

defenestrator

issue 32s

Spring 2005



Community Gardens in Philly

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land Occupations in Brazil



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.

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Distribute defenestrator outside of Philly!

The defenestrator is free in Philly. Outside of Philly, send \$2 per issue postage paid. If you care to distribute this fine paper, you can get 10 or more for 80 cents each. We ask you sell them for no more than \$1.50 a piece.

Get on the defenestrator email list!

We send out announcements for demonstrations, emergency mobilizations, benefit parties and defenestrator events. If you want one, send a blank email from your address to defenestrator-subscribe@lists.riseup.net or click the link on our website. The list is low traffic (usually about 1 message a week) and easy to get off if you so choose.

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Cover Photo by
top: Paul Walker
bottom: onion



SEPTA FIGHT CONTINUES...

by Loreto
Aguilar

On February 14th 4000 demonstrators picketed the State Capitol in Harrisburg in spite of the sleeting rain to demand a stop to budget cuts for SEPTA. The crowd was a mixture of workers wearing their colors, senior citizens, people with disabilities, school children, community members, students: all public transportation riders. People from all over the state made an effort to show their solidarity: Lancaster, Norristown, Pittsburgh, Scranton and Philly among others were represented. This amazing show of collective power spearheaded by the Labor movement forced Governor Rendell to shift federal highway monies into SEPTA's budget. But this measure taken by the Governor is only a temporary victory: SEPTA will have enough funding to continue operating normally through 2007, but the real fight to create a dedicated pot of money for this important service has not yet been won.

Having a dedicated pot of money, or "Dedicated Funding", is very different than having to fight every fiscal year for enough money to cover the expenses for such a big service provider. The battle here is about two completely different projects and ways of understanding public transportation: For one side there is the popular vision in which public transportation is a strategic service that should be funded and even subsidized. Currently, most of SEPTA riders are workers traveling to jobs, middle and high school students, senior citizens, people with disabilities and college students that rely on SEPTA to get where they are going. SEPTA is not as efficient as it ideally should be, but it is terribly underfunded. For example: for the past ten years the budget increases for transportation have been smaller than inflation, which causes SEPTA to go into debt in order to keep operating. To avoid getting in debt SEPTA has taken some drastic measures, like eliminating

Freeriding Mass Transit

Vincent Valdmán

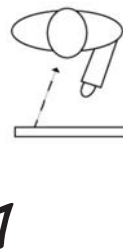
Public transportation in Philadelphia has been declining for some time, but SEPTA's current financial crisis is the most serious in its 40-year history. Although a proposed base fare increase to \$3 has been forestalled with a last-minute bailout, the ruinous underlying conditions behind the crisis remain unchanged. Dedicated federal and state subsidy streams are vital for SEPTA's health but are unlikely to appear soon. This is because public transportation is viewed by suburban and rural legislators as unneeded urban welfare. SEPTA's precarious position is a symptom of the structural realities of contemporary politics, distorted as they are by power and capital insensitive to the working class.

Transit activists have recognized this and used provocative methods to sidestep indifferent transportation bureaucracies. A highly successful example is a project operating in three Scandinavian cities called "Planka.nu," translating roughly as "free ride now!" Members of Stockholm's Syndicalist Youth Federation were alarmed at increasing transit fares in the late 1990s and turned to free-riding as a solution. Mobility, the organizers argued, was an essential right. While user fees were not collected on sidewalks and roads, they were applied to the public transit system that workers used to move from residential quarters to places of work.

To increase the feasibility of mass free-riding among Stockholm's transit users, the Syndicalists established a "solidarity fund," a collective fund for paying fines known as P-kassan. Members of P-kassan paid a member-

ship fee, then used the system as free riders. When a rider was caught, P-kassan paid the fine. Within months the campaign was a hit, and by 2002 it had spread to Gothenburg in western Sweden and Helsinki in Finland.

"We are making it possible for our members to safely ignore paying the high transportation fares," said Anders, a Planka.nu organizer in Gothenburg. City government there began reducing tax subsidies of public transit and



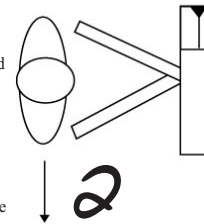
increasing private fares, a formula that is an article of faith among American municipal governments. Such policies disproportionately burden the working class, who are less able to pay steep transit fees and typically use public transportation in greater numbers. Planka.nu's organized free-riding resists this phenomenon as a form of direct action which also creates economic pressure on officials to revise their funding formulas. This pressure is a form of "auto reduction," in which users of a monopolized service force a reduction in fees charged for the service.

Planka.nu activists in Stockholm used leaflets and stickers with the groups' website address (www.planka.nu) to promote the solidarity fund. Transit officials responded with silence in order to deny the group media attention generated by a public controversy. Despite the

absence of media attention, a stable membership base grew with dedicated grassroots work, leaflet distribution and public drives such as organized mass free-riding events. Planka.nu's Stockholm chapter now has 3,000 members, with higher membership during summer months since the school-financed transportation cards many students use are invalid during that time.

In Gothenburg, population 400,000, membership has crossed 1,000. Anders reports that their membership has expanded beyond activist circles. "Our members are not made up by a majority of politically-active youth as one might expect," he said. "We have a wide range of people of all ages and backgrounds. Our oldest member was born in the early 1920s."

While Planka.nu received little attention from authorities in Stockholm, it was fiercely attacked in Gothenburg. Local politicians denounced members of the group for "not performing their civic duty" by paying the increase in transit fares like everyone else, and threatened aggressive legal action against organizers. Provokeurs tried to infiltrate the group and the transit agency sued organizers for running an "illegal insurance company,"



1133 administrative and hourly positions over the course of the years. But even these drastic measures do little to alleviate the fact that SEPTA faces a \$64 million shortfall fiscal year 2004-2005.

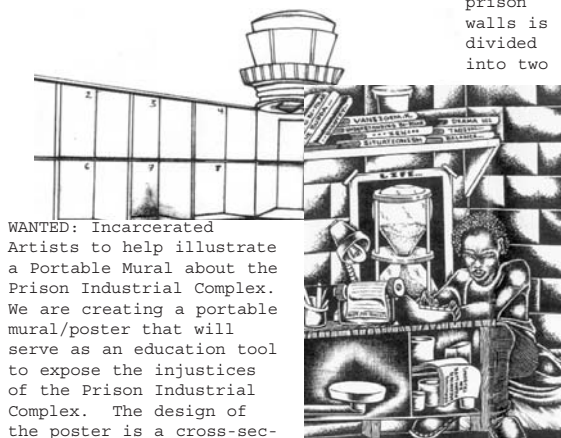
In comparison to other public transportation systems around the nation, SEPTA users are paying a bigger portion of the operating costs for SEPTA (third highest only after New York and New Jersey) while the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania contributes to public transportation less than cities like Cleveland, Houston, Chicago, LA, Boston, New York, Dallas, Denver, Seattle, Atlanta and San Francisco. This means that people in Pennsylvania pay higher and higher fares while the State puts less and less into public transportation.

The Pennsylvania Transit Coalition was formed to fight for Dedicated Funding for public transportation and it's subsequent improvement, and is currently pushing to be included in a special committee formed by Governor Rendell to audit SEPTA. Organization and collective action will be key components in this battle to ensure that public transportation stays public. The more people who participate and stand up for their right to get to their places of work, worship, schools and hospitals, the closer we'll be to victory. We've won a battle but not yet the war. To join the Pennsylvania Transit Coalition call 267 295-2040 or email info@paratransit.org <None>

The cuts to SEPTA's budget have a trickle-down effect not only on riders, but on SEPTA workers as well. These economic constraints give workers and unions less room to negotiate for better wages and benefits. To put it in a different way, the cuts force workers to fight to keep what they have, even agreeing to reductions in their benefits in order to avoid lay-offs. The Transportation Workers Union Local 234, which represents SEPTA workers, has voted to authorize a strike if they can't get to an agreement. The new deadline for contract negotiations is April 15th. To support workers in their contract negotiations contact Jobs with Justice (215) 735-3615

Facts to support this article taken from www.patransit.org

Prison Poster Project Looking for Submissions



WANTED: Incarcerated Artists to help illustrate a Portable Mural about the Prison Industrial Complex. We are creating a portable mural/poster that will serve as an education tool to expose the injustices of the Prison Industrial Complex. The design of the poster is a cross-section of a prison where every cell houses one story or theme from each contributing artist. For example, one cell shows COs abusing inmates, a woman giving birth in shackles, or prisoners organizing against poor prison conditions, etc. The space outside the

prison walls is divided into two

space to envision a just world, free from personal and state violence. There is also a cross-section of the underground - the bowels and basement of the prison illustrate the history of prisons in the U.S., and the underground outside the prison depicts, on the left, the history of oppression (from slavery to COINTELPRO) and, on the right, the heritage of resistance (from Attica to Assata). The possibilities are endless! And we welcome your input. We would really love more illustrators to participate in this project, especially incarcerated women and transgender artists.

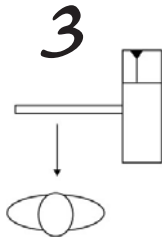
sections. To the left will be a detailed depiction of the society that fuels the prison system (i.e. boarded up clinics, schools, and libraries; and televisions encouraging consumerism and breeding fear). The outside to the right of the prison will be a

Please contact us at:
Prison Poster Project
P.O. Box 71357
Pittsburgh PA
15213

but the case was dismissed by a Swedish court for lack of evidence. Local media jumped on the controversy and Planka.nu's profile quickly grew, helped further by an expensive advertising campaign by the transit agency that implicitly targeted the activists. Planka.nu organizers immediately countered by co-opting the transit agency's ad blitz with alterations to the billboards using Planka.nu stickers and other material.

"The initial witch-hunt against the Gothenburg branch has died down to some degree," said Anders, because officials realized they were only generating more attention for Planka.nu. Authorities are further stymied by the anonymity of Planka.nu organizers. Meanwhile, the grassroots work of Planka.nu Stockholm forced local officials and media to take the arguments of community and transit activists seriously.

So far, the increased public transit fares in Scandinavian cities have not been reversed, but transit fares have become a significant political issue. Planka.nu has developed a sophisticated discourse around transportation in their member cities by sometimes successfully and sometimes unsuccessfully working with transit unions, refugee support-groups, and uncovering details about the administration of transit systems. Planka.nu activists believe the result is that it has become harder for officials to push through future fare increases. "[This way], such decisions don't go unopposed," said Anders. "We are providing a way for people to make a choice not to stand behind [fare increases]. We actually provide our members with a bit more money in their wallet at the end of the month, which I think is one of the things that makes the campaign so great."



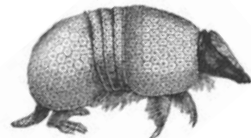
Defenestrator Faces Financial Crisis

To all those who responded to our call out for funds and support, thank you. Your contributions make this project possible. The cost of printing the paper, covering office expenses, and distributing the more than 300 copies of defenestrator free to inmates adds up to around \$1,000 per issue. Only a fraction of the cost is covered by advertising; the rest we have to fundraise. If you haven't yet, please consider making a contribution: it means that the newspaper you're holding in your hands can reach the streets, homes and businesses of Philadelphia, as well as the hands of prisoners locked down across this country. To make a donation online visit www.defenestrator.org and click the Make a Donation button on the left of the screen, or send check, money order, or well-concealed cash to:

defenestrator
PO Box 30922
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19104

We are always looking for people interested in contributing art or articles, doing office work, computer layout, editing, organizing benefits or events. We also find ourselves in need of a couple more or less modern computers we can use for processing graphics, and desktop publishing. So if you can help, please get in touch!

Email: rosa@defenestrator.org (215)387-6155 and ask for someone from defenestrator.



'McLibrary' Scheme Sabotages Access to Information in Philadelphia



By C. Hunt (carynhunt@hotmail.com)

On January 10th Mayor Street laid off 13 branch librarians and designated 20 branches to be "Express" libraries, only open 4 hours per day and staffed with clerks instead of librarians.

More facts: City Council increased the Library's 2004-05 budget by \$1 million for staff, but the Mayor did not use this resource for staff. Instead he continues to decrease staff. Determination as to which branches would be designated 'Express' branches was based on circulation levels, which do not take computer usage into consideration. 41% of city households are without home computers. Many of these branches are located in low income neighborhoods struggling with low performing public schools, high rates of illiteracy and high unemployment. Branch libraries are the largest provider of free access to computer and internet service in our communities, among many other essential services. Libraries in the public schools are woefully inadequate - the Association of School Librarians found that the average copyright for books in Philadelphia public schools is 1972 - and many do not have a librarian on staff. They depend on their neighborhood libraries to pick up the slack.

Nor do circulation levels reflect morning story hours for toddlers, or readings and workshops held during evening hours. Inadequate staffing has resulted in no Saturday hours at most branches, further eroding circulation numbers. Over the past year branches have had to close sporadically due to staffing problems.

Around the same time as these cuts, there was an announcement that the central library is planning a multi-million dollar renovation of its facility for which they received a grant. As wonderful as the renovations at the main library sound, it's infuriating to think that there is money out there for architects and contractors but not for librarians or books.

In the last few years, the library has had to make due with less of everything, both money and staff. And the people who use the library, including and especially children who go to their branch library after school every day and rely on librarians for reference assistance, are the ones who suffer. In the information age, access to information is key. The library branches are vital in their neighborhoods, every bit as essential to them as recreation centers and parks.

A petition protesting these cuts, and more information can be found at www.libraryfriends.info. On March 17th, City Council will meet at 2PM in City Hall to discuss library funding issues. Hopefully Philadelphians will show up to say they care. Perhaps public outcry will reverse this latest instance in the current trend of degrading public services in Philadelphia.

Text rom Philly IMC
www.philly.indymedia.org
graphic by Dominic Lepore



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In Defense of Academic Freedom

In Defense of Ward Churchill and Joseph Massad

-penelope

In times of war, real or manufactured, governments move to stifle dissent and debate. The irony is that this country falsely claims to be engaged in a war promoting liberation, to ensure the freedoms of democracy around the world yet it is repressing those freedoms at home. One of the first targets in this throttling of dissent is the classroom. From Nazi Germany, to Pinochet's Chile, to the United States in times of war, or more importantly when those in power feel their power threatened, teachers who speak out openly and challenge the repression around them are targeted by the government and silenced.

Today, Ward Churchill and Joseph Massad can attest to the fact that little has changed from the days of reactionary policies that cover the landscape of US history. Both are under the target of the repressive government apparatus growing in power and reach since September 11th, 2001. With the power of the Patriot Act looming over us all, these two professors find themselves trapped in the popular accusations of 'pro-terrorist' and 'anti-American' or, in Massad's case, Anti-Semitic, thrown from empty headed politicians and corporate media news reverberating on our television screens.

Ward Churchill is a long time activist and crucial fighter in the struggle for recognition of Native American cultures and rights. He is also the author of many books and essays, including a book on Cointelpro (the Counter Intelligence Program) run by the CIA that violently and illegally targeted the Black Panthers and the American Indian Movement. The book has become recognized as a standard text for studying that era. He is also the Chair of the Ethnic Studies Department at the University of Colorado-Denver. In the last two months Churchill was forced to step down from his position, pushed out thanks to Fox News and Colorado Governor, Bill Owens. But that has not satisfied Governor Bill Owens or Fox News, who seem lost in a zealous haze of patriotic ignorance and have made it clear that they will not be satisfied until Churchill no longer teaches. And just where did all this Fox News and Gov. Owen hysteria come from? Ward Churchill's examination of the attacks on September 11th, 2001.

Churchill released a statement in 2002 (about 18 printed pages) which he went on to turn into a book called, [On the Justice of Roosting Chickens: Reflections on the Consequence of US Imperial Arrogance and Criminality](#). Churchill's book (which Gov. Owens has obviously not read, only manipulated decontextualized observations from the text) attempts to examine why there is a strong anti-American sentiment among people in the global South, peoples of color, and non-Christian people. He also critiques the arrogant nature of the reaction to the tragedy of September 11th and the US's foreign and domestic policies.

Whether one agrees with Churchill or not, he is not spewing empty accusations and emotionally manipulative rhetoric, as Fox reporters are so good at. Churchill has a well researched, and, yes, opinionated, historical exploration of the reasons behind terrorism against the United States that challenges US foreign and internal policy. Owens has labeled this argument as "defending terrorism". In Churchill's statement in response to this assault he states, "I am not a 'defender' of the September 11th attacks, but simply pointing out that if U.S. foreign policy results in massive death and destruction abroad, we cannot feign innocence when that destruction is returned. I have never said that people 'should' engage in armed attacks on the United States, but that such attacks are a natural and unavoidable consequence of unlawful U.S. policy. As Martin Luther King, quoting Robert F. Kennedy, said, "Those who make peaceful change impossible make violence change inevitable."

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The "Anti-Americanism" Churchill has been accused of stems from his feelings that "it is not disputed that the Pentagon

was a military target, or that a CIA office was situated in the World Trade Center. Following the logic by which U.S. Defense Department spokespersons have consistently sought to justify target selection in places like Baghdad, this placement of an element of the American 'command and control infrastructure' in an ostensibly civilian facility converted the Trade Center itself into a 'legitimate' target. Again following U.S. military doctrine, as announced in briefing after briefing, those who did not work for the CIA but were nonetheless killed in the attack amounted to no more than 'collateral damage.' If the U.S. public is prepared to accept these 'standards' when they are routinely applied to other people, they should not be surprised when the same standards are applied to them...Ugly? Yes. Hurtful? Yes. And that's my point. It's no less ugly, painful or dehumanizing a description when applied to Iraqis, Palestinians, or anyone else." His words are not the opinion of one person but are held by many, and his words cannot be brushed off as disdainful leftist rhetoric, but are legitimate opinions that are crucial for debate and growth in not only the academic setting but a societal setting as well.

"If US foreign Policy causes massive death and destruction abroad, we cannot feign innocence when some of that destruction is returned..."

Joseph Massad, a professor at Columbia University, finds himself trapped in a similar cell as Churchill's. A professor in the Department of Middle Eastern and Asian Languages and Cultures, he has been attacked as anti-Semitic because of his views on the occupation of Palestine. It is not pro-terrorist for Churchill to explore the context of September 11th and offer another side to the story, nor is it anti-Semitic for Massad to challenge and be critical of American and Israeli policy and the occupation of Palestine. The systematic silencing of Professors criticizing Israel's policies and America's policies regarding Palestine and elsewhere is the silencing of other equally legitimate views, is the silencing of open forum and debate, without which a more accurate picture of the world and viable change cannot happen.

Professor Massad in response to the accusations of Anti-Semitism stemming from a recent film, "Columbia Unbecoming", said "it is the latest salvo in a campaign of intimidation of Jewish and non-Jewish professors who criticize Israel. This witch-hunt aims to stifle pluralism, academic freedom, and the freedom of expression on university campuses in order to ensure that only one opinion is permitted, that of uncritical support for the State of Israel." Massad states that "the claim that criticism of Israel is an expression of anti-Semitism presupposes that Israeli actions are "Jewish" actions and that all Jews, whether Israelis or non-Israelis (and the majority of world Jews are not Israelis), are responsible for all Israeli actions and that they all have the same opinion of Israel." He also states the he clearly differentiates between Israel, the state, Zionism, and Jews. Massad has not only the right to be critical of Israeli policy, but a duty to the profession of education to present another side to a very complex picture. It is from dictates that are unchallenged that we find ourselves nothing more than drones spewing dogma socialized into us over years. It is from debate and from challenge that we find ourselves in a position to make our own opinions, which, lost somewhere in theory, is what "higher education" is supposed to be all about.

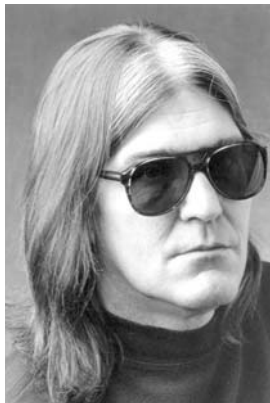
To get a copy of Ward Churchill's book- so you can read his words yourself, visit Wooden Shoe Books at 508 S. 5th St. or order online from AK Press, www.akpress.com

To support Ward Churchill you can find information at the AK press website or by going to www.indymedia.org

To access Prof. Joseph Massad's statement go to: www.columbia.edu/cu/mealac/faculty/massad/

To support Massad send protests to:

University President Lee Bollinger- phone (212)-854-9970, fax (212)854-9973 or email: Bollinger@columbia.edu or University Provost Alan Brinkley- phone (212) 854-2404, fax (212)932-0418 or email: ab65@columbia.edu



Zanon Factory Worker's Wife Assaulted

In the southern province of Neuquen, Argentina, sits the Zanon Ceramics factory. The Zanon workers took over the factory during the 2001 governmental and economic collapse in Argentina. Since then the workers union has run and managed the plant successfully, despite being under constant threat from the local government and police. The oppression of this worker occupied factory has continued to get worse under the Governorship of Jorge Sobisch.

On the morning of March 4th, 2005, the wife of a comrade in the Zanon factory was kidnapped and assaulted. According to her statement, made at the Public Prosecutor's office, when she was leaving work in the city of Centenario, four men in a green Falcon forced her to get in. "We know where you work, we know your husband works in Zanon, and that you leave your son with your mother-in-law." With those words, the kidnapers began their attack on her. They specified that the message was for Godoy, Lopez, Pedrero (union officials at Zanon) and the rest of the members of the Ceramic Workers Union. The verbal threats that have been repeatedly received have now progressed to physical violence. "This has to do with the Zanon factory," the kidnapers told her while they were torturing her with a sharp cutting instrument.

They struck her in the face. They cut her chest, her arms, and her face. The wife of the Zanon worker also said that while they were assaulting her, the men warned her, "It's going to be very bloody for the union." The kidnapers went on to threaten that "if the unionists were unwilling to leave the ceramics factory, the unionists would all have to live there because we (the kidnapers) are going to kill all the unionists on the street."

For more information and updates on the Zanon situation visit: <http://argentina.indymedia.org> or the Zanon Factory website, www.obreros-dezanon.org



Pentridge Children Celebrate Garden

by Betty Pulse

If you happened to walk down the 4900 block of Pentridge Street on March 5th you would have found the Pentridge Children's Garden crew busy digging up ailanthus trees and pulling other vines with vigor. We were all amazed at the size of the root balls under some of those trees. When we walked into the garden for the first time in two years it felt like an overgrown mystery. When we left after a couple hours of working together it was as if the years of struggle to get our garden back had never happened. Two days later on March 7th the weed pulling continued, along with the tension and excitement of sharing a special place with a bunch of people in a world where distrust and disappointment are the norm.

The Pentridge Children's Garden (PCG) is finally ours again - for real this time. On January 10th after two and a half years of tough gardenless times, the papers were signed and the Pentridge Children's Garden was returned to its rightful caretakers, the



cue and beth discuss the fate of a mulberry tree

children. The Life Center Association (LCA), a West Philly land trust that owns seven collective houses and the A-Space, agreed to be the holder of the property title. They purchased the land for \$20,000, money raised by the PCG collective. An alliance, also forged between the PCG and the Neighborhood Garden Association (NGA), ensures that our annual insurance fees will be paid. There is a good possibility that the NGA will assume complete ownership of the PGA in a couple of years, in which case they would also assume responsibility of our property taxes. This would be wonderful for us, all bureaucratic business would be handled by the NGA, while preserving PCG's autonomy. It has been exciting to see how partnerships can be built between small neighborhood projects and larger organizations. As we got closer to having the money to purchase the garden, we realized that we needed to think about the longevity of the Garden project beyond the personalities that were currently driving the operation. People kept telling us we needed to incorporate, to get non-profit status, etc... As a small children's garden, those processes required time and money that we didn't have. It feels really good to accomplish our dreams by working with the LCA and the NGA.

We have also been lucky to receive an apprenticeship grant from the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts. This award provides the funding to make it possible for Blanche Epps, a nationally recog-

nized heritage gardener, to share her knowledge with the PCG. We are so lucky to have this wise woman on our side. Born in South Carolina in 1932 and a long time resident of South West Philadelphia, it is her occupation to teach people how to grow their own food. In a conversation I had with her over a year ago Ms. Epps talked about how the young people in her neighborhood think food comes from the corner store. She feels that they aren't connected to their ancestors, don't think about what these people ate or where their food came from. I was most moved by another comment she made, "Most of the knowledge of the past is going into the ground, this is the knowledge that is needed now more than ever."

With Blanche Epps as our guide we have big plans for this summer. We are reworking our land to maximize growing space while still keeping an area for running, art projects, and play. Lena, a veteran of the Children's

Garden who is at college this year, made it clear that we need to keep space for the kids to run. Part of this years plan includes a three sisters garden with corn, squash and legumes; a hanging tiered garden (we need plastic milk jugs); a traditional garden with cotton, broomcorn, gourds and plants for dying; plus a garden of origins shaped like the United States. Cue-Man, a young gardener, reminded us that we couldn't cut too many of the Mulberry branches because we needed the berries.

Things are still in the developing stages as we awaken and see what is possible. So we are looking for dedicated volunteers, monetary donations (we still have over \$6,000 in loans to repay), food donations for snack time, tools, rain collection barrels, trees, wood, exterior paint in fun colors, and other garden essentials.

Thanks again to all those who have made generous contributions of money, time and creativity over the years. Dreams do come true and sometimes the underdog is crowned victorious. We are grateful, ecstatic and lucky to garden together, figure out how to be human in an inhuman world, paint murals, and dream as we uncover worms, grubs, slugs and spiders and watch our garden come alive again.

To get more involved or to make a donation call
Erin (215) 726 0236 or
Beth (215) 729 3673



by Paul Walker

As Philadelphians, as in cities throughout the country, struggle to maintain their homes and communities in the face of widespread gentrification, people have found ways to fight back. In Brewerytown, the African American Business and Residents Association (AABRA) was formed to

organize the community against the displacement and political strong-arming that makes gentrification possible. In their own words:

Brewerytown, North Philadelphia is essentially two communities: one white and relatively prosperous, one African-American and decidedly distressed. Both are being impacted by a dramatic increase in property values for reasons that include their proximity to the rapidly rising center city real estate market and an influx of well-paid professionals. Because the white portion of Brewerytown is closest to center city and, perhaps for other reasons related to race and urban blight, changes have occurred more rapidly there. Homes that sold for only \$80,000 five years ago are selling for \$350,000 today. It is virtually impossible to find a property for less than \$250,000 south of Poplar Street (a dividing line between the white and black neighborhoods).

There has also been a change in the population from working class to upper-middle class in the white community. However, it has been largely invisible because the white population base has been replaced by white newcomers. In 2002 and 2003, there was vocal opposition to increased real estate taxes. There are occasional murmurs about inequities and relocations that are more economically based than a result of pure choice. But, there has essentially been no outcry or significant concern about the changes.

AABRA has embarked on a campaign to ensure that African-Americans remain in their community forever and that they become increasingly prosperous. We believe that we must accept the fact that there are legitimate reasons that some are selling properties and that our future depends on reducing the incentives for these sales. Our central concept is that we can accomplish this by improving our community for those already here.

This improvement must be on a scale that projects to the world that we truly care about our future here and will do whatever is necessary to secure it. This improvement must be comprehensive, addressing the major social ails that have impacted this neighborhood for 40+ years and which have tormented similar communities around the nation for generations. This improvement, most importantly, must signal to those living here that there is no reason to sell, that this is quickly becoming the best neighborhood in the city and that leaving it would have to be considered unthinkable.

Recently, AABRA has brought attention to the typically racist strategies of gentrifiers. Westrum, builders of a housing development in the neighborhood placed a billboard on 31st and Girard showing an angry white male seated on a leather couch below the caption "It's your turn." The billboard also states that Brewerytown, a historic neighborhood of Philadelphia, will be "re-established 2005." To AABRA the message Westrum is sending is clear: It's time for the privileged of all races to take their 'turn' at forcing out modest income residents. AABRA has called on all concerned Philadelphians to put a stop to racist, classist arrogance and displacement. Call Westrum and tell them that you want diversity and security in your community and city, and that attempts at displacement will fail.

Westrum: (215)283-2190, FAX: (215)283-0991. To get in touch with AABRA visit www.aabra.org or call (215)769-3333

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From
June 19th
to 22nd,
2005, The Biotechnology Industry
Organization (BIO) is holding its
annual international convention in
Philadelphia. BIO is the world's

largest trade lobbying organization for the
biotechnology industry. Active in Washington,
D.C. and every state capital, and frequently
appearing on local and national media, they are
a one-stop-shop for information on the industry
for the media, politicians and government regu-
lators.

BIO has more than 1,000 members. While most
are biotechnology, agribusiness and pharmaceu-
tical companies, other members include academi-
c institutions, state biotechnology centers, and
other biotechnology-related organizations.
These members are in all 50 U.S. states and 33
nations and include 30 U.S. universities, two
Canadian universities and 211 non-U.S. compa-
nies. Many of these members are based or pre-
sent in the Philadelphia area: For example, 80%
of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies
— and some which are engaged in bio-weapons
research — are located within a 50-mile radius
of Philadelphia.

BIO's interests include research and develop-
ment of biotechnology products in health care,
agriculture, industry, weapons, and the environ-
ment. BIO's priority issues are promoting geneti-
cally modified foods and crops, tax reforms and
incentives for biotechnology research and capi-
talization, blocking government price controls
of medicines, promoting strong patent protec-
tion, private ownership of seeds, drugs, and
genes, and easing the regulatory process for
biotechnology products. ([http://www.food-
first.org/bioaction/whatsbio.php](http://www.food-
first.org/bioaction/whatsbio.php))

The Biotech Industry, Bio-Weapons and War

When Republican Senate Majority Leader Bill
Frist said at the 2005
World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland
that “we need to do something [to tackle the
threat of bio-terrorism] that even dwarfs the
Manhattan Project,” his assertion was widely
reported in US mainstream media. Yet few, if
any, journalists took the moment to observe
that such a massive Project is already well under
way in the United States, and that research and
development of frightening offensive capabili-
ties, which violate the Biological and Toxin
Weapons Convention (BTWC) of 1972, are now
being funded in the name of “biological
defense.”

In 2003, Congress appropriated nearly \$6 billion
in discretionary funding over the next 10 years
for “Project Bioshield.” While the biotech
industry has criticized these expenditures as too
little, it represents a huge revival of investment
in bio-weapons. According to the Council for
Responsible Genetics (CRG), the bio-weapons
research programs that are receiving funding are
“dual use” by their very nature—that is, offen-
sive capabilities are necessarily produced in the
process of testing or creating defensive meas-
ures. Furthermore, the CRG has stated:
“Disclosures by the New York Times of three
previously classified bio-weapons projects—
including the production of a genetically engi-
neered anthrax strain resistant to existing vac-
cines and the development of a model
bio-weapons delivery system—raise

Bio-Devastation / Bio-Democracy Philadelphia 2005

“defensive” intent of the United States. By
pushing the boundary between defense and
offense, whether in purpose or application,
these initiatives undermine biological arms con-
trol. The fears and suspicions generated by
high-level research on pathogens and mechani-
sms for their delivery are likely to fuel global
proliferation.” The most troublesome aspect of
recent research, the CRG concluded, is “the
degree of secrecy, and lack of public or
Congressional oversight, with which these R&D
activities have been conducted. Resistance to
public disclosure of research on biological
weapons sends a signal to the rest of the world
that the United States has something to hide.”

([http://www.gene-
watch.org/press/biowar-state-
ment022103.html](http://www.gene-
watch.org/press/biowar-state-
ment022103.html))

When viewed in combination with the
US's long history of using deadly biologi-
cal and chemical agents against
civilian populations abroad in
Vietnam, Iraq, and Colombia, as well
as indigenous and minority popula-
tions within continental America, the
recent surge in bio-weapons research
is truly alarming. The classification of
such research as “biodefense” does
not mean that it will not find its way
into offensive applications. Therefore,
anti-war activists should mobilize in
support of the CRG's calls for the US
“to open its facilities to international
inspection, and to honor its disarmament
obligations” under the Biological and
Chemical Weapons Conventions and to
“initiate a review of all of its biological
warfare programs with the goal of ending
those that, in the name of defense,
undermine these Conventions and
open the door to a biological arms
race.”

Mobilizing Against Bio-Weapons in Philadelphia

Local groups in Philadelphia, includ-
ing Philly RAGE (Resistance Against
Genetic Engineering), are partnering
with national groups such as the
Student Environmental Action
Coalition (SEAC) and the Institute for
Social Ecology (ISE) to create an
informative and dynamic grassroots
response to the 2005 convention of
the Biotechnology Industry
Organization. One of our central
objectives is to turn a critical spotlight
on and raise resistance to the rapid
expansion of US biological weapons
research and development. Toward
this end, our counter-conference,
named “BioDemocracy 2005: Reclaim
the Commons,” will feature numerous
reputable voices speaking against this
new “Manhattan Project,” such as
Anuradha Mittal, an anti-war writer
from India, and Edward Hammond,
director of the Sunshine Project, an
international non-profit organization
that works to prevent the hostile use

crucial
questions
about the
peaceful or

of biotech.

In addition to providing forums for education
about these issues, we also want to generate
mass attention with forceful public demonstra-
tions against bio-weapons research and contin-
ued wars. On Saturday, June 18th or Sunday,
June 19th, we hope to mobilize a large and
vibrant March Against Wars (On Nations,
Animals and the Earth) in central Philadelphia.
We are seeking to work with local and national
groups, from the Philadelphia Regional Anti-
War Network to United for Peace and Justice, to
help us plan this event and endorse and pub-
licize it once its details are set. We are aware of
— and support — the desire of many people in
the anti-war movement to adopt tactics beyond
marching; but we are also attuned to the possi-
bility that, as Seymour Hersh has predicted, the

US may launch war against Iran during this
spring or summer. If that happens, BIO's
Philadelphia convention presents an ideal
opportunity to expose the hypocrisy of the US
initiating wars against foreign nations for
allegedly harboring “illegal” weapons programs
while itself sinking more money into research-
ing and developing such weapons than any
other country in the world. And even if war
against Iran is not forthcoming, we still must
begin to reclaim our security by publicly oppos-
ing bio-weapons! This would signify, we think,
a much-needed evolution in anti-war strategy.
For more info or to be involved, please contact
Ethan from Philly RAGE at
phillyrage@riseup.net; Nathaniel from SEAC at
(215) 222 4711; or Brian Tokar from ISE's
Biotechnology Project at
biotech@social-ecology.org or (802) 454 7138.

GM Foods and India: No More Bio-Devastation!

of origin have been respected.”
The declaration falls short of
requiring heavy penalties for

Foods and India: No More
Biodeviation!

In a recent column
for the journal *Farm Front*, Ashok B. Sharma of
New Delhi, India, reported that the “government
is likely to announce a national biotechnology policy
soon...[that] would also emphasize [use of] tradition-
al biotechnology like bio-pesticides, bio-fertilizers,
and development of industrial enzymes.” Such an
announcement will fly in the face of valid cautions
and critiques. Dr. Suman Sahai, of the Gene cam-
paign, pulled out of the decision-making panel
before the original draft for the policy was made
public, suggesting that the short timeframe proposed
for policy implementation was not nearly enough for
a program with far-reaching consequences for con-
sumers, farmers and the environment. She further
argued that “before attempting to frame such a pol-
icy, it was necessary to study the global experiences
of successes and failures of transgenic crops, cases
of contamination of other crops on account of pollen
flow from genetically modified crops, cases of con-
tamination of other crops on account of pollen flow
from genetically modified crops, related health and
environmental hazards.” Dr. Sahai, who also asked
that reps from the NGO sector, farmers, social and
agri-scientists be included in panel discussions, was
forced to resign from the panel as none of her warn-
ings or suggestions was heeded. Resistance to
biotechnology, as Dr. Sahai found, is no easy task,
but globally, and especially in India, many are
engaged in the battle, and biotech policy or not, will
continue the struggle.

LMMCs (Like-Minded Mega-Diverse
Countries), a group of 17 developing countries
(including Bolivia, Costa Rica, Congo, Malaysia,
Kenya and Madagascar — mega-diverse countries
which also claim about 70% of world bio-sources),
currently being chaired in India, held a 5-day ad-
hoc/open-ended meeting in Thailand in mid-
February to discuss access to and the benefits of
sharing each other's bio resources in resistance to
the forward, environmentally threatening march of
biotechnology (devastation). At earlier meetings in
January the group came out with a New Delhi min-
isterial declaration affirming their unity of purpose
in sharing bio-resources which previously were
shared freely amongst countries and considered
wo/mankind's common heritage. Their goal is to
prevent “the theft of community-owned bio-
resources and traditional knowledge” and to ensure
that “the prevalent laws and practices of the country

With the US administration throwing around the word 'terrorist' so loosely, using it to refer to virtually anyone who disagrees with their line, it is not surprising that the term was used recently to refer to a media organization as 'terrorist media'. But yet, it is surprising. And it is surprising because it is setting a historical precedent. What is perhaps more surprising, and in many ways, more disturbing, is the way most of the media outlets have simply let this accusation go unnoticed, sliding it under the proverbial carpet without a thought to the implication.

Al-Manar Television in Lebanon was recently listed as a 'terrorist organization' by the US State Department after a letter was submitted to Treasury Secretary John Snow by the American Jewish Committee requesting that it be listed as such. Satellite stations began dropping the station, and it is no longer available in the US.

The American Jewish Committee is part of an alliance that bills itself as "The Coalition Against Terrorist Media", a group whose stated goal is to "urg[e] action against terrorist-owned media outlets that promote hate and incite violence...with particular focus on al-Manar Television."

Now, I am no fan of al-Manar Television – I find it biased, untrustworthy and unprofessional as a news source. But regardless of my feelings about the station, I find it extremely disturbing that a private pressure group, formed with the express purpose of shutting down this particular television station, was, in a very short period of time, able to pressure the US State Department into making the unprecedented move of declaring a media outlet a "terrorist organization". The accusations against the station do not include any accusations that it actually engages in terrorism, but simply that it 'incites' its viewers. Now, with that as a measure, how far of a stretch would it be to say that Fox News, with its blatantly partisan and sensationalized "nfotainment" version of news, falsification of information, and use of well-researched psychological tools to manipulate imagery of fear, is also a 'tool of incitement' – in this case the incitement to continue state-sponsored terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan? Most would be unwilling to make such a connection, but there are some unnerving similarities in the production style of the two stations (Fox and al-Manar), and I would argue that Fox News also

"Terrorist Media"??

engages in the 'incitement' of its viewers. by Jinka

The targeting of media outlets which present a dissenting voice to the 'Washington Consensus' is not a new thing. During the conflict in Kosovo in 1993, US forces targeted Serb television, because it was seen as an agent for the opposing side. In November 2001, BBC World Service correspondent William Reeve was injured in Kabul, Afghanistan, by an American missile that had scored a 'direct hit' on the Al-Jazeera network's office next door. Nik Gowing, a colleague of Reeves, stated at the time that "Journalists now appear to be legitimate targets. It seems to me that a very clear message needs to go out that this must not be allowed to continue," adding that al-Jazeera's only 'crime' was presenting news that Western audiences found uncomfortable.

The targeting of journalists became even more apparent when the US army invaded Iraq in 2003, in a conflict that continues until today (although the war was declared by US President George Bush to be a 'victory' several months after it began, the military occupation continues). During this conflict, US officials have urged journalists to 'embed' themselves with military battalions – a position that would previously have seemed absurd to any journalist concerned with the task of presenting a fair and accurate picture of what was going on (the historical job description of a journalist). In this case, however, the proposition was accepted at face value and with little outcry from most of the US media conglomerates.

International Journalists, on the other hand, were far less willing to allow their journalistic integrity to be compromised by agreeing to this obscenely partisan proposal, and were warned by the US administration that they would be 'fair game' if they did not accept it. Sure enough, on April 8, 2003, the US army bombed the offices of two television networks and the hotel where most international journalists were staying in Baghdad – three separate attacks on

journalists in the same day, which the US administration even now insists were 'accidents' and 'unrelated'. Three journalists were killed in the attacks: a Ukrainian cameraman for Reuters, a Spanish cameraman and a reporter from Qatar.

Eason Jordan, the former chief executive of CNN, resigned in February after making disparaging remarks about the US' targeting of journalists in Iraq. He said, "After 23 years at CNN, I have decided to resign in an effort to prevent CNN from being unfairly tarnished by the controversy over conflicting accounts of my recent remarks regarding the alarming number of journalists killed in Iraq." So it seems that the alarming trend of the apparent targeting of media sources has touched even the untouchable echelons of the major media conglomerates in the US – conglomerates which, thanks to the loosening of Federal Communications regulations under the oversight of Colin Powell's son Michael, have consolidated from hundreds

of independent news sources into four major corporations which own 90% of the media in the US. With two of the major news corporations also owning major weapons manufacturing plants, is it any wonder that their journalists are so willing to embed themselves with military units? In many ways they are already 'embedded'.

But it is the 'unembedded' journalists with which this article is more concerned. The journalists who are targeted by those who disagree with their presentation of the news, targeted not only with words and threats, but by military attack. The US has the most powerful military in the world, but is also a signatory

to the Geneva Convention's Article 79 which states that "Journalists engaged in dangerous professional missions in areas of armed conflict shall be considered as civilians within the meaning of Article 50, Paragraph 1. They shall be protected as such under the conventions of this Protocol, provided that they take no action adversely affecting their status as civilians."

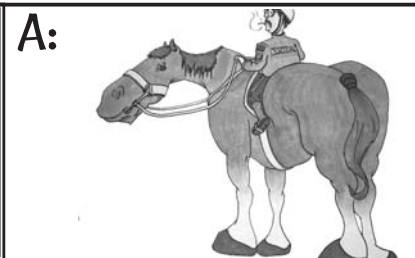
It seems from the reading of this Article that the only journalists who appear to have taken action that would 'affect their status as civilians' are those who have 'embedded' themselves with the military of one side of a conflict.

So whether or not one agrees with the coverage presented on al-Manar, surely they should be able to present their views without being maligned as a 'terrorist' organization. Surely, if a free and democratic media is to exist in this world, and to proliferate, a multiplicity of viewpoints should be encouraged, not discouraged, and most certainly should not be blown into oblivion with high-tech smart bombs like those that the US dropped on media offices in Baghdad on April 8, 2003.

With two of the four major news corporations owning major weapons manufacturing plants, is it any wonder that their journalists are so willing to embed themselves with the military?

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G.I. Resister Camillo

Freed!

Some of you might remember Camilo, a courageous soldier who spent more than 7 years in the military, 8 months fighting in Iraq, came home for a 2-week furlough, and decided that he could not - in good conscience - return to Iraq. He applied for Conscientious Objector status, and was declared a Prisoner of Conscience by Amnesty International. But the US military convicted him of desertion, and sent him to serve a one-year prison sentence in Fort Sill, Oklahoma. This happened the same day that Spc. Jeremy Sivits was court-martialed and sentenced to a year in prison for abusing Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib, an order Camilo had refused to obey. Camilo was recently released from prison. Following is an essay composed of some of his writings from prison.

Regaining My Humanity

By Camilo Mejia February 15th, 2005

I was deployed to Iraq in April 2003 and returned home for a two-week leave in October. Going home gave me the opportunity to put my thoughts in order and to listen to what my conscience had to say. People would ask me about my war experiences and answering them took me back to all the horrors - the firefights, the ambushes, the time I saw a young Iraqi dragged by his shoulders through a pool of his own blood or an innocent man was decapitated by our machine gun fire. The time I saw a soldier broken down inside because he killed a child, or an old man on his knees, crying with his arms raised to the sky, perhaps asking God why we had taken the lifeless body of his son.

I thought of the suffering of a people whose country was in ruins and who were further humiliated by the raids, patrols and curfews of an occupying army.

I am confined to a prison but I feel, today more than ever, connected to all humanity. Behind these bars I sit a free man because I listened to a higher power, the voice of my conscience. And I realized that none of the reasons we were told about why we were in Iraq turned out to be true. There were no weapons of mass destruction. There was no link between Saddam Hussein and al Qaeda. We weren't helping the Iraqi people and the Iraqi people didn't want us there. We weren't preventing terrorism or making Americans safer. I couldn't find a single good reason for having been there, for having shot at people and been shot at.

Coming home gave me the clarity to see the line between military duty and moral obligation. I realized that I was part of a war that I believed was immoral and criminal, a war of aggression, a war of imperial domination. I realized that acting upon my principles became incompatible with my role in the military, and I decided that I could not return to Iraq.

By putting my weapon down, I chose to reassert myself as a human being. I have not deserted the military or been disloyal to the men and women of the military. I have not been disloyal to a country. I have only been loyal to my principles.

When I turned myself in, with all my fears and doubts, I did it not only for myself. I did it for the people of Iraq, even for those who fired upon me - they were just on the other side of a battleground where war itself was the only enemy. I did it for the Iraqi children, who are victims of mines and depleted uranium. I did it for the thousands of unknown civilians killed in war.

S My time in prison is a small price compared to the price Iraqis and Americans have paid with their lives.

Mine is a small price compared to the price Humanity has paid for war.

Many have called me a coward; others have called me a hero. I believe I can be found somewhere in the middle. To those who have called me a hero, I say that I don't believe in heroes, but I believe that ordinary people can do extraordinary things.

To those who have called me a coward I say that they are wrong, and that without knowing it, they are also right. They are wrong when they think that I left the war for fear of being killed. I admit that fear was there, but there was also the fear of killing innocent people, the fear of putting myself in a position where to survive means to kill, there was the fear of losing my soul in the process of saving my body, the fear of losing myself to my daughter, to the people who love me, to the man I used to be, the man I wanted to be. I was afraid of waking up one morning to realize my humanity had abandoned me.

I say without any pride that I did my job as a soldier. I commanded an infantry squad in combat and we never failed to accomplish our mission. But those who called me a coward, without knowing it, are also right. I was a coward not for leaving the war, but for having been a part of it in the first place. Refusing and resisting this war was my moral duty, a moral duty that called me to take a principled action. I failed to fulfill my moral duty as a human being and instead I chose to fulfill my duty as a soldier. All because I was afraid. I was terrified, I did not want to stand up to the government and the army, I was afraid of punishment and humiliation. I went to war because at the moment I was a coward, and for that I apologize to my soldiers for not being the type of leader I should have been.

I also apologize to the Iraqi people. To them I say I am sorry for the curfews, for the raids, for the killings. May they find it in their hearts to forgive me.

One of the reasons I did not refuse the war from the beginning was that I was afraid of losing my freedom. Today, as I sit behind bars I realize that there are many types of freedom, and that in spite of my confinement I remain free in many important ways. What good is freedom if we are afraid to follow our conscience? What good is freedom if we are not able to live with our own actions? I am confined to a prison but I feel, today more than ever, connected to all humanity. Behind these bars I sit a free man because I listened to a higher power, the voice of my conscience.

While I was confined in total segregation, I came across a poem written by a man who refused and resisted the government of Nazi Germany. For doing so he was executed. His name is Albrecht

Hanshofer, and he wrote this poem as he awaited execution.

GUILT

The burden of my guilt before the law weighs light upon my shoulders; to plot and to conspire was my duty to the people; I would have been a criminal had I not.

I am guilty, though not the way you think, I should have done my duty sooner, I was wrong, I should have called evil more clearly by its name I hesitated to condemn it for far too long,

I now accuse myself within my heart: I have betrayed my conscience far too long I have deceived myself and fellow man.

I knew the course of evil from the start My warning was not loud nor clear enough! Today I know what I was guilty of...

To those who are still quiet, to those who continue to betray their conscience, to those who are not calling evil more clearly by its name, to those of us who are still not doing enough to refuse and resist, I say "come forward." I say "free your minds."

Let us, collectively, free our minds, soften our hearts, comfort the wounded, put down our weapons, and reassert ourselves as human beings by putting an end to war.



*PBS Roll Call
5/8/05*

*Boby Pugh
died today
in a messy
war torn way
he was young
I am old
My heart ached
his is cold -*

Goodfellow Jones

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by Bronwyn Leopre

In late January *The New Yorker* (24/31 Jan. 2005) published another bombshell from long-time investigative journalist Seymour Hersh (widely known for his coverage of the My Lai Massacre and for breaking the Abu Ghraib prison scandal) called "The Coming Wars," in which Hersh outlines how the tightly knit cabal in the White House and Pentagon is strategizing for a war against Iran. Basing his report on interviews with former high-level intelligence officers, military and C.I.A. people, Hersh describes how "the President and his national-security advisers have consolidated control over the military and intelligence communities strategic analyses and covert operations to a degree unmatched since the rise of the post-Second World War national security state." Since July 2004, aided by intelligence from Israel and Pakistan, US Commandos have sought info on some 30 objectives related to Iran's nuclear, chemical and ballistic missile programs. And, according to Hersh's sources, these could soon become targets for U.S. special forces.

In an interview with *Democracy Now's* Amy Goodman, William Arkin (author of *Code Names: Deciphering U.S. Military Plans, Programs and Operations in the 9/11 World*) supports Hersh's claim but, in case anyone's feeling nostalgic about Bill Clinton and the democrats, dates the growth of such levels of secrecy earlier: "what we had was a real regeneration of the entire world of secret operations and covert operations, starting in the late Clinton administration and then accelerated during 9/11." Currently, *The White House*, with Donald Rumsfeld at the helm, has taken control of military operations and decisions to such an extent that top military and CIA officials have complained. Those who disagreed with the cabal's war plans for Iraq were, according to Arkin, "methodically excluded." "It's a sad day for America," Arkin argues "when, in October and November before an election, you have more retired generals and admirals calling for withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq than you have democratic candidates." A hopeful thought is that internal impositions will exacerbate among all these discordant groups, but in the meantime, Hersh describes a scenario where the current administration has carte blanche to pursue any military measures it wants, against any number of "terrorist" targets - currently 10 nations in the Middle East and South East Asia are targeted -

with ongoing military commando units and covert special ops: "In some cases, according to the Pentagon advisers, local citizens could be recruited and asked to join up with guerillas or terrorists. This could potentially involve organizing and carrying out combat operations, or even terrorist activities. Creating terrorism to fight it." Iran just happens to be one of the bigger targets.

While Iran has long been out of favor with the U.S. (post Fall of the puppet Shah), the target date for Iran, according to Hersh and others (former U.N. Weapons

Inspector Scott Ritter is making similar assertions) could be as early as late Spring, with the Pentagon pursuing one of two options - a full-scale invasion ala Iraq and/or the bombing of specific nuclear facilities. Last June, Israel ordered nearly 5,000 "smart bombs" from the U.S. that can penetrate 6 ft. concrete walls such as those that might encase Iranian nuclear sites. Israel has long insisted that the West must take care of the "Iran problem" or they will do it themselves. U.S. troops, of course, are now conveniently located in Afghanistan and Iraq (part of the rationale for attacking Iraq - an easier/more vulnerable target - first). Pennsylvania's very own slime-ball Senator Rick Santorum introduced a bill asking the "U.S. to support regime change for the Islamic Republic of Iran and to promote transition to a democratic government to replace that regime." The bill didn't pass but Santorum plans to reintroduce it. Due to the state of an already overextended U.S. military, it is hard to imagine the U.S. having the capability for such ongoing war, but geo-politically Iran's desirability makes it an almost inevitable target of U.S. global strategy.

So why Iran? The Pentagon's claim is that Iran as part of the "axis of evil" has or is close to having nuclear warhead capability, and that democracy must be delivered to the Islamic Republic which, unlike Saudi Arabia (hardly democratic), is not U.S. friendly. But the real reasons point to Iran as a great strategic prize - with its geographic location and natural resources Iran sits at the very core of the West's strategic interests. In her book *Persia, Islam and the Soul of a Nation*, Middle East expert Sandra Mackey describes the desirability of Iran: "Sixty-four percent of the world's known oil reserves lie below and around that shallow saltwater lake known as the Persian Gulf. Iran, the most populous nation of the Persian Gulf, occupies its entire eastern shore and straddles that strategic global choke point known as the Strait of Hormuz." What made Iran so desirable for both the Imperial British and czarist Russia in the 1800's - its warm-water ports and black gold (oil) still holds true today. Iran also has the 2nd largest reserve of natural gas in the world and is right next to central Asia where 212.8 billion cubic feet of gas await development by Western companies. The gas would have to be moved through pipelines which must cross Turkey, Russia, the Ukraine and Iran - U.S. relations with all> of these countries are tenuous at best. Iran lies

between Russia and the Persian Gulf thus creating a bridge between the Middle East and Asia. An alliance of convenience between Russia and Iran if fortified could deny the West an opportunity to control access to energy sources. And oil and gas pipelines are the lifeline of the western industrialized world. The E.U. has been more cooperative with Iran in terms of trade, etc. as leverage in taking Iran into nonpursuance of nuclear capabilities (and for their own strategic interests), but the U.S. has refused to cooperate with such a strategy, instead keeping its options open. Asked several months ago on NBC if military action against Iran was possible, Bush kept it vague: "we hope that we can solve it diplomatically."

Iran also poses, in the bizarre plans of the Project for the New American Century (the boys - Wolfowitz, Rumsfeld, Cheney who helped bring us, and had long-strategized for the war on Iraq), an ideological challenge to the U.S. Iranians, a complex mix of different ethnic groups, languages and religion, are certainly not all in line with the beliefs of an historically repressive Islamic Republic. An Iranian friend who visited Iran twice last year said the current government is very unpopular with the people. Many Iranians, he told me, (especially those living in urban areas) would prefer a much more secular government. But nationalism is strong as is anti-US sentiment. Anti-western sentiments date back to WWII (and earlier) when the Soviet Union, Britain and the U.S. invaded and occupied Iran. The ideals, of leading the oppressed against Western domination and materialism (the abuses and extravagance of the Shah heightened such sentiments), which allowed someone like the Ayatollah Khomeini to take power after the fall of the U.S. friendly Shah whose greed created high unemployment, inflation and poverty, are not entirely dead. While some in Washington have a sense that a toppling of the religious leadership in Iran would be welcomed (probably the same folks who believed Iraqis would be just fine with an occupation) by the Iranian people, Hersh provides sound evidence that an attack from Washington would create an increased sense of nationalism, causing "an Iranian backlash against the U.S. and a rallying around the regime." Iranians I have spoken to affirm this argument.

In his post-9/11 book, *The Clash of Fundamentalisms* Tariq Ali describes the outcome of the 1979 Iranian Revolution: "It was impossible for the Iranian left to imagine that the people who participated in the gigantic mass mobilizations that secured the revolutionary victory could be serious when they chanted Allaha Auban (God is Great) or Long Live Khomeini - or when they cheered the turbaned clerics who spoke of creating the Islamic Republic." Many on the left saw such a regression as a revolt against history and progress, but the Islamic clergy offered (though, like any other hierarchical government they failed to deliver and

continued p.15

de briefs: Ready For the Draft??

On March 31st, the Selective Service System will report to President Bush that it is ready to implement a draft within 75 days. A report issued in January 2004 by Jeffrey Record, a visiting professor at the Air War College, said the Army is "near the breaking point." With recruitment down the Pentagon has been forced to issue repeated "stop-loss" orders and recall soldiers who had retired or otherwise returned to civilian life. The Bush Administration has been trying to fill the gap with Reserve and National Guard troops, but this is a temporary fix at best. The head of the Army Reserves has recently written a memo saying that the readiness of his forces has been drastically reduced through over-deployment and is degenerating into a broken force.

Meanwhile, official US foreign policy is now the doctrine of "pre-emptive war" and "regime change" wherever a leader runs afoul of US corporate interests. An invasion of Iran, Syria, Korea, or Cuba - all of whom are on Washington and Wall Street's list of targets - would require tens or hundreds of thousands of new soldiers, while enlistment rates are unable to maintain current force levels.

The President has given the Selective Service System a set of readiness goals to be implemented by March 31, 2005. As part of these performance goals, the System must be ready to be fully operational within 75 days. This means we could look for the draft to be in operation as early as June 15, 2005.

Don't Ask, Don't Tell

-penelope

This past fall some local universities, including Temple, University of Pennsylvania, and Rutgers-Camden, found themselves at the forefront of a battle against military recruitment on their campuses. The battle is rooted in the fact that all these universities have written non-discriminatory policies and philosophies around homosexuality, which contradicts the military's policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." This inherent contradiction, at least on paper, between policies of tolerance, and of silence, forced these few universities to start taking responsibility for their written words because of pressure from various groups on campus, and challenging military presence in their schools.

Of course, the military has a handy little government bill on its side called the Solomon Amendment, which holds colleges in a state of legal blackmail. The Solomon Amendment gives the military the right to challenge or openly go against (as with their "don't ask, don't tell" policy) anti-discriminatory policies of colleges, and if colleges refuse equal access to military recruiters, the Pentagon is allowed to withhold federal funding from those colleges. This law holds universities in a government backed blackmail situation, threatening to take away the meager funds education gets in this country should colleges challenge the presence of the military recruiters.

The above mentioned universities filed this past fall with the Appellate Court on the grounds that the Solomon Amendment violates universities' first amendment rights. The Appellate Court sustained its decision in favor of the universities, viewing the Solomon Amendment as a violation of first amendment rights. The Justice Department is taking the case to the Supreme Court in efforts to maintain military presence and power in education. And, as always with bureaucracies, the universities (meaning the trustees and administration) are waiting to see what comes out of the Supreme Court before they take any actions.

This does not mean that students, faculty, employees, and other people who are members of colleges or college communities have to wait to take action-discrimination is one of the many problems involved in military recruitment. Keeping pressure on Universities already engaged in court actions, as well as trying to organize this action on other campuses is crucial, but not the end. The US military has enjoyed far too long the hegemonic powers along with government and big business over the realm of supposedly free education. This is merely one of the means to try and chisel away at a three headed beast whose teeth have sunken so deep into education, into how we are told to see the world both within this country and outside of it. In the meantime counter-recruitment tables providing information can be set up when recruiters invade campuses. Recruiters can be harassed and or drowned out (loud bullhorns are handy). By trying to remove military recruitment on college campuses, it is one step closer to actually obtaining an educational system that is in fact a realm of academic freedom.

Land Occupation in Brazil

By Onion, Defenestrator field-reporter

On February 18th 2005, a contingent of anarchists from Rio's anarchist federation (FARJ) or Federação Anarquista do Rio de Janeiro made our way to Olga Benário Prestes, a squatted piece of land on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro to participate in their 2nd year anniversary and victory celebration. It had been two years of occupation and there was much to celebrate. The celebration was taking place just days after Brazilian military and pigs had brutally evicted hundreds of families (12,000 people in total) from squatted land in Goiania, in the north of Brazil, killing several and disappearing many.

To put the occupation in further context, Brazil - whose boundaries boast the worlds 8th largest economy - is also home to some 12 million homeless and landless people who share little of the country's wealth. From these landless (called Sem Terras) and homeless (Sem Tectos) springs an enormous squatter movement, mostly known internationally by news of the Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra or MST, who after 20 years claim some 2 million in its occupations. Tracts of abandoned or unused land is taken by sometimes thousands of landless families who immediately go about building new more stable communities, often in the face of severe repression.

I had tracked down activists of the FARJ, Rio's anarchist federation, a few days before at their Cultural Centre. Located in a sleepy neighborhood of Rio, at the foot of favelas on the hills from where regular machine gun fire exchanges between police and extra-legal capitalists calmly added punctuation to the traffic noises. The FARJ activists, some of whom live in these communities, have been keeping up solidarity work with various squats and occupations in and around Rio, all of which were autonomous from the MST and thus in many ways left out of the solidarity work some of the other occupations enjoy. Olga Benário Prestes is one of these.

Olga Benário Prestes

After a long ride to Campo Grande on the periphery of Rio and a short walk, we found ourselves at the gates of the occupation, a sign proudly announcing themselves "Ocupacao Olga Benário Prestes". Through the gates, a main road leads through the occupation, past houses in various stages of completion and sturdiness, past sleeping dogs, playing kids, and adults leaning out of windows and doors with looks of cautious interest. André, a lawyer working with the occupations led us on a tour of the territory, explained some of their history.

OBP had been initially taken by about 115 families in February of 2003. According to André, the land had been used previously for burying cadavers, drug trafficking, and orgies. The families immediately started building shelters and improving the structures into more stable homes as more resources became available. Work and materials were supplied in part by some friendly unions such as Sinpro-Rio (a professors union in Rio). But self governed life was not without obstacles. André cited 8 violent evictions within 2 years, during which pigs burnt down or otherwise destroyed homes and subjected the squatters to beatings and jail. Each time the families returned, re fortified and rebuilt. Hearing this I immediately felt a sense of ridiculousness thinking about the ease with which rebels in the US are prone to bend to usually much lighter repression. With Goiania's massacre fresh on everyone's mind (and as happened before elsewhere as no doubt every occupant at OBP knows well), murder by the state is of course a real life threat.

We walked down a road, crunching cinderblock debris underfoot. A deal had been made for trucks to dump construction debris at OBP to use as landfill, covering up a sewer system that the squatters had built on their own - the electricity is "de gato", or stolen, a local walking with us told us, smiling mischievously - proudly. I was immensely impressed, and there it was again the slightly foolish feeling. These people

have built up an entire infrastructure impeded by eight violent evictions, with kids, hardly any employment to speak of, and no support by the state, running exclusively on solidarity and mutual support.

We made our way back through the ocupa to the party site where I chatted with some folks. One, a vegan, expressed his fear that there would be nothing to eat but meat. His fears were well founded. Behind some tables, a small bovine community was slowly rotating over coals and flames. Squatters from the community served up generous, seemingly endless proportions of rice, beans, meat, beer, and mango juice from the trees in whose shade we sat.

The program for the celebration started off with poetry stirring the still meager crowd to chuckles, yawns, and sighs, as only poets know to do. A moment of silence was held for those who'd died in Goiania as well as for those dead, tortured, and disappeared from the landless, homeless and other struggles. Throughout the night music, dance and theatre wq interspersed with speeches and statements of solidarity from the various unions, individuals and groups that had shown up to share in the celebration. The visitors were especially appreciated. Numerous locals embraced me with heartfelt warmth. And the feeling was mutual as I was inspired on a number of levels.

An old white haired man approached me. He'd come along as part of the FARJ delegation. He introduced himself - an anarchist who had fled Portugal for Brazil only to have to live under the dictatorship here. He told me the story of Olga Benário Prestes, a communist troublemaker arrested on political charges by dictator Getúlio Vargas regime and was delivered more or less as a gift of goodwill to Hitler who had her killed in Auschwitz in 1942. The squatters took her name as their own "in order not to forget". He repeated the words "not to forget!" with insistence before diversions of the party took us both elsewhere.

As the meat kept coming, the beer kept flowing, and economically poor rebels danced in those moments of solidarity, children and adults alike danced lambada to the band. And just as the celebration came to full swing, with OBP losing the inhibition of being around us, it was us anarchists who were getting sleepy. We waited for the cake cutting ceremony, and when the cake was most unceremoniously cut up and devoured we headed out.

Vila Conquista and Nelson Faria Marinho

I was invited to visit some occupations closer to Rio the next day. Other FARJists who also worked with the MEL (Movimento Educacao Libertario), an education collective inspired by Paulo Freire, the godfather of liberatory education, were visiting Vila Conquista to discuss the community's first popular education project. Entering the Vila, folks were relaxing and chatting in small groups. Some friendly faces from the FARJ called me over and I was introduced to Marcos, who immediately laid into me with a barrage of Portuguese. Not caring when I insisted I only speak Portuguese, a rough admixture of Spanish and Portuguese. I made do with occasional translation breaks which Marcos reluctantly tolerated.

"We are libertarian! We don't want anything to do with the state. We want self rule!" Marcos was passionate to say the least. He stressed the communities' refusal of leaders, and their horizontal intentions, the communities' resourcefulness in opposition to the state, their strong DIY ethics. Our conversation kept leading to education, though, and the importance of teaching people to read. With large numbers of adult squatters illiterate, literacy is an important elemental need in all the occupations I visited. Unable to pass a basic literacy exam, part of the basic entrance exam for schools in Brazil, people are kept out of schools, which for poor people with few resources is a catch 22 and a systematic entrenchment of poverty. Vila Conquista and its neighbor occupation Nelson Faria Marinho had a total of one teacher: Jonas, 13 years old and, though quiet (beside Marcos at least), full of warmth and intelligent creativity radiating from his smile. Jonas

took us around the corner to the school, a one room shack with a couple desks. At one, a girl practiced writing, while at the other a teenage kid sketched pieces in a notebook. "Graffiti!" Marcos boasted enthusiastically, pointing to the dance of contorted letters in the artist's fingers. On a chalkboard, some basic elements of anarchist theory were left over from an earlier day.

We left the classroom for the garden and compost pile, still in experimental stages, and then on to a recycling project started by a guy who'd started a similar project at the FARJ's centre, making furniture for sale from used plastic bottles and other trash-pickings. We were introduced to a shed loaded to the ceiling with empty tetra packs and bottles. The tetra packs were used as roofing tiles and insulation, Marcos explained. We were then introduced to an apparently wise and certainly crazy old man who took me aside for a whirlwind tour of his medicinal herbs.

I caught up with the rest of the MEL activists, as Marcos led us through both occupations, separated apparently more by theory than geography. Nelson Faria Marinho (NFM), which was also younger by several years, was noticeably less together than Vila Conquista, with more trash and less built up structures. Later when I asked someone about political prisoners in Brazil, I learned that a group from NFM had carried out an armed attack on a police station intending to spark off a general uprising. The spontaneous insurrection didn't occur and all the militants were snatched up, in prison to this day.

Vila Conquista's history, like those of many other Brazilian occupations, was punctuated by evictions, violent repression and trashing of houses. And again countered by stubborn resistance and persistence. The land, whose ownership was ambiguous from the start was squatted some 7 years ago by thirty-some families. After five years and the aforementioned troubles, legal proceedings on then part of the squatters gained them title to their land. NFM had only been squatted for the last few years, but support from Vila Conquista has kept them stable.

We made our way to where I first met Marcos, under a tarp rescuing us from the relentless sun. A meeting was getting underway between the community and the MEL to flesh out plans for organizing classes in the communities. When the meeting wound down, the idea of expanding Jonas' literacy classes had grown into a number of other projects including health education, self-defense workshops, and a fund-and food-raising benefit party for the squatters. We exchanged embraces and contacts and were off.

It was good to see that even in squatter occupations in Brazil, libertarian rebels finish their meetings with discussion on which bar to go to. We chose the only one we could find on the way to the bus. I caught up on bits filtered out via the language barrier. A woman from the MEL reaffirmed what seemed glaringly obvious, that Vila Conquista, though full of people with obvious drive and enthusiasm, is more often than not stuck with nothing to work with. Sometimes unable to afford the very basics, such as nails or school supplies, many projects just stop despite extensive resourcefulness on Vila Conquista's part. One such project is a small social centre, a building which could hold basic meetings and events. At Olga Benares Prestes the situation was similar, with various education and building projects coming to a stop because of lack of resources. Also the folks at both occupations, specifically asked to tell others about their existence, their struggles and in the case of Vila Conquista, certainly welcomed visitors.

By this time our table had filled to capacity with empty beer bottles, conversations had shifted from solidarity to Michael Jackson's trial and the sun had let up. Recharged with some inspiration and stories, we made the long bus ride back to the city of beaches, telenovela stars, surfers, and favelas - and ghosts of past struggles forgotten and remembered...

To support the efforts of Olga Benario Prestes or Vila Conquista, get in touch with onion via the defenestrator (onion@defenestrator.org) or write to the FARJ (farj@riseup.net). For info on the recent violence in Goiania, read Brad Will of NYC indymedia's 1st person account here: <http://defenestrator.org/x/newswire/display/157/index.php> Photos of the funerals <http://brasil.indymedia.org/pt/blue/2005/02/307913.shtml1>

PEOPLE'S GLOBAL ACTION

In November of 2004 representatives of People's Global Action came to Philadelphia to address a small gathering of people about the network. PGA, People's Global Action is a loose international network of thousands of resistance movements, organizations, and people struggling against capitalist globalization and towards a vision of global liberation. Such an array of groups from such an array of cultures and situations are inevitably, intentionally diverse. Without agreeing to any homogenized ideology or set of tactics or beliefs, all of the members of the PGA do agree to the PGA's Five Hallmarks. These Hallmarks provide the barest template for struggle against capitalism, and prefigures a world built upon different relationships: horizontal instead of vertical, liberatory rather than oppressive, a world where people are tied together by solidarity instead of exploitation. The broad network includes landless squatters' movements in Brazil (see Onion's article on pg. 10), anti-GM movements in India (see Bronwyn Lepore's article on pg.6) and anti-globalization and anti-capitalist movements in the United States and elsewhere.

At our meeting in November, the defenestrator collective decided to become an infopoint for the PGA, and in this direction will be publishing a PGA page (such as the one you're reading) with info about PGA actions globally. We are also more generally interested in drawing

THE PGA HALLMARKS

1. A very clear rejection of capitalism, imperialism and feudalism; all trade agreements, institutions and governments that promote destructive globalisation.
2. We reject all forms and systems of domination and discrimination including, but not limited to, patriarchy, racism and religious fundamentalism of all creeds. We embrace the full dignity of all human beings.
3. A confrontational attitude, since we do not think that lobbying can have a major impact in such biased and undemocratic organisations, in which transnational capital is the only real policy-maker;
4. A call to direct action and civil disobedience, support for social movements' struggles, advocating forms of resistance which maximize respect for life and oppressed peoples' rights, as well as the construction of local alternatives to global capitalism.
5. An organisational philosophy based on decentralisation and autonomy.

connections between local struggles and issues, and global ones. As capitalism tries to integrate the world into its machineries of death, we must start to recognize that our actions have global implications, and that global events affect us as well. It is our hope that the cultivation of a global consciousness can help to inspire us to cast off the roles we have been dealt and rewrite them in a way that respects human life, nature, and our planet.

Globalization from Below

-penelope

On Saturday night (3/23/05) Paul and I headed over to the A-Space to see a presentation on "Globalization from Below". To be quiet honest I was not exactly sure what the presentation was all about, all I knew was that it involved Native American resistance to globalization. Needless to say I am happy I went. The Story is as follows:

In Ponca City, Oklahoma there sits a Continental Carbon Company (CCC) plant, at the edge of the Ponca reservation. The Paper Allied-Industrial Chemical and Energy Workers International Union (PACE) which organized many of the workers at the Continental Carbon Company found themselves locked out at this plant during contract negotiations, so they promptly went on strike. During this time period the CCC brought in scab labor. these scab laborers were of course not as skilled as the union workers in performing the work they had to perform, so the already present pollution from the plant intensified, and a greater excess of Carbon Black was pumped out into the air.

The result of this intensification of pollution was black snowballs on the Ponca Reservation. The Ponca nation, disgusted with this continual toxicification of their environment joined with the PACE union members in protesting the CCC plant. The thing about the CCC is that it

is a subsidiary of the China synthetic Rubber Company (CSRC) based in Taipei, Taiwan, owned by the powerful and exploitative Koo Family. The Ponca people and

the PACE trade unionists seeing that this problem could not be solved without confronting the global nature of capitalism sent representatives over to Taipei, Taiwan. These representatives arrived in Taiwan and began a hunger strike in protest of the treatment of the union and the environment by this Corporation's policies.

These Americans found that they were not alone when Taiwan's first legal and autonomous national trade union, Taiwan Confederation of Trade Unions (TCTU), came out in support of them. The CSRC which encompassed the CCC, finally relinquished to the alliance of Native Americans, US trade unionists, and Taiwanese trade unionists. Though it was a limited victory, contract negotiation was continued in favor of the workers, and the company promised to implement stricter environmental protec-

tion policies, the fact that these three very different groups could come together and confront a huge corporation and win anything speaks to the power of solidarity.

This event brought up several questions: what does the globalization of resistance look like? How can we build coalitions and make them last? What can we do here in Philadelphia? How can we connect local struggles to the larger global picture? It is out of events like these that I find myself once again faced with the fact that in fighting the tentacles of capitalism, the fight itself must be and, in many ways is, globalized.



linocut by Dominic Lepore

Repression Greet National Strike Against CAFTA in Guatemala

On March 10, Guatemala's Congress voted 126-12 to approve the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), creating a trade bloc composed of Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and the U.S.. Guatemala is the third country to approve the agreement. The Guatemalan Congress circumvented the usual three-step approval process when the major centrist and right-wing parties agreed on March 9 to muster the 105 votes necessary to declare a "national emergency," which would allow a single vote on the measure. The vote, originally scheduled for March 1 was postponed after large street protests tied up the capitol. Protests continued on March 8, when thousands attempted to march to the Congress building in Guatemala City in a demo organized by the Indigenous Campesino Union and Popular Movement (MICSP). Heavy security prevented the marchers from approaching the building. At least 6 people were injured as protests continued on March 9. Thousands of National Civilian Police (PNC) agents cordoned off the two-block area around the Congress building and used teargas and nightsticks to disperse a demonstration. A smaller demo, of about 300, attempted to reach the Congress on March 10, the day legislators voted on CAFTA. Police agents using tear gas and blue-dyed water outnumbered the marchers, who still succeeded in shutting down part of downtown Guatemala City and filling the air with smoke from burning tires.

According to a March 14th phone report from Norma Maldonado of Mesa Global in Guatemala to a member of PGA (People's Global Action) North America, there was an extremely violent reaction to the national strike declared in response to the passage of CAFTA on the 10th. According to Maldonado, over 30,000 people took to the streets of Guatemala City, and were greeted by "1980's style" repression from the Army and Civilian National Police. The protest began at the U.S. embassy but when protestors arrived at the Parque Central (in front of the Presidential Palace) the security forces arrived and threw an enormous amount of teargas on the protestors. The show of force was so strong that people were forced to flee; many were running through the streets until they arrived at the offices of various civil society organizations, in which many were still barricaded at the time of Maldonado's call. She said police were roaming the streets detaining people and that they had no information as to what was happening to people in other parts of the city. Many on the streets were injured and warrants were out for so-called leaders of the movements. Numerous protestors, she said, were in the hands of security forces and those trapped inside were greatly concerned for their well-being.

compiled by Bronwyn Lepore from PGA NA lists and Weekly News Update of he Americas



Veggie Fuels

by Paul Walker

ALTERNATIVES TO CAPITALISM AND WAR

As the US tries to crush an upstart Islamic revolution in the East while tightening its control over the region's indigenous oil and water wealth, the experts seem to agree that the flow of oil will peak sometime in the next 20 years. According to a report by Al Jazeera, output at the world's largest oil-fields may have already peaked. Meanwhile, demand for oil rises. Corporate America, destructive and exploitative though it is, is not short sighted, or stupid. Already hybrid cars, running off of gas and electricity, are rolling off of production lines, along with vehicles driven by high-tech fuel cells which convert hydrogen gas into energy, easing the fears of American consumers and ensuring our continued dependence on the capitalist class and their monopolies on technology, resource extraction, and refining tools.

Hydrogen, a potential fuel source being given a lot of attention by the industry and the press, is an abundant element which can be refined from water or fossil fuels at a great expense of energy. While solar power could be used in the refining process (much as it could be used to power our cities and industries today) it probably won't be. The infrastructure doesn't exist, nor the will to shift the energy policies of today from hydro, nuclear, and coal power towards more sustainable and environmentally less destructive power sources such as solar and wind power. Even though hydrogen fuel-cells will release water as a by-product, a prospect sure to widen eyes, the real pollution occurs during the refining process when massive amounts of dirty fuel is burned. In a speech delivered in February 2003, George Bush emphasized the need for more nuclear power plants to meet the coming need for hydrogen fuel refinement.

Here in the US, and abroad, however, an emerging movement of do-it-yourselfers are trying to find their way out of the brutality and futility of our consumerist, war-addicted car culture. And what better place to start such a search than at the losing end of the capitalist equation, floating in the waste stream - in the dirty dumpsters and sticky barrels of America's back-alleys, parking-lots and locked dumpster pens; sitting behind local Chinese take-outs, Corporate fast-food joints and fancy sit-in restaurants waiting to be filtered (refiltered), preheated and combusted in the engines of yesterday's diesel school-buses, Volkswagon rabbits and pickup trucks. Veggie grease, or SVO (Straight Vegetable Oil) is really nearer to the peanut oil that the diesel engine was initially designed to run on. Designed in the 1890s by Austrian born Rudolph Diesel, the diesel engine was Diesel's attempt to improve upon the the efficiency

of the steam engine. Designed to run on peanut oil, Diesel envisioned an engine which could be fueled by the labors of his country's peasantry and agriculturalists. But his untimely death coincided with the emergence of fossil fuels as a cheap energy source and the veggie-oil idea was swept under the rug. With some relatively simple modifications, however, today's diesel engines can be modified to burn used vegetable oil.

[SIDEBAR w/ diagram ?]

The conversion is fairly simple. A second fuel tank is added which stores the filtered vegetable oil. The system works by starting the vehicle running on regular diesel. An extension of the existing coolant line carries the engine's heat to the veggie oil tank, heating it up to a temperature where it can be combusted in the engine.

Without a doubt there are obstacles on the road to progress. People's enthusiasm can cloud their vision and many people who are attracted to the idea of converting their vehicles to run on friendly fuels are not experienced car mechanics. While by no means inaccessible to anyone with the desire, mechanics, like all other things, take time to learn, and learning involves making mistakes. I've heard the tale (and seen the carcasses) of more than one failed conversion, and leaks, bugs and quickly clogged filters are not uncommon. The movement doesn't have the resources of the mainstream behind it and is, like many other sensible technologies, intentionally underdeveloped. It is improving though. Modified fuel-tanks, fuel lines and filters are being fabricated - complete systems, researched and re-engineered, are available for purchase or for use as a model for more ambitious do it yourselfers.

They don't serve veggie-grease at the pump - filling up means hitting the streets. Gina Favano, who has spent the last two years exploring the ins and outs of running a small touring school-bus on veggie-grease, has developed relationships with restaurant workers and owners in various cities on the east coast. Many appreciate the chance to get rid of their waste oil for free, and the chance to help... Once the deal's closed, the grease is either toted off in the five gallon containers it was originally

sold in, or pumped out of a 55-gallon drum with a small farm-pump connected to her battery. The oil is then run through a 5-micron sock-filter and pumped into the tank. The rest smells like french fries doing 70.

During the first years of our present century a cabal of arms manufacturers and corporate politicians forced a war down the throat of the world to underline the primacy of oil as a source of fuel and power, and to maintain their own precarious positions teetering at the top of the highest pyramids built to date by human hands. At some point it is difficult to say whether we need war to maintain the supply of oil, or if we need oil to maintain the supply of war. People across the world have resisted these designs in various ways. SVO isn't the only viable alternative to an oil economy, and it certainly isn't for everybody. It is one of a constellation of alternatives which could be used sustainably. But these choices are not left to us, they are made in board rooms and cabinets by powerful men. Veggie oil is just an example of how, without reliance on bureaucracy, governments and militaries, people can forge acceptable solutions to the challenges of existence, and how, when participation in today's economic system - made heinous by exploitation, war and death - becomes unacceptable, we can throw the old equations out the window and find our own ways forward.

For more info on veggie oil, bio-diesel and alternative fuels:
[From the Fryer to the Tank](#), by Kaia Tickell
[www.greasel.com*](http://www.greasel.com)
[www.greasecar.com*](http://www.greasecar.com)
journeytoforever.org
or contact Gina Favano at:
roxynpuppymobile@yahoo.com

**greasel and greasecar are sources of commercially available solid vegetable oil equipment, conversions etc. We aren't endorsing their products but the web pages have good forums and links and are a good place to look for information*

Open Letter to Radical Communities on Sexual Assault

The following is a letter drafted by Philly's Pissed & Philly Stands Up, two groups formed in response to sexual assaults occurring within the radical/punk communities in Philadelphia. They are included in order to provide alternative viewpoint on how to address sexual assault within communities.

We are two groups working together to combat sexual abuse. While rape and sexual assault are prevalent issues within our communities, we have noticed that when a survivor publicizes their story within said community, a few common reactions occur: Friends of the assaulter often respond with, "X would never do that." Some will accuse the survivor of being a liar, looking for attention, seeking vengeance or shirking responsibility for a consensual act that they later "changed their mind" about. People demand specifics, some sort of "proof" that an assault occurred. Folks claim to be allies, but do so in a way that undermines the validity of other survivors' experiences. None of these responses are acceptable and we demand that our communities, both in Philadelphia and across the country, examine and challenge these responses.

a) Friends of the assaulter often respond with, "X would never do that."

Of course they do. No one wants to think that a friend, fellow activist or band mate is capable of sexual violence. Making this even more difficult is that acknowledging that a friend may be capable of this involves a knowledge of and willingness to explore the insidious nature of patriarchy, classism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia and privilege that we like to think our radical community is immune to. When zinester Rich Mackin spoke with his friends about his actions after being called out publicly as a perpetrator, they told him they had always found his behavior to be overtly and at times offensively sexual. Before survivors came out, NO ONE THOUGHT TO TELL HIM THAT HIS ACTIONS WERE NOT ACCEPTABLE.

We demand that members of our community listen to all survivors with an open mind and with an eye to the intersecting nature of patriarchy, class, sexism, homophobia, transphobia and privilege that allows such behavior to occur without reprisal. We further demand that our community call out behaviors that display inappropriate and offensive sexual conduct.

b) Some will accuse the survivor of being a liar, looking for attention, seeking vengeance or shirking responsibility for a consensual act that they later "changed their mind" about.

And the subtler, but no less harmful-

c) People demand specifics, some sort of "proof" that an assault occurred.

The sentiment expressed is one that contributes to the climate where survivors are fearful to come forward with their stories. It creates the air that they will be disbelieved and questioned (as they so often are). It is for the survivor to decide and to expect the support from the people around them, even in the face of that miniscule percentage of false accusations. These situations are rarely clear. We know enough to not think that rape is only when some stranger jumps out of a dark alley

continued p. 15

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Movie Review

Hijacking Catastrophy

9/11, Fear, and the Selling of the American Empire

An iMMEDIATE Pictures Production
Narrated by Jullian Bond
Review by Paul Walker

Hijacking Catastrophe traces the rise of the Neocons, an extremist sect within the Republican party, and tells the story of how their agenda became the driving political force in our world today.

At the end of the Cold War, elements within the (first) Bush Administration recognized an opportunity for the expansion of American hegemony. In 1992 Paul Wolfowitz, working as Under Secretary of Defense Planning, responsible to Dick Cheney, wrote the Defense Planning Guidance. In it he outlined what became known as the Wolfowitz Doctrine: a blueprint for a new Rome - America's modern-day empire.

According to the 42-page document the US should be ready to "prevent any hostile power

from dominating a region whose resources would, under consolidated control, be sufficient to generate global power." The US is to be an unchallenged super-power globally, but also

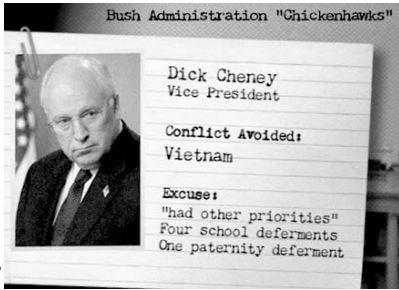
regionally. Foreshadowing the run-up to the war in Iraq, Wolfowitz points out that the US must be willing to forego international treaties, organization and law and form "ad-hoc assemblies" (the coalition of the willing?) or "act independently when collective action cannot be orchestrated." The draft identifies Iraq and North Korea as key threats and stresses the importance of maintaining control of Persian Gulf oil. It also alludes to the difficulties faced in convincing legislative bodies and the public of the sanity of such a policy, stating that a cataclysmic crisis like Pearl Harbor could provide a catalyst which would make such an imperialist program palatable to the American people.

During the Clinton Administration the Neocons exerted their pull through a think tank known as the Project for a New American Century (PNAC). A PNAC letter delivered to Clinton in January of 1998 outlined the neocon position on Saddam Hussein and Iraq using the very same (erroneous) logic outlined by W. Bush: that inspections were failing and that Hussein's existing or desired weapons of mass destruction posed too great a threat to American interests not to be confronted, and that the US must "take the necessary steps, including military steps, to secure our vital interests in the Gulf." Among its signatories: Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Paul Wolfowitz, Jeb Bush, Richard Perle.

Through a series of interviews and news clips, woven together by narrative, Hijacking Catastrophe gives a lucid account of the aftermath of 9/11 and the rise of Neoconservative

fascism. Lt. Col. Karen Kwiatkowski, retired from the US Airforce, discusses the

establishment by Donald Rumsfeld of the Office of Special Plans whose purpose it was to draw connections, whether they existed or not, between 9/11 and Saddam Hussein. "Sweep it all up," Rumsfeld says in a memo, "things related and not." "Hit SH" - that's Saddam Hussein. Disparate truths and untruths are melded into a public relations campaign fueled by lies and fear, and fed via a complacent media to a seemingly bewildered public. The campaign was a success: the public were sold - Iraq invaded. And what better way to demonstrate American dominance (and characteristic excess) than through a campaign dubbed Shock and Awe. Designed by Harlan Ullman who taught at the National War College, Shock and Awe is an assault against an entire society waged with such brutality that it causes complete disorientation among a population: a level of violence meant to destroy the will of anyone to fight. Welcome to the new American cinema.



After commenting on the unbelievable number of patents and trademarks taken out under the name of Shock and Awe (from children's toys to condoms) the film switches its focus from the systematic violence in the Middle East to the Bush policy at home. From the Patriot Act, which strips Americans - and particularly immigrants - of their

civil and human rights, to the squeeze put on working people as social programs are cut and our future sold into debt by draft-dodging elites who hide behind the bravado of war, Hijacking Catastrophe paints a poignant picture of a savagely self-interested elite who have successfully hijacked a society and world for their own aims. Among those interviewed are the likes of anarchist intellectual Noam Chomsky; Tariq Ali - editor of The New Left Review; Medea Benjamin, co-founding director of Global Exchange; Lt. Col. Kwiatkowski, Air Force whistleblower.

As with many others, the makers of Hijacking Catastrophe placed heavy stock in the recent election campaign, hoping that the maniacal course the ship of our empire was being steered could be swerved by a politician of moral fiber. In much the same way that public opinion failed to change this government's course in the run-up to the war, we were all disappointed by the outcome of the election. It seems rather likely that we would have been disappointed as well had the election gone otherwise. Mired in electoral politics, the film ends, for me on a bit of a dischord: that our inherent ability to act be subsided by the need to do our holy duty and vote. It seems we are capable of so much more. At the end of Hijacking Catastrophe Vandana Shiva, Indian anti-biotech author and activist, offers some hopeful words for us all in these dark times: "Good societies have cultivated fearlessness and hope among their citizens." If we find such fearlessness, what might we do with it?

Book Review

Confessions of an Economic

Hit Man

Richard Lord
American Nightmare: Predatory Lending and the Foreclosure of the American Dream
Common Courage Press (2005) \$16.95 233 pages

John Perkins
Confessions of an Economic Hit Man
Berret Koehler (2004) \$24.95 247 pgs

Review by Rafi Rom

A bedrock of the capitalist system is that those with money lend it to those without, guaranteeing major profit to the rich, while forever indebting the poor. The books listed above examine this phenomenon, and how it works within the U.S. domestic system and the international arena.

In "Confessions...", John Perkins recounts his life as an "economic hit man." He and his colleagues "build a global empire." "We are an elite group of men and women who utilize international financial organizations to foment conditions that make other nations subservient to the corporatocracy running our biggest corporations, our government, and our banks." The book demonstrates how developing countries are stripped of their natural resources by being conned into taking loans they will not be able to pay back.

"American Nighmare" exposes a different sort of forced dependency, known as predatory lending. Richard Lord, a journalist for a local paper in Pittsburgh, offers a detailed account of how major financial institutions—like Citigroup, PNC, and Ameriquest—make a killing by backing loans sold to poor people with incredibly unfair terms and interest rates. Unlike loans and mortgages determined by income offered to middle and upper class white people, "subprime" loans are based on the value of one's home, not on their ability to pay the loan back.

Although these two books may seem unconnected at first, a closer look reveals how both of them offer commentary on the inner-workings of the capitalist system, and how it indebts poor people globally. In both a geopolitical and domestic context, the wealthy class offers loans based on resources, not the ability to pay them back. Therefore, international lenders can guarantee that a profit is always made, even if the country or person defaults on payments.

For his job, Perkins travels to Ecuador, Panama, Iran, and Indonesia, to do the groundwork justify outrageous international loans and get the ruling class on board. "If an EHM [Economic Hit Man] is completely successful, the loans are so large that the debtor is forced to default on its payments after a few years. When this happens...we demand our pound of flesh...control over

UN votes, the installation of military bases, or access to precious resources such as oil or the Panama Canal."

Unfortunately, Perkins spends much more time lamenting about his past misdeeds, than actually describing them. A good chunk of this book is therefore wasted on making the author look better. For instance, rather than really explain how his actions crippled Indonesia, he offers a lot of anecdotal evidence of how, unlike other EHMs, he was at least interested in the culture he was there to destroy.

As a local newspaper journalist Lord's style relies more on hard "facts." He goes over in minute detail how predatory lending works, which is very similar to international lending, only on a micro scale. The collateral in these loans are homes, the bedrock of any family's life. Loans are made to poor, often elderly and disabled Americans, often in conjunction with some bogus home repair scheme or life insurance. Credit cards—which are unsecured—are added to the mortgage to beef up the amount, as are unexplainable fees. The interest rates are double the going rate for "conforming" loans, which basically makes it impossible to ever pay off the loan.

In both instances, the lender knowingly misrepresents the ability of the borrower to pay back the loan. As Perkin's Indonesia segment illustrates, by wildly exaggerating how infrastructure building would boost the country's GDP, he offered the justification needed for this exploitative transaction to take place. Small time brokers in the US use a host of deceptive tools - like padding the income of borrowers - to make loans unaffordable, trapping people.

Both types of loan are a sort of double-whammy. The Hit Man's motivation for getting IMF-like loans is that big amounts of money will go to (usually U.S. owned) contractors to build new energy systems such as dams or natural gas drilling sites - the money to do the work goes right back into U.S. pockets via contractors, and then the interest goes there too. So all the income basically leaves the country's borders.

In the US, home repair loans work in a similar manner. Local contractors go door to door selling home repair, and then promise potential customers to get them a good deal on the loan to pay for it. Contractors get paid up front for work (that oftentimes does not get done or is done terribly), and a finder's fee. The lender collects on the interest for as long as possible, and then gets the house if the person can no longer afford the loan. This happens, since interest rates go up, and many of these loans have a balloon payment built in, which means at a certain point the entire balance—now greatly larger, due to years of interest adding up—is immediately due.

continued p.15

Darfur, the Sudan, Africa and a Broken System

by Kitty Bryant

Darfur translates into "the land of the blacks," a name originally applied to a cross-strip of land from Eritrea on the Red Sea to Dakar on the Atlantic coast. The Darfur in the news today is a great kingdom that comprises the western region of the Sudan. The largest country in Africa, equivalent in size to the United States east of the Mississippi, Sudan is a nation blessed (or is it cursed?) with rich resources including gold and oil. Forty million Sudanese are divided among different tribes who speak different languages and dialects, and among contrasting religions, cultures, ecosystems (desert, grassy plains, swamps and rain forest) and economies.

The Sudan can be broadly divided into three regions: the great kingdom to the north, which is Islamic; the great kingdom of Darfur, to the west, which is also Islamic, and the southern Sudan which has always been separate, dominated by cattle and camel herders and under the influence of Christianity. As a whole the country is approximately 15% Muslim and 15% Christian, with the remainder following traditional African practices. Since the era of Ottoman rule, the Sudan has been governed from Khartoum, its capital and largest city, which lies near the center of the country, at the confluence of the White and the Blue Nile rivers.

The area that became the Sudan was conquered for Egypt in 1820 by Ali Pasha (who was an Ottoman Albanian Muslim) to extract gold and capture slaves. The Sudanese successfully revolted in 1881 against Egyptian rule under the leadership of a Muslim who named himself al-Mahdi (meaning "the guide"), but in 1898 it was reconquered by a combined Egyptian and British army, becoming like Egypt a colony of the British Empire. The British ruled out of Khartoum for more than fifty years, until January 1, 1956 when the Sudanese declared their independence.

The boundaries of the Sudan were established by the British in negotiations with the French. The borders were drawn with the intention of splitting tribal lands and weakening local rulers. Particularly between Sudan and its western neighbor Chad (then ruled as a colony of France), these artificial boundaries fueled land disputes and encouraged border encroachments.

The media tends to reduce the complex competing interests in the Sudan into simple-minded formulas, such as a "clash of civilization" between Arabs and Africans. This is a false dichotomy in a mixed population where Arabs and Africans commingle and intermarry. An endemic conflict in the Sudan arises between 14 farmers and herders, and tribal customs developed to judge and

enforce claims for compensation. But the current government has worked alongside foreign nations and global corporations to destroy the bases for the old tribal mechanisms of conflict resolution. Modern conflicts have flooding the country with weapons and increased the power of warlords and mercenary militias.

The violence in Sudan cannot be understood as



Displaced woman shelters from the rains in Al-Junaynah, West Darfur, IRIN / Claire McEvoy

the result of any single factor, but rather as the outcome of long-standing grievances and natural political divisions. From the beginning the newly independent nation was torn by a colonial heritage of undemocratic practices and a plunder economy. The British as well as the other big powers, from behind the scenes, have used the consequent political instability to their own advantage. Russia has been eager to sell the Khartoum government Russian fighter jets to the tune of \$ 300 million dollars, while China launched into oil development in southern Sudan by clearing tribal land of its native inhabitants.

The current regime, the National Islamic Front, came to power in a coup in 1989 and adopted the goal of transforming the Sudan into an Islamic Arab country. It escalated the war against the rebel movements in the south into a jihad against Christian and pagans. To fight this jihad, the government disbanded the national army (whose soldiers did not support the coup or the jihad) and funded in its stead mercenary militias which report to local warlords.

Even though Darfur is majority Islam, its people have been terrorized by local janjaweed militias who often operate beyond the control of the central government. The people of Darfur are the most visible victims of instability and war in the Sudan, because they exist in the crossfires of international, regional and tribal conflict in an area that has been devastated by drought and denied a political voice. The poverty in Darfur is so extreme that the lives of most people consist of a daily struggle to survive the intense heat of the day, the cold of night, and the scarcity of anything edible. Over 2 million people have been displaced from their homes, 85% of them women and children.

The civil war between Khartoum and the south has been moving recently towards a peace

agreement, but there is reason to doubt that this will benefit the people of Darfur. Beyond the immediate crises are the ongoing consequences of a political and economic system, which benefits the rich few - the rulers in Khartoum, the war lords, the "big powers" who extract oil and profits - and leaves the poor behind. In this very central way, the crisis of Darfur is not an African problem, but instead a global problem, less about genocide and more about an international system of power (political and economic) that exacerbates inequality as it fails act in favor of human development and democracy.

The rhetoric of genocide has been a diversion rather than a serious engagement with the sources of misery in Darfur. (This is not in any way meant to diminish the horror of the thousands of deaths due to ethnic cleansing, etc., but to question more deeply the roots of existing conflicts). It was the height of hypocrisy for the US, through its top diplomat Secretary of State Colin Powell, to charge the Sudanese government with genocide, then to follow this charge up with exactly nothing, by way of action. The

African Union (reformed three years ago) has been a convenient forum for the international community to delegate responsibility to, but it has neither the money nor the experience nor the troops to bring security to Darfur.

The failure to address the suffering in Darfur threatens to spread across the Saharan region. From the perspective of Africa we can see a continent of 53 countries suffering from poverty and lacking in

democracy. From a world perspective we can see nations like Indonesia, Egypt, Pakistan, Colombia and Afghanistan suffering from poverty and lacking in democracy, governed by elitist authoritarian regimes propped up by US and European aid and investments. We see governments spend billions on weapons systems and mercenary militias in lieu of education and development projects. We also see competition between the big powers on the UN Security Council undermining, rather than promoting, solutions that would put more power in the hands of local people.

Readers Note: My source for much of my information and points-of-view is a talk given by Omer Ismail on January 15, 2005 at a Crisis in the Sudan Program held in Camden at the Bridge of Peace Community Church, sponsored by the African American Coalition for Peace in the Sudan. Mr. Ismail, a native of Western Sudan, helped manage international relief programs until he fled following the 1989 coup by the National Islamic Front. He now lives as a refugee in the United States. In Washington, D.C. he helped found the Sudan Democratic Forum and The Darfur Peace and Development Program.

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Target Iran, cont

were, in many ways, more brutal than the Shah) social justice and an end to economic and cultural corruption all of which appealed to the urban poor. Such appeals, no matter how false, which seem to have replaced the call of revolutionary Marxism, partly explain the power of Islam as the world's fastest growing religion.

The U.S., while unhappy with the fall of its puppet, saw an Islamic republic as a different kind of threat than communism (which was closer to the goal of the Iranian left) and, in the early 80's turned to the more secular Ba'athist Saddam Hussein for support (Khomeini was Sh'ia). After the fall of the Shah Saddam became the new "pal" of Britain and the U.S. in the Middle East. Additionally, Saudi emirs and sheiks were fearful of the Islamic revolutionary spirit infecting their people (interfering with the power of the Saudi monarchy) so they gave support (money and arms) to Hussein, along with the U.S., essentially promoting the Iran/Iraq war (which lasted almost 10 years and caused over 1 million deaths). Iran still has hostility towards the U.S./Britain for feeding Iraq weapons and military intelligence (with the intention of containing Iran as a different kind of political force than its earlier Cold War enemies). Two Middle Eastern countries fighting and killing each other, in the view of U.S. strategists, was better than one (or both) becoming a force against the West. Many question why Hussein was not taken out at the end of the Gulf War, but again, U.S. strategists preferred Hussein's strong-arm secular brutality to the rise of an anti-U.S. Islamic nation. The U.S. military paused just short of Baghdad not

wanting to defeat Iraq too handily as this might have strengthened Iran.

What is most frightening about Hersh's report is the sense that, more than ever, the fate of U.S. decision-making (and thus the fate of other countries) is in the hands of an increasingly shrinking number of "mad-dog" power-hungry nutcases like Donald Rumsfeld:

"Rumsfeld will no longer have to refer anything through the government's intelligence wringer," the former official went on. "The intelligence system was designed to put competing agencies in competition. What's missing will be the dynamic tension that ensures everyone's priorities — in the C.I.A., the D.O.D., the F.B.I., and even the Department of Homeland Security — are discussed. The most insidious implication of the new system is that Rumsfeld no longer has to tell people what he's doing so they can ask, 'Why are you doing this?' or 'What are your priorities?' Now he can keep all of the mattress mice out of it."

The anti-war movement had a long lead up time before the War on Iraq started and we still lost. Given the increasingly secret strategy of geo-politics and resource wars, it's hard to know where and when the next bomb will drop. An increased call and pressure for an end to the occupation of Iraq, successful counter-recruitment goals (against an increasingly strapped military) and serious pressure on the corporations profiting from the war (and who would stand to profit from ongoing wars) are tactics that must be pursued more vigorously by movements in the U.S. if we hope to stop the madness of the coming wars.

Confessions..., cont

Herein lies the way capitalism forever indebts poor people. Yet things are even worse. These debts have terrible impacts on the environment and community. Perkins, now an environmentalist, offers horrifying examples of how dams, canals, and other infrastructure changes have decimated the environment. And subprime loans do the same to the local community. Houses are left in disrepair, record numbers are foreclosed, and communities evaporate. Thus the glut of empty homes in Philadelphia.

In *Globalization and Its Discontents*, another confessional book written by the former President of the World Bank, Joseph Stiglitz talks about how loans are linked to "capital account liberalization." In other words, in order for countries to get loans they must expose all of their resources and institutions to the privatizing global market. During the Asian Financial Crisis, Stiglitz writes how he was "shocked that the IMG and the US treasury would push this agenda with such force, in the face of a virtual absence of theory and evidence suggesting that it was in the economic interests of either the developing countries, or global economic stability—and in the presence of evidence to the contrary." Although Perkins does not write about this crisis in his book, it would be fair to guess he would not have been shocked

Open Letter, cont

and puts a knife to your throat. It must be at the forefront that statistically false accusations are minimal and that condemning someone of falsely accusing is the usually the first defense of an actual assaulter.

A community working on sexual assault cannot be one that puts a person who comes forward as being sexually assaulted on trial to find facts. If we are perceived as a community that does not unconditionally support survivors, it compromises the entire community. This does not allow for a safety net to deal with false accusations, but waiting until absolute truth can be established before acting on these situations would kill any movement forward we would try and make. And once again that would involve putting a survivor on trial to make them prove themselves before support is offered.

at all.

Predatory lending is a serious threat to this country's communities, and, as Lord outlines, is only going to get worse under four more years of Bush. Moreover, lenders are branching out globally, to attack developing countries from yet another angle: A November 2003 speech by HSBC...outlined the company's global growth strategy..."Population will shift to where employment is strongest and taxation is lowest... Emerging markets seek credit support to establish their middle class." The same speech indicated that HSBC is rapidly introducing Household's products in Brazil, Mexico and Poland, with more country to come.

The name Household in the sentence above is the euphemistic title of one of the nation's worst predatory lenders. Household Financial makes thousands of predatory loans per year. Then they do an industry standard—they "bundle" the loans, and put them on the market for others to invest in. Mutual Funds often invest in such bundles, as it guarantees a relatively high return on interest, even though its only a fraction of what Household actually charges on interest.

Both books very keenly demonstrate that this system's complexity makes us all accountable and responsible.

We demand that members of our community unconditionally support survivors and work to ensure that survivors' demands are followed through.

d) Folks claim to be allies, but do so in a way that undermines the validity of other survivors' experiences.

This follows along with the above responses, oftentimes validating the demands of a particular survivor but questioning another's. This further plays into multiple power dynamics:

- 1) an individual or community having the ability to "choose" whether to believe someone or not, based on often arbitrary variables,
- 2) the re-traumatization of a survivor having to deal with their assault in a public manner,
- 3) the initial power the perpetrator had over the survivor and continues to have, as it is much simpler to call someone a liar than to publicly "prove" that assault occurred. Coming forward with an assault is something that will result in a survivor's loss of personal power more than one time and as ALLIES we do whatever we can to NOT contribute to that process.

Additionally, true allies are not concerned with publicly supporting survivors as a way to make yourself look good. No matter what your involvement is in combating sexual assault, IT IS NOT ABOUT YOUR EGO; IT'S ABOUT MAKING CHANGE.

We demand that the members of our community submerge the personal gain they stand to benefit from supporting survivors and instead provide their unconditional support to combating sexual assault. We demand that the focus be on the survivor's needs and on our community's need for transformation into a place where sexual assault is not acceptable.

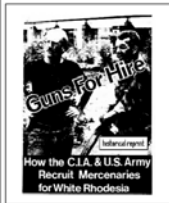
We submit these demands based on our individual and group experience working with survivors of sexual assault. We submit these demands based on the hurt and trauma that our community members have suffered at the hands of malicious and malingering responses to their experiences of sexual assault. We submit these demands based on our faith that we, as a community, are strong enough to autonomously deal with our problems, even those that are contributed to and shaped by outside forces. We submit these demands based on our hope that one day survivors will be able to safely name their perpetrators and receive the support they need.

In Solidarity, Philly's Pissed, Philly Stands Up>Contact us at phillyspissed@safe-mail.net or phillymen@riseup.net

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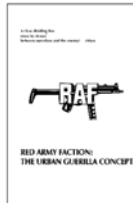
Coming of Age: A New Afrikan Revolutionary by Safiya Asya Bukhari
A Kersplebedeb-Spear and Shield co-publication
17 pages \$1.50 US
From the introduction: "Read 'Coming of Age' and become aware of the path taken by one New Afrikan woman as her youthful search for the "amerikkan dream" led her to conscious participation in the New Afrikan Independence Movement, to the Black Panther Party; the Black Liberation Army; to capture and imprisonment as a New Afrikan Prisoner of War." This text first published in 1979.



Guns for Hire: How the CIA and US Army Recruit Mercenaries for White Rhodesia - a Historic Reprint from the 1970s
40 pages \$3.25
From the introduction by Jon Dough: "Although the CIA's mercenary operation for Zimbabwe had failed in the end, the machinery remains as a covert weapon that can be restarted and put to use in new imperialist interventions and wars in the Global South. That's why this investigative report still has useful knowledge for everyone tracking the bloody footprints of the u.s. empire."



The Religion of Capital: A Satirical Exposure of Capital's Claims to Sanctity by Paul Lafargue
59 pages \$3.00
Written in mock-biblical style by this early Marxist (actually old Karl's son-in-law), this witty attack on the bourgeoisie has been out of print for decades. Bitterly funny, a caustic attack on capitalist "morality". Includes a biography of the author.
This text practically begs to be used by some radical theatre troupe as a piece of classic anti-capitalist culture.



The Urban Guerilla Concept by the Red Army Faction (1971) translation and introduction by Anthony Murphy
37 pages saddle stitched \$2.50 US
The first major ideological text from West Germany's most famous urban guerrillas. Apart from setting out the justification for armed struggle this text touches on: the strength of the capitalist system in West Germany; the weaknesses of the revolutionary Left; the significance of the German student movement, the meaning and importance of internationalism; the importance of class analysis and political practice; the failure of parliamentary democracy, and more.

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April 2nd -Saturday

Ollin Yoliziti Calmeac performing traditional Aztec Ceremonial Dancing at the Philadelphia Art Museum at 6pm.

Sat. April 2

8pm at the Rotunda An evening of surrealist and Avant Garde films in honor of artist Salvador Dali and the Dali exhibit at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Featuring work (shown on DVD) by Russian filmmaker Yevgeniy Yufit, and others.

Sun. April 3

7pm at the Rotunda Rising Sons This is the 3rd edition of Rising Sons. These awesome men bring poetry and performing arts to another level. Just James, EB Benard, Kinyon Linear and more to be

announced!

April 7th-20th

14th Annual Philadelphia Film Festival at the Ritz East, Ritz Bourse, Prince Music Theatre, The International House, and The Bridge, more info, schedules, etc: www.phillyfests.com

April 8th-Friday

There Should be Justice: Documentary Screening on Padraigín Drínan, Human rights Lawyer in Belfast @ A-Space, more info: melissa@tallgirl-shorts.net

April 10th-Sunday

Defenestrator Homebrew Benefit 2pm till night at 4833 Walton Ave. (half a block down from Baltimore Ave.) more info:rosa@defenestrator.org

April 15th-17th

St. Calling for an end to executions in PA. info: waxte55@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 what you can pay, 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

Philadelphia Green Party

General membership meets the fourth Monday of every month at the Ethical Society on Rittenhouse Square, 1906 S. Rittenhouse Sq, at 6:30pm.

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: jor-

Washington DC- World Bank and IMF Demonstrations (check out www.indymedia.org for links to DC groups organizing and updates on activities)

April 23rd-Saturday

Harlem, N.Y. Mumia's Birthday Demo and Celebration, meet 12pm at Marcus Garvey Park, info:(212)330-8029

April 23rd-Saturday

Seedling Swap at A-Space 11am-1pm: Get ready for Gardening, bring seeds, clippings, seedlings, etc. to trade and share.

May 14th-Saturday

20th Anniversary of the MOVE bombing rally and demonstration, as well as freedom for the MOVE 9 political prisoners. Assemble at 63rd and Osage

Sts. (W.Philly) at 10:30am for rally-11:30am march to Malcolm X Park at 52nd and Pine Sts. for Demonstration. more info:call (610)499-0979 or (215) 687-1147 or email:onomave11ja@aol.com

May 21st-Saturday

Families to Abolish Life Without Parole Conference at Temple University Main Campus, Ritter Hall (13th and Cecil B. Moore Ave) for more information or to register call (215)843-0620, visit www.reconstruction.org/conference2005

June 18th-21st

Biodestruction Conference Philadelphia. more info: http://biodev.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.

Food Not Bombs

In a country hungry for war, that bombs countries hungry for food...join Food Not Bombs Every Sunday at 3:00 PM; 20th St. and The Ben. Franklin Parkway For more information: foodnotbomb-philly@yahoo.com, and at 6pm at Cedar Park 50th St. and Baltimore Ave. West Philly

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: jmjpp_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

Independent Media - www.phillyimc.org

Document resistance, record change, Be the Media! Self-publish audio, video, photos or text articles: http://www.phillyimc.org/submit.pl

Announce upcoming events: http://protest.net/philly2 Join our working groups: http://lists.phillyimc.org

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

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.

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215.413.0999 woodenshoe@rocketmail.com

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

The Divine Bicycle Church - Bike repair co-op at Neighborhood Bike Works. Tools, advice and recycled parts available. Every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday from 6:30-9pm
40th and Locust Walk, behind St. Mary's 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

danpcy@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

Philadelphia Anti-War Forum Cafe

3rd Thursday of each month at the Rotunda, 4014 Walnut St., more info, phone: (215)727-0882 box 3

Radio Volta - http:radiovolta.org

A project of the Philly indymedia center, broadcasting since 2000, Volta continues to grow, featuring over 30 hours of live programming and ten hours of syndicated news each week. Get involved: volta@phillyimc.org

Open Mic Poetry

Every 3rd Friday at the A-Space at 7:30pm, free! donations appreciated, a presentation of Poems not Prisons

Dissent in America Teach-ins

Every Friday at 3:30pm at Temple University Main Campus, History Department Lounge (Gladfelter 914), a variety of topics-still to come The Weather Underground and Red Army Faction, A Soldiers View of Iraq, and Making the World Safe for Starbucks: Globalization of Yuppie Culture. For more info and schedule:

www.temple.edu/history/Teach%20Ins.html

After School Art Club

Mondays and Fridays 4:15-5:30pm @ A-Space
Join the young gardeners from Pentridge St. for

Wise Women's Center

Open Wed 10am-2pm, Thu 4-8pm, Sat 10am-3pm
735 S. 50th St.
215-729-WISE

The Spiral Q Puppet Theater

3114 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104
spiralq@spiralq.org
215-222-6979 Fax: 215-222-7002

Women's Anti Violence Education

1501 Cherry St., Phila, PA 19102
(215) 241-5720
aware1@afsc.org

The Rotunda

4041 Walnut St. Puts on a variety of community, political, musical, and more events, all for free or donation based

Robin's Bookstore

108 S. 13th St. Center City,
(215) 735-9600, www.robins-bookstore.com. Lots of great events and readings, check the website for scheduled events

exciting craft projects and open art studio sessions. A healthy snack provided. Adult volunteers and snack and art supplies donations needed, call Erin (215)726-0263 box 8

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 McTigue: 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@bookthroughbars.org for more info

International Concerned Family & Friends of Mumia

General Meetings: First Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm at American Friends Service Committee building (15th and Cherry Sts.), People of color for Mumia Meetings: Third Wednesday of the month at 7pm at Pearl of Africa (between 5th and 6th on South St.) Phone: 215-476- 5416 or email: ICFF-MAJ@aol.com 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: