, of course has been the Integrity and Accountability Office's (IAO) report on PPDs disciplinary system authored by Ellen Green-Ceisler. The report focuses on Phila cop brass' lax discipline in regards to its own cops who are notorious world-wide for killing, terrorizing and beating Philadelphians. Though a lot of the report is something of an official restatement of what everyone knows already, like a bureaucratic rubber stamp of acknowledgment of the obvious, some of the most interesting bits of it read as solidly proven fact by a white woman entrusted by the city's elite to judge their own mercenaries. What we usually hear via the corporate media are "rumors" or "allegations". The volumes of sworn evidence in Mumia Abu Jamal's more recent legal efforts paint a much clearer, more corrupt and terroristic image of the corruption and mafiaesque mannerisms of the PPD. But Ellen Green-Ceisler's report is written from inside the beast, which regardless of its merits relative to other efforts to document a dangerous and out of control police force is already raising eyebrows and moral indignation of those who rarely find themselves on the receiving end of our Peace Officers' versions of justice. The effects of the report are putting the spotlight on police crimes and will possibly soften some of the blows, but hey, even a well disciplined and orderly police force is still a well disciplined and orderly force of social control and institutionalized violence.

But yes, I'll cut to the chase. The meat of the report are the 50 case studies of police behaviour deemed very very bad by the IAO, mostly reporting what the Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) had already investigated. Incidents range from sexual assault, to drunken fights, cover ups, a scandalous mention of a cop downloading child pornography on PPD computers, several cases of not reporting confiscated evidence including drugs ... These are just some of the greatest hits:

Case study #6 involved a cop "assigned to conduct pre-employment polygraph examinations made sexually inappropriate, and outrageously vulgar remarks to her prior to administering the polygraph"

Case study #9 reports: "18 year old female filed a complaint with the IAB alleging that officers from a district Narcotics Enforcement Team (NET) illegally arrested her for possession of marijuana. She further alleged that while she was handcuffed and being transported in the officers' unmarked car, she was improperly interrogated and physically abused - sustaining injuries to her neck and lip that required medical treatment." The IAB followed up and researched the complaint discovering a clumsy cover up job by the cops involving white out and a lying Lieutenant helping cover up the offending cop's crimes. A Medical Examiner even deemed the 18 year old's complaint consistent with her injuries. As for discipline, of at least four cops involved, one received a reprimand, with no disciplinary action, another (who had already been cited with other abuse complaints) was hit with a one day suspension while two others involved in the cover up were not even reprimanded.

Quoting directly from case study 13: "The IAB received an anonymous letter alleging that a high ranking police official, his administrative sergeant, and a female officer with whom the high ranking official was romantically involved, were routinely absent from the police district during working hours and engaged in personal activities. The ensuing IAB investigation sustained these allegations and further discovered that in several instances the Commander, the officer, and Sergeant were collecting overtime while they were involved in their personal activities.

"The IAB interviews with police personnel assigned to this district revealed widespread resentments and deteriorating morale because of the preferential treatment afforded the Commander's girlfriend and his administrative aide. No disciplinary action was ever taken against the Commander, the Sergeant, or the Officer."

In case 15, two plainclothes cops engaged in an unauthorized pursuit which after speeding the wrong way down a one way street, ended abruptly in a five car pile up which injured several people, one who was sent to the hospital in critical condition. A supervising Seargant and Lieutenant tried to cover it up later by pretending the chase never happened, blaming an uninvolved cop who just happened to witness the accident. For the chase, crash and cover up the cops were reprimanded. Bad cop!

Two other cops "illegally detained two juveniles, placed them in the rear of their police car, drove them to another section of the city, forced them out of the car, and then drove away leaving them to fend for themselves." Of these cops, one has an extensive AB record including 2 dismissals. Despite his record he was rehired twice to the PPD. After the IAB investigation, both

cops were given reprimands.

After another cop had been investigated for complaints of arresting people for their "big mouths", the IAB decided a "bad attitude" was no legal basis for an arrest (which is news to anyone who's faced discon charges). Several other IAB investigations turned up including a previous dismissal (and of course an FOP aided reinstatement), three for physical abuse, one for an "improper shooting", a "Conduct Unbecoming of an Officer", one instance of "fighting on duty" and one case of "threats".

Quoting from case 24: "A Detective, offended by the driving skills of a female motorist, pulled his car up next to hers, flashed his police badge, called her a "bitch", and made several sexually explicit and offensive gestures." After the driver filed a complaint, the detective was charged with "Conduct Unbecoming of An Officer" and never penalized....

#28 tells the story of a handicapped man who filed a complaint after being illegally arrested for "obstructing the highway". The IAB investigation found that the Officer violated the citizen's civil rights because there was an insufficient legal basis for the arrest. While being arrested, "the Officer grabbed the man's crutches and threw them to the ground, dragged him to his unmarked police car and forcefully pushed him inside. When the man objected to the Officer's rough treatment, the Officer retorted "I don't give a f--- about the handicapped' and 'you're crippled ass ain't going nowhere'."

"Rather than transport the male directly to a police district headquarters, the Officer violated Departmental policy and continued patrolling the area. The Officer then improperly arrested a second man on the same charges. During the transport of both men to the police district, the second male was forced to sit on the legs of the disabled male. When the man again complained about the pain, the Officer responded "If you weren't crippled I would beat you up right now". The Officer further violated Departmental policy when he failed to log these arrests into the District arrest book, increasing the likelihood that this incident would escape the scrutiny of his supervisors."

Investigations turned up previous investigations and complaints which included verbal abuse, lying during an official investigation, taking money from an incarcerated suspect to make phone calls and stealing several hundred dollars from someone he'd pulled over (and then clumsily attempting to cover it up).

Study 34 documents one Guardian of the Peace getting in a fight with several patrons of a bar while drunk, delivering "serious injuries requiring hospitalization." When investigated, the cop plead guilty and took a 20 day suspension. Within 2 years, the same Officer was arrested for Disorderly Conduct and Creating a Disturbance in another drunken bar brawl. Even his fellow Officers described his behaviour as "belligerent, uncooperative, insulting, and disrespectful". This time he received a 5 day suspension.

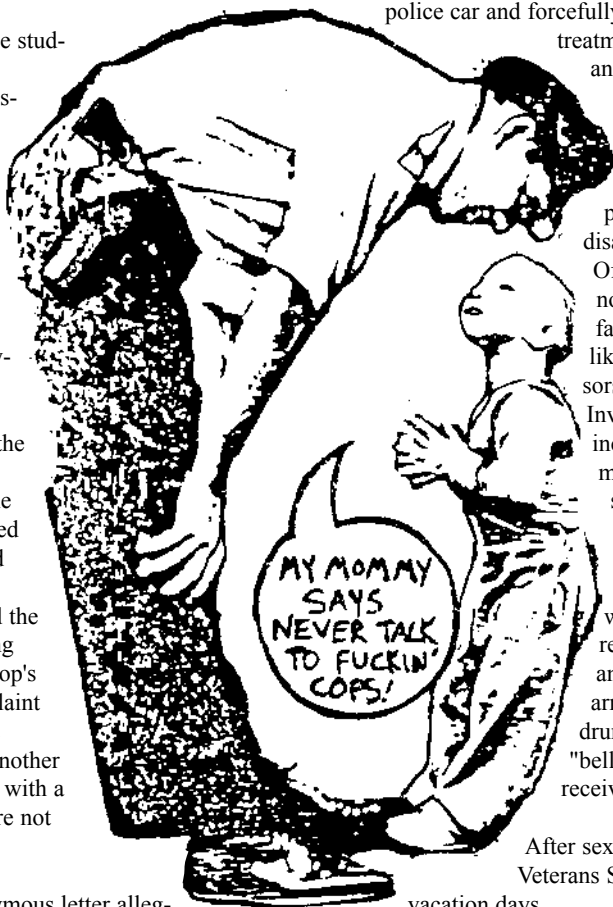
After sexually harassing a drunk woman who flagged him down for help in Veterans Stadium's parking lot, an officer was punished with loss of 2 entire vacation days.

Case 37 involves a dirty cop's sexual involvement with a snitch whom he paid out of his own pocket.

Case 38 finds that 55 cars owned by cops in police parking lots had expired inspections and registration stickers. In shock, Green-Ceisler states: "Philadelphia police officers are apparently held to lower standards than citizens for violating the same laws for which citizens are penalized." No shit. A 3 day suspension for a cop transmitting unprofessional messages containing racial overtones from his Mobile Transmission Unit. A 30 car police chase that ended in a collision and beating of the suspect. "The IAB found that one of the Officers involved in the pursuit and apprehension pulled the suspect from the car, threw him face down onto the ground, and repeatedly kicked the suspect despite the fact that the suspect was not resisting or presenting a risk of harm to the officers. When a supervisor arrived on the scene, the officer stopped his beating and immediately left the area. The IAB investigation found sufficient credible evidence against this Officer to sustain the allegation of physical abuse. The Officer was never disciplined." The cops who were given penalties ranging from reprimand to a severe 3 day suspension were charged not with terrorizing the streets, but "leaving assigned patrol areas"

"A citizen filed a complaint alleging that he was physically and verbally abused by an Officer who cursed at him, threw him to the ground, dragged him across the parking lot, and threw him against a wall." After the story was verified by other cops and the IAB found that the use of force was unjustified and excessive,

continued page 15 page 13



We Are Everywhere... cot'd

The money king is only an illusion. Capitalism is blind and barbaric. It poisons the water and the air. It destroys everything. And to the U'wa it says that we are crazy, but we want to continue being crazy if it means we can continue to exist on our dear mother earth.

The U'wa of Colombia

From the anarchist flag-liberator at Bush's inauguration, who, recognizing he's been surrounded by cops and hostile patriots, "...did the only thing he could; he breathed deep, lifted his arms and flung himself straight out over the crowd, stage-diver style," to the electrical workers in South Africa reconnecting the power for the poor, to the unemployed of Jussieu, France who gathered around the banner "We Want a Shitty Job for Peanuts," and encouraged a movement, to the stuffed animal catapulters in Quebec City protesting the FTAA, to the protest villages of Thailand, above all, what the book captures is the refusal to take the shit the capitalists shovel out lying down and the optimism of human ingenuity, spirit and creativity.

The tree of life knows that, whatever happens, the warm music spinning around it will never stop. However much death may come, however much blood may flow, the music will dance men and women as long as the air breathes them and the land plows and loves them

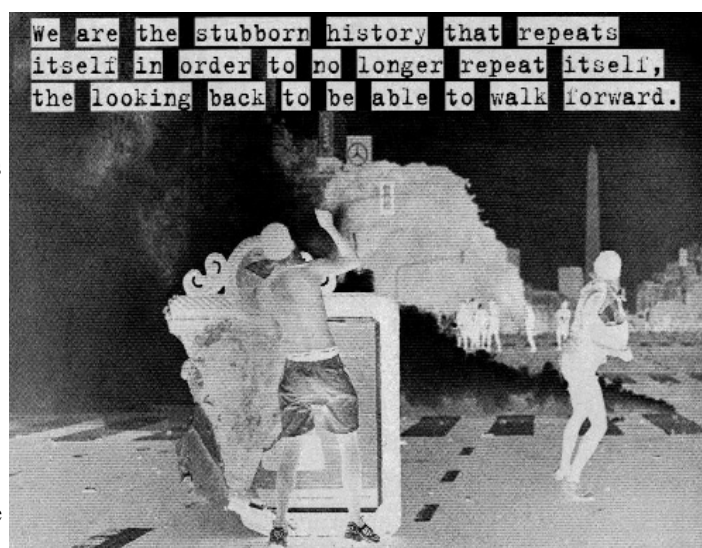
Eduardo Galeano, *Memories of Fire*
As the Paris communards and so many before

and after them discovered, there is almost always a price to resistance, and the stories in the book describe too the terror and brutality and death - the massacre in Acteal, Mexico, the murder of Carlo Giuliani by fascist police in Genoa, the daily trauma of Palestinians, the killings of African students opposing World Bank policies in April of 2001, the state police and military repression that meets every act of opposition everywhere. The escalation of containment and force with each step forward has literally corralled activists into police-surrounded barricades, so that instead of throwing up the barricades ourselves we are enclosed, barely able to make a move without infiltration, the harsh floodlights from helicopters overhead, the constant surveillance and the economic costs overwhelming the possibilities for creative action. The book's final analysis "Walking We Ask Questions," addresses some of these issues and frustrations as well as focusing on the importance of defining together - everyone, everywhere, not just those directly involved in activism - what it is that we want, so that the battle is not just reactive but also proactive.

Important movement critiques are also posited. Owens Wiwa, of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People worries "that our collective pace in combating globalization is too slow compared to the rapid rate that economic globalization is occurring...one thing our friends in the North should know: that big corporations -if you want to stop them, you have got to stop them at the point of production, as well as disrupting the meetings." And Ivana Momcilovic of the former Yugoslavia, in a beautifully rendered essay "It's Great We

Are Everywhere, We Thought We Were Quite Alone," inadvertently questions the very title of the book: "I shun anything that is anti. In socialism we had to deal with professional dissidents, anti-communists. It is dangerous when your whole identity is built upon a negation...when people define themselves as anti, you never know what jester is going to leap out of the box!" The multiplicity of voices and strategies, of individual struggles, affinity group actions, and broader based grass roots movements creates a cacophony of the range and diversity of ideas and tactics - from the silly to the dead serious - all tied together with the goal of a world with a more human face.

In a speech presented to activists at the World Social Forum last week in Mumbai, Arundhati Roy emphasized the necessity of upping the ante: "It was wonderful that on February 15th last year, in a spectacular display of public morality, 10 million people in five continents marched against the war on Iraq. It was wonderful, but it was not enough." She encouraged anti-globalization activists to unite in turning their gaze again on Iraq, noting that "we have to become the global resistance to the occupation," to refuse "to accept the legitimacy of the U.S. occupation of Iraq.



should refuse to fight, reservists should refuse to serve, workers should refuse to load ships and aircraft with weapons." Essentially she asserts, as does the book, that now more than ever we need everyone from everywhere, to unite, not in some grand ideological scheme or centralization of power, but as human beings fighting to preserve our humanness; "we must," she concludes "consider ourselves at war." So breathe deep of these stories of the world resisting; take courage from them and share them and then let's go out into the streets, while the earth still breathes us, and reclaim them as our own and breathe together the breath of life that is everywhere and create more stories of our own together. Because if the tyranny that is capitalism wins, there will be no more stories to tell.

We can continue on the right path, if we, the you, who are us, walk together.

Opening remarks of the EZLN first International Encuentro for Humanity and against Neoliberalism, Chiapas, July 1996

Enero Autonomo continued

choose a place and invite people to the workshop. Some presenters just come to do their workshop and leave. This is not the space for that," mentioned Claudia Acuna of La Vaca, an independent media collective.

But sometimes self-management did not always deliver. Non-spanish speaking participants of the encuentro complained of lack of translation, the run-down space of Roca Negra did not provide the most hospitable conditions. There were not adequate toilets and water for the hot Argentine summer, and the lack of electricity and walls kept many workshops from realizing their full potential. Evening round discussions were supposed to involve discussion of political theory but were sometimes dominated by individual groups using the round as a platform for the expression of their own experiences.

At least the mate was self-managed as someone always assured a large pot was boiling with water to keep the flow of South America's favorite tea alive.

Many say the best result of Enero Autonomo arose when six journalists and unemployed workers formed a delegation to travel to the province of Salta to document repression experienced by unemployed workers and to begin a campaign for international solidarity with ten imprisoned piqueteros and accountability of multinational petroleum and sugar companies in Salta.

Perhaps because these kinds of gatherings have few precedents, self-organized workshops proved challenging both to the organizers and workshop facilitators. "This is self-organized. It is up to workshop presenters to

It means acting to make it materially impossible for Empire to achieve its aims. It means soldiers

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Police report continued

IAB recommended a whopping 2 day suspension which by the time of the report had not been imposed.

A reprimand was given to a cop when busted for: "cursing and spitting on a citizen during a vehicle investigation."

During an arrest during which a man resisted being handcuffed by "kicking and squirming from a prone and curled up position with his hands interlocked" ... "Officer A punched the citizen between 10 to 15 times. Three of the punches were intentionally directed to the man's face resulting in injuries to the man's eye. None of the other officer's felt that the suspect presented a serious risk of harm warranting even one punch, let alone 10 to 15 punches." Considering Officer A's prior history of physical and verbal abuse, false arrest, failure to provide proper service, an open physical abuse investigation and 13 reported use of

the Officer was found guilty and the

force incidents, he was given the grand penalty of REPRI-MAND.

Case 49 provides some dark comic relief. After an "employee for a large retailer" tried to bust an apparent shoplifter after setting off an alarm, he was attacked by the suspect and several friends who gouged him with keys and scratched his face. The employee's assailants were promptly busted and found themselves in the store's security office to await their fate at the hands of the police. But unexpectedly: "Officers "A" and "B" arrived on the scene and, for reasons unknown, immediately concluded that the three suspects, rather than the employee, were in fact the aggrieved parties." The 2 cops didn't search the suspects or bother to keep the offending weapon(the key) as evidence, but "Officer A was overheard saying to the female suspect "Sister, this is what you have to say. You can beat this". Several of the employees then observed Officers A and B join hands with the three suspects and begin to pray." The female suspect was allowed to go back to her car unescorted, nor

handcuffed. Officer A then lied to his Seargant about having worked the whole situation out with a detective. Mr A and B received a reprimand despite sustained allegations of failing to provide proper services, failing to conduct thorough and proper investigation, insubordination, unprofessional conduct, failing to cooperate fully in a departmental investigation, and making false statements during an official investigation. This stands out as a rare positive example of cops shirking their role of protecting capital. Large department stores especially, nearly always rely on police protection from proletarian shopping. Defenestrator Copwatch warmly applauds cops who shirk their duty in favour of working class thieves!

The final Case study documents an off duty cop with 2 friends who chased several males across a mall parking lot. Cop and friends quickly caught up with the males, one of whom was pistol whipped and beaten unconscious, suffering a serious head wound in the process. The cop then called 911, pretending to have been an impartial observer, even claiming to have tried to stop the fight. After an investigation, the cop received a recommended 30 day suspension (yet to be served).

This is just a selection of what IAO decided to include in their report. Not included are of course countless instances where police beatings and intimidation went unreported by the victims, let alone taken seriously enough by entities like Internal Affairs who despite their role in the PPD to keep a check on lawsuits/spectacular damage are well within the systemic boundaries and not going to war with the same power structures that sign their paychecks. Similar criticism could go to other Philly organizations with mandates to help manage/arbitrate the violence of the PPD but who are so uncritical of police in general, they may just as well be the IAB. What Philly really needs is a proactive, activist presence with roots in the community on our streets.

Back in the day, the Black Panthers lit the way with armed patrols to keep brutal cops in check; today the American Indian Movement patrol Native American Neighborhoods in Minneapolis, October 22nd organizers fill up the streets every year against killer cops and Copwatch groups keep their eyes out for violent cops in cities across the US.

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Sunday February 8, 2PM - Author Party and Book Fair - Everyone invited

Black Ink: Celebrating Writers of the African Diaspora spotlights some of the great many talented writers of color who live in the Philadelphia area, many of whose books and voices you will get to experience. Presentations by the authors, Book Fair, Refreshments

Sunday February 15, 2PM - The Wonder That Children's Books Can Be With Illustrators Elbrite Brown, E.B. Lewis, and Winfred Rembert

Children's Books are under rated - the writing is under rated, the art is under rated, the depth and the importance to a child's development is under rated. What we are presenting today are three illustrators, at different points in their careers, whose books illustrate three different aspects of art and storytelling: Elbrite Brown's My Family Plays Music celebrates family and music, E.B. Lewis's Sometimes My Mommy Gets Angry looks at a problem all families have, and Winfred Rembert's Don't Hold Me Back gives us a history of growing up in the south in the 1950's.

Sunday February 29, 2PM - Fiction

Martin Duberman author of Haymarket (\$24.95 Seven Stories Press)

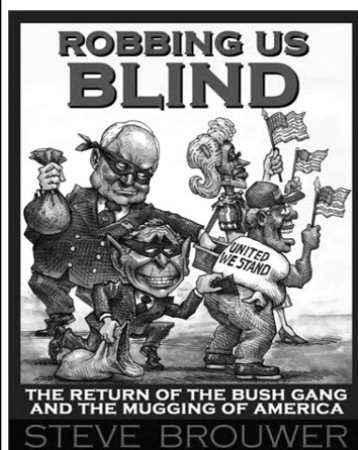
A historically faithful first novel that brings to life late nineteenth-century Chicago and a handful of remarkable individuals who were willing to dedicate and ultimately give up their lives for what they believed in: human dignity for every person At a time of bitter class war and a groundswell of working-class radicalism, the Haymarket Riot produced a wave of hysteria across the nation, leading ultimately to the trial and hanging of the leaders of the anarchist/socialist movement. Albert Parsons was the best-known of those hung; Haymarket is his story. Lucy Gonzalez was the outspoken black woman with whom he fell in love. The novel tells the story of their lives together, of their growing political involvement, of their colorful circle of "co-conspirators"-immigrants, radical intellectuals, journalists, advocates of the working class-and of the events culminating in bloodshed.

Sunday March 7, 2PM - Non-Fiction

Steve Brouwer author Robbing Us Blind: The Return of the Bush Gang and the Mugging of America (\$16.95 Common Courage Press)

While Brouwer teases the Bushes for following the "Skull and Bones" flag of their elite Yale club, he also -levels the serious charge that they are "pirates." The richest 1% of Americans grabs 20.3% of our national income. They have overwhelmed democracy with campaign bribery. Brouwer's book is indispensable to ousting the buccaneers. Steve Brouwer has been writing for two decades.

For More Information visit our web site: www.robinsbookstore.com



Fire and the word continued

By proposing new forms of struggle, the decentralization of power, and the use of direct democracy in autonomous communities, Zapatistas create a point of reference and a living model. This new form of political action, the redefinition of the overused concept of autonomy, democracy, dignity and justice in daily life creates form challenges to be lived out day by day in the communities. Such as it is, the Zapatista word is always changing, organic and alive. It continues to solidify into projects and directions. The birth of the Augascalientes, named for the town where Zapata and Villa met during the Mexican Revolution to discuss its future, represented a phase of the Zapatista Revolution during which meeting and dialogue predominated. Having succeeded in defining the means and meaning of this new revolution, the Agauascalientes, or meeting places, have been succeeded by los Caracoles. Los Caracoles (in english, *shells*) are places where these ideas crystalize, where autonomy and the ideals of social justice, self-determination and human dignity can be brought into being. Paradoxically, in the national sphere, the Zapatistas have been unable to achieve the recognition of their demands of autonomy by the Mexican Government, and in their communities, they continue living with a low intensity war. The armed rebellion in Chiapas lasted for only 12 days during which little more than 100 people died; the indigenous Mayan Zapatistas have created Fire for the world, a Fire now needed by all of the world's excluded, all of the faceless, to together create the ultimate weapon: the Word.

Tuesday, February 10

The Weapons of Mass Destruction Hoax and the Occupation of Iraq; slide presentation and discussion; 7 PM at the the Rotunda 4014 Walnut Street, Philadelphia. Sponsored by the Philadelphia AntiWar Forum info: pawf@critpath.org

Friday, February 13

Class Matters: A Workshop For People Interested In Economic Justice, with George Lakey and Judith Jones. 5:00pm-9:45pm info: 215-241-7035 or peacelearn@igc.org

Saturday, February 14

A Workshop For People Interested In Economic Justice, with George Lakey and Judith Jones. 9am-9pm info: 215-241-7035 or peacelearn@igc.org

Sunday, February 15

DUTV Viewer Appreciation Day!! Bands and chocolate??? 2-5pm at the Rotunda, 4014 Walnut St.

Monday February 16

The Battle of Algiers (1965) Film & Discussion 6:30pm at Robin's Books info: 215-552-8722 • uhuru99@critpath.org

Monday, February 20

National Day of Solidarity with Muslim, Arab and South Asian Immigrants; an evening of readings where stories of immigrants are brought to life. Bring a book, poem or statement that exposes the many ways that specific immigrant communities are being detained or racially profiled. 6:30pm at Robin's Books.

Wednesday, February 25

Horror NightsPresents: 28 Days Later, a benefit for TheMonthly Grind 7:30pm at the A-Space

Sunday, February 29

Martin Duberman, author of the book Haymarket speaks; 2pm at Robin's books (see ad on page 15)

Thursday, March 4

Make the Moratorium Real! Nonviolent Direct Action. Simultaneous demonstrations will take place throughout Pennsylvania including Philly. If interested in participating in the Harrisburgh direct action, call 215.729.8720 or email stoppado@yahoo.com

Sunday, March 7

Steve Brouwer author Robbing Us Blind: The Return of the Bush Gang and the Mugging of America speaks at Robin's Books 2pm (see ad inside)

Monday, March 8

5th GLOBAL WOMEN'S STRIKE Philadelphia area activities being planned... Contact the Crossroads Women's Center to get involved: 215-848-1120 or email philly@crossroadswomen.net

March 14 - 15

Dover to DC - Trail of Mourning & Truth: Nonviolent Direct Action at the White House

Sunday, March 14

Interfaith Gathering and walk from Camden, DE Friends Meetinghouse to the Dover Air Force Base (where the U.S. dead of the war and occupation of

Iraq come home) followed by memorial [bus/car] procession to Wash., DC. Info:

Monday, March 15

Walter Reed Hospital (where the wounded of Bush's war are hospitalized) walking procession to the White House. To speak the truth at this place of war and lies, Nonviolent Direct Action (for those willing to face arrest) at the White House.

Info for last 2 listings: (610) 544-1818 or brandywine@juno.com or www.brandywinepeace.com

Friday, March 20

March 20th ANSWER demonstration, noon, at Broad and Spring Garden St. in Philadelphia. * Meet up with the anti-capitalist contingent!

Thursday, April 4

Artists for Mumia Exhibition and Auction, a fundraiser for Mumia's defense. Art submissions due April 1st, by mail sent to P.O. Box 19709, Philadelphia, PA 19143. Time and location to be announced.

Thursday, April 15

You Pay, Lockheed Martin Profits-Tax Day Demonstration; 8pm at 30th & Market Sts. Post Office, Phila., PA info: brandywine@juno.com

Saturday, April 24

Mass Philadelphia Demo for Mumia Abu-Jamal Mumia's 50th birthday. Info: icffmaj@aol.com or (215) 476-8812

Sunday, April 25**Vigil to Support Israeli Voices of Peace**

Every Friday from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Israeli Consulate; 15th & Locust Streets Sponsored by Jewish Mobilization for a Just Peace. Email: jmjp_philly@yahoo.com for more info.

Honk for Mumia - small demonstrations to distribute information and show support 2nd and 4th Saturday of every month 2pm at 52nd and Market

SE Chapter PA Abolitionists Monthly Vigil

First Thursday of every month from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Outside Governor Rendell's Office 200S. Broad St. Calling for an end to executions in PA. info: waxie55@hotmail.com for more info.

Women's Anti-Violence Education (WAVE)

Monday drop-in classes every Monday night from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Friend.s Center; 1501 Cherry Street Phone: 215-241- 5720 for more information

WAVE offers a drop-in, self-defense, class every Monday night. There is a sliding scale fee of \$5-\$20 (pay what you can). Women of any age, size, or physical ability will benefit. Can't make it Monday? call about our full length self-defense courses offered regularly.

Saturday Afternoon **Self-Defense for Women** class taught by women 1-4pm at the Friends Center, 1501 Cherry St., \$60 full fee but pay what you can, no one turned

Philadelphia Social Forum

First Sunday of each month at 3PM Robin.s Book Store, 108 S. 13th Street

Philadelphia Gender Changers Academy

Female to Female Trans Technology Womens' computer classes on Wednesdays 6:30pm-9pm (\$10-\$25 cost for materials) info@phillygca.org

4134 Lancaster Ave- A conspiracy from

the fanatics at the defenestrator, the Philly Independent Media Centre, Radio Volta, the derailleur collective, the Unconvention and others comes this new project: a radical community centre in the pancreas of West Philly. We bought a building, now we need your involvement! info: 215.387.6155 or space@phillyimc.org * defenestrator.org/space

A-Space - a collectively run anarchist gallery and meeting/community space. Events are free and generally start at 7:30pm unless otherwise noted. Accessible by the 34 trolley. Plenty of parking for cars and bikes. They pass the hat to cover rent. 4722 Baltimore Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19143; 215.727.0882 a-space@defenes-

trator.org

WOODEN SHOE BOOKS and

RECORDS - Anarchist bookstore owned and run by an unpaid collective of geniuses with nothing better to do than sit around talking philosophy and riots. Carries a wide range of anarchist and radical books, periodicals, pamphlets, T-shirts, patches, CD's records etc. 508 S. Fifth Street Philadelphia, PA 215.413.0999 woodenshoe@rocket-mail.com

Firehouse Bikes- A worker owned collective bike shop. 50th and Baltimore

The Divine Bicycle Church - West Philly bike co-op. Tools and recycled parts available for use. Every Tuesday and Thursday 6:30-9pm

40th and Locust Walk behind St. Marx Church

Crossroads Women's Center- open Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am-2pm or by appointment 33 Maplewood Mall, Germantown 215-848-1120

The Friends Center - American Friends Service Committee HQ. Contains meeting spaces and offices for a gazillion different entities. 1501 Cherry Street

The Spiral Q Puppet Theater 3114 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104 spiralq@spiralq.org 15-222-6979 Fax: 215-222-7002

Philadelphians United to Support Public Schools

Every Monday from 5:15 pm - 7:45 pm United Way 1st floor, 21st & Ben Franklin Pkwy. E-mail: jordanpcy@hotmail.com for more info

Philadelphia Regional Anti War Network

Meetings Thursday nights at 7pm 2200 N. Broad, 2nd Floor Susquehanna and Broad phillyprawn.org

ACT UP

Weekly Meeting Every Monday from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm St. Lukes Church; 330 S. 13th St. (between Pine & Spruce) Email: actupphilly@ critpath.org for more info.

Neighbors Against McPentification

Weekly Meeting every Tuesday from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Toviah Thrift Shop; Chestnut betw. 42nd & 43rd Phone: 215-382-7251 for more info.

National Protest for Abortion Rights in Washington DC Organized by the National Organization of Women; for info on radical contingent (see call inside) contact Corie: 202-246-1822 corie@resist.ca

June 30-July 4th

We Are Resisting - a convergence against Imperialism A conferene coinciding with a day of action against imperialism at Fort Leavenworth, KS on July 4th. Join with others from the movements struggling against modern colonialism and domination as we meet to discuss tactics, share skills, sponsor dialogue and build a movement that can finally achieve social justice. info: www.kansasanarchist.net/WAR

August 20 - 22nd

Life After Capitalism Conference in NYC As a new wave of activism in the US and abroad popularizes opposition to global capitalism, it is essential that we continue to develop alternative visions of a post-capitalist society. This conference seeks to create a forum for people from diverse movements to refine collectively our analysis of capitalism, to develop new visions for directly democratic economic and political systems, and to build effective organizing strategies for actualizing our visions. For more info, check out www.lifeaftercapitalism.org.

August 29- September 2nd

Vengeance is ours. Squash the RNC in NYC!

Weekly Meeting of Phila. County Coalition on Prison Health Care

Every Tuesday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Philadelphia FIGHT office, 1233 Locust St., 2nd floor, For info, contact Laura McTigh: 215-380-5556

Books Through Bars

Packing Café Every Tuesday from 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm The A Space; 4722 Baltimore Ave. E-mail: info@booksthroughbars.org for more info

International Concerned Family & Friends of Mumia

Every Thursday from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm 4601 Market St., 5th floor Phone: 215-476- 5416 for more info.

Philadelphia Anti-War Forum

Meeting Third Sunday of every month from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Aspace; 4722 Baltimore Ave. E-mail: clannarchy@prodigy.net

the defenestrator

PO Box 30922 Philadelphia, PA 19104

to: