

FREE

THE ALARM!

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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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Battling Corporate Media

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□ When “news” becomes advertising and entertainment, there are alternatives right here in Santa Cruz County

By MICHELLE STEWART

The Alarm! Newspaper Collective

“Of all the cartel’s dangerous consequences for American society and culture, the worst is its corrosive influence on journalism. Under AOL Time Warner, GE, Viacom et. al., the news is, with a few exceptions, yet another version of the entertainment that the cartel also vends nonstop.”—Mark Crispin Miller, The Nation (12/01)

When we toss fifty cents into a coin box for a daily paper, or snatch up one of the weeklies on the weekend, do we consider what we are buying into? People often seem acutely aware of the threat of Big Business to local economy. A case in point is the local opposition to chains like Wal-Mart, Home Depot or Borders. Yet we “purchase” media with little question about the coporations behind them. When we channel surf, when we buy CDs, when we use a cell phone, when we listen to CNN, when we gobble up a DC comic book, when we watch the Good Will Games, when we surf the internet, when we plop children in front of Cartoon Network, do we recognize that the purveyors of entertainment are also the sources for the news we watch, read and listen to? Do we recognize that the efforts to make Comedy Central a viable cable outlet are the same efforts that go into making CNN “your source for news?” Where we decide to get our news is both a consumer and a political choice. Yet we are more likely to understand the significance to the local economy if Wal-Mart comes to town than if we get our news from a cable network.

When the Giants are regulated

The current state of the media is governed by two dominant forces: capital/capitalism and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC); and as it stands, the latter of the two is buckling under the pressure of the former. Currently there are only a handful

of media groups that dominate most of the major media outlets in the US and the world. Three of these major groups—AOL/Time Warner, Viacom, and Disney—are at the top in this nation and are the three leading groups in the world. These major media outlets own everything from print media and record companies to cable news stations and sports teams (see back cover chart). With mega-mergers always just around the corner it is important to understand the issues at hand and what is at stake when Big Media becomes more concentrated—leaving just a few companies with most of the power and control over the airwaves.

“The oppressor” is what FCC Chairman Michael Powell calls regulation of the airwaves. The Republican-identified son of Colin Powell has the FCC under his control and threatens to deregulate the entire industry in favor of “healthy” competition. In this endeavor, Powell has support from major media conglomerates as well as smaller monopolies in both the print and televised media. From the point of view of deregulators, there is a need to ignore the 1945 Supreme Court case, *Associated Press v. US*, in which the Justices stated “the widest possible dissemination of information from diverse and antagonistic sources is essential to the welfare of the public.” Media giants today call this ruling archaic, believing that diversity can be found in the number of news outlets; opponents to this line of thinking point out that despite the apparent diversity in the number of news outlets, the fact of the matter is that all of these “outlets” are owned by just a few corporations. This is an especially compelling matter, and one of much debate, when one considers the current political landscape and the threat that deregulation poses.

At the center of the debate regarding deregulation are two key FCC rules/

regulations: 1) that a company can not own a newspaper and television station in the same market, and 2) that a cable company is only allowed to reach a maximum of 35% of the total households (in entirety not in a market area). In the case of the latter of the two rules, the line of thought has been that the rule allows for “competing voices.” However, the rule has recently found itself in court. In a ruling handed down by a federal court in April 2002, the court stated the cap of 35% and the notion of “competing voices” was “arbitrary and capricious” and ordered the FCC to look at the rule and justify it or drop it—a major blow to advocates of regulation, and a breakthrough for proponents of deregulation, including the Chairman Powell of the FCC.

“The FCC is mulling it over. But the handwriting is on the wall. The ban appears doomed,” wrote Neil Hickey in the *Columbia Journalism Review* (07/02).

The lifting of either of these two rules could be disastrous for media that is not yet consolidated. If the first rule regarding dual ownership in the same market, is over-turned, anti-deregulation activists estimate that half of the print media not yet owned by large corporations will disappear into the pockets of the conglomerates or other media moguls, leading to a further loss in journalism as papers become vehicles for advertising rather than news.

In the case of the access to audiences by cable companies, the concern is that cable news networks (like CNN) will be able to buy each other, or that television stations (like ABC) will be able to purchase one another. Many analysts agree that cross-purchasing is not far off—ABC purchasing CBS, etc. Among the opposition to such practices and deregulation is the National Association of Broadcasters,

Go see **MEDIA** on **Page 11**

Letter from an Editor

If you like it, help us save it...

This is the 20th edition of *The Alarm!* That's right, 20th, so we decided to do something special. By focusing on local indy media, it was our intent to illustrate the significance and abundance of alternative sources for news and commentary in the county. We chose an interviewing format to allow the voices of those involved in producing independent media to speak to you, the reader, directly about their motivations and intent. What is often forgotten about this type of media is the personal aspect, the fact that these projects involve individuals who exert a lot of sweat and tears into the work—by rejecting corporate media and deciding to become an active voice in delivering news to people, you find yourself compiling a new list of ethics and standards that are often in response to the media you are rejecting. But it is also an empowering project in which you meet new people and encourage them to write what they see. Ours is a project where the journalist is not defined by the college degree but rather the ambition and tenacity to explore a new skill and inform the community about events. To look around Santa Cruz county and to realize that independent media can be found on the radio, on the television and in print is significant. We are not taking over, but we are a visible and significant alternative. But it's not all toil then triumph.

Perhaps it's not really a coincidence that the 20th edition of the paper focuses on independent media. I say this because as the indy newspaper we are slipping off the end of the rope—the financial rope—which is calling into question our ability to produce the next issue of the paper. This is not

an alarmist call for aid, but rather a matter-of-fact statement that we are broke.

What is most disheartening about this situation is that you, our readers, are growing with each print run. Notice that there are two pages of letters this issue, many of which came just days after we placed papers on the streets. The empty racks across the county let us know that with a print run of 10,000 we are falling short and could likely be distributing 20,000 come December. But that is what is disheartening from my immediate perspective. In a larger sense, what is at stake is an evidently-needed alternative.

We don't claim to be the "right" news or to hold the "true" information that every Santa Cruz county resident must know. What we claim to be is an alternative to other weeklies in town. What we strive for is to further assist the independent media outlets in the area and supplement and diversify their contributions to the community at large. And from this ambition we find there is an audience, there is a community of people who expect more from an "alternative" press than the show times and bar guides. It is to that audience, and the others who will join them, that we wish to continue on this project we call The Alarm!

The question then becomes how. For we refuse to generate a paper that is 75% advertising content and we will not sell our paper off to a larger publisher. We will remain an independent and go down an independent if that is what is required. A while back we decided that news should not be for sale and removed the coin mechanisms from our racks. You responded by

embracing our project and making it your paper. Today I ask: are you, the reader, willing to fight for this paper? Do you want more from a newspaper than Macy's ads and half-ditched local news? If the answer is yes, then help us. If you wonder what the local response could be to such a request, I ask you to look at the newspaper stands and coffeeshops on November 15, 2002. If there is a crisp stack of *Alarm!* papers sitting there it means there was something worth fighting for and we will continue this project as a community. If there is an old issue of the paper sitting there that has a front page story about indy media, it means that circumstances forced us to skip an issue. But, it doesn't mean we've stopped working.

In either case, let me say just three things before you press on and read this edition. The first is to thank you for seeing a little paper in a black box, giving it a try and letting us know what you thought of it. The second, is to ask you to read Blaize Wilkinson's Retrospect this issue and realize that other useful papers have come and go in Santa Cruz. It is not to have a pity party but rather to see that this county has a history of loving the indies. Have we reached the point where we are willing, as a community, to really fight to keep one going? I want to be here toiling on with stories and computer glitches on November 14th. Do you want a paper on November 15th or in February 2003? We are in crisis, and need your help. Independent media in Santa Cruz is an excellent alternative to corporate media, but without support there can only be corporate news and analysis. —Michelle Stewart

A few words with the outgoing mayor

What follows is an excerpt from a conversation between The Alarm!'s Fhar Miess and Santa Cruz Mayor Christopher Krohn about activism and electoral politics, their contradictions and their intersections. In the longer conversation, Krohn addressed the mixed bag that is electoral politics in Santa Cruz: the way in which speaking as the mayor of even a small city can encourage others—not just elected officials—across the country to voice their dissent; how his many hours spent on city council have given the opponents of his own grassroots activism a reprieve; how electoral politics in Santa Cruz is very much an "art of the possible," where councilmembers must take advantage of spaces opened up by chance and activism to legislate positive change in the community. He went on to share his thoughts on the state and the course of activism in Santa Cruz.

Alarm!: Where do you think things are going? What do you feel good about? What do you feel critical about?

Christopher Krohn: I'm very hopeful living in a community like this, like Santa Cruz. I think it's a great place. I think there's very few places like it. The people who have decided to live here, they want particular things. I think they have a very keen sense of environmental justice and fairness. And the whole notion of peace *with* justice. A lot of times people think we live in wacko Santa Cruz or something but I think that a lot of the values people have here come out of a long tradition of activism and the social justice move-

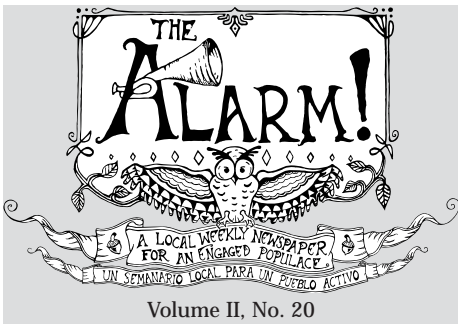
ment. I think we'll weather the economic storms and the national storms, which were not created by the "crazies" at city hall. The people who've invited in all the Wal-Marts and Kmart's are suffering even more than Santa Cruz is. One might say that they were enjoying more wealth at one point than Santa Cruz has because we didn't have that, but I think they're suffering much more now. And they're living by their politics. I think people in Santa Cruz have to be willing to live by *their* politics, and of course there's going to be a notion of "we're elitist." "You have these white well-off people who're much better prepared to weather the storms than people of color or economically disadvantaged people." That could be true. I think that we always have to be aware of those issues and sympathise and try to make policy and decisions with that in mind. I kind of think that was made when the Gateway shopping center was built, when Costco was invited into town, when the Borders debate took place. There were strains in the progressive community about what economic development is versus spending for social programs. I think we rely right now on gas stations and car dealers and Gateway and Costco as our major tax producers. People have to think, you know, "is that hypocrisy?", and is that the kind of town we want to live in, and can we come up with other forms of economic activity that aren't harmful



to the environment, or as harmful to the environment, but also create a tax base for the city. I have ideas about how to do that, but....

A!: Are you hopeful that there is public will to do that?

CK: I think there is a subtle political will. It's just like highway widening, it's not a public conversation as much as it should be. I guess it takes leadership and direction and putting that on the agenda.



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Through the use of strategic investigation and innovative analysis, we aspire to provide quality reporting on the news of Santa Cruz County as a means to inspire and engage individuals and the community at large. We strive to cover news that matters directly in peoples' lives. We are not interested strictly in local news, but wish to connect the local to regional, national and global issues.

The Alarm! Newspaper is distributed free of charge locally through newspaper racks and can also be found at select businesses and organizations throughout Santa Cruz county. Our print run for this issue is 10,000 copies. Home delivery and postal subscriptions are also available (see back page for rates and instructions for subscribing).

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The Back cover art prepared by Granville Williams of the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom for the New Internationalist www.newint.org. The chart was prepared in February 2001, so some of the information has changed as these moguls continue to consolidate their assets.

If you are interested in contributing an article to *The Alarm!*, please see the guidelines for submissions on our website or call the office.

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Write to Us!

All letters to the editor will be published, with the following guidelines:

- 1) No letters over 350 words
- 2) No commercial solicitation ("plugs")
- 3) No event announcements or personal ads
- 4) Letters to the editors must be sent "attn: Letters" via post or to letters@the-alarm.com via e-mail (we will assume that if you send letters to these addresses, you want them published—if you have general questions or comments, send them to info@the-alarm.com). We prefer e-mail.
- 5) Letters received on paper by Tuesday at 5pm or via email by Wednesday at noon will be published the same week.
- 6) We reserve the right to reply to any letters in print in the same issue.
- 7) Play nice.



Dear Editors,

I enjoyed the issue of the Alarm devoted to Domestic Violence very much. Coming from a background of child abuse, it meant a lot that you guys took so much time to research the issue and present excellent coverage of it.

I thought how you handled the story with the confidential sources was done perfectly.

The chain of DV can be broken, as evidenced by me and my siblings who fought hard to overcome what we physically and emotionally experienced in childhood so our children would not carry it forward. I think we succeeded.

Thank you for devoting an issue of the paper to it. This is the kind of journalism that makes a positive difference to society. Maybe it will make a difference in Santa Cruz.

Sincerely,
BECKY CLARK
Publisher/Editor,
The Idyllwild Town Crier

Stop dissing the Jessie Street Marsh!

Dear Editors:

In your recent article on "Santa Cruz Water Issues" you attribute to nameless "activists" the characterization of the Jessie Street Marsh as an "elaborate plumbing project in the middle of a densely-populated neighborhood," and say that "it could better be described as a cesspool, contaminated with dirty needles, used condoms and other urban runoff."

From this description, I'm afraid your readers may get the false impression that there's nothing worth protecting or restoring in the Jessie Street Marsh. In fact, it strikes me as heaping abuse on already abused landscape. I live near the Marsh, and am working with other neighbors to clean it up and to get the city to make good on its plan to restore the marsh habitat.

At its core, the Jessie Street Marsh is not a human-constructed "project" but a remnant of the tidal marsh which once surrounded the river mouth. It is in fact a federally-protected wetland. Unlike the other 90% of California's coastal wetlands, it hasn't completely disappeared.

It is true that the Jessie Street Marsh is located in a densely populated, low income neighborhood and has been degraded by past and present human activities. It is also home to frogs, salamanders, newts, snakes and small mammals. Many species of birds, such as barn owls, falcons, downy woodpeckers, chestnut-backed chickadees, etc., which would otherwise never be seen so close to an urban area, can be found in the Jessie St. Marsh.

As well as providing valuable habitat for animals, the Marsh is an important

travel route for human-powered traffic. In a neighborhood that lacks safe walking and biking routes, Marsh pathways form an off-street way to get from Lower Ocean to Oceanview Park and the Seabright neighborhood. And for many kids in this neighborhood whose families cannot afford wilderness getaways, a walk through the Marsh can be a way to experience nature—we hope to make it a better and safer one.

The area between Barson and Lemos Streets is a freshwater marsh. When you have a piece of land that is one to three feet lower even than the surrounding low-lying neighborhood, into which drain several springs as well as seasonal run-off, it's really hard to have anything else. By removing removing fill dirt and replacing the flap gate under the river levee with a slide gate, saltwater marsh habitat could be at least partially restored to the open field between East Cliff and Lemos Streets. The saltwater marsh habitat is so endangered that recreating it in this "artificial" way is still a worthwhile undertaking.

I am not arguing with you that a radical re-organization of our relationship to each other and the world around us is necessary. Let's start by respecting and caring for the living things in our own place on Earth, no matter how imperfect or wounded they may be.

The Friends of the Jessie Street Marsh holds its next volunteer clean-up on Saturday, November 16 at 10 a.m. Please call 423-7883 or visit www.v-linkstudio.com/marsh for more information.

VICKI WINTERS,
Friends of the Jessie Street Marsh



Volunteers help with cleanup efforts in Jese Street Marsh

Opinions about water in Santa Cruz

Hello

I was recently visiting some friends who live in Felton and picked up a copy of *the Alarm*. I noticed the article on the issues surrounding Felton's water supply and showed it to my friends. They were completely unaware of the plans for RWE-AG to purchase the

water supply system in Felton. Thank you for making the public aware of this issue through your thoroughly-researched and well-written article.

My friends are very alarmed about this issue and feel kind of helpless to do anything about it. One criticism I would have of your article is that it doesn't provide any information about what actions people might take, phone numbers they might call or groups which might be involved in fighting this acquisition. If you have any such information, I would be very appreciative if you could forward it to me, so that I might inform my friends.

Thank you again for making the community aware of this issue and I hope to hear from you regarding any resources you might know of for public involvement.

BILL MURPHY
San Francisco

To the *Alarm*:

"Moneyed and conservative town has second thoughts about private ownership of public resources" would have been a better title for the October 18 article, "Felton fights privatized water." If the people of Felton wish to get their water system out of private hands, let alone to keep it out of foreign hands, they ought to buy it. *Alarm* writer Fhar Miess claims "local jurisdictions lack the capital resources to fund improvements for water." Nonsense. Dissatisfied with private water service, the people of San Francisco voted in 1908 to build a superb publicly-owned system at their own expense. The Hetch Hetchy Water and Power System now needs billions of dollars worth of maintenance, and voters will decide whether they are willing to fund this with higher water rates.

"Progressives have second thoughts about publicly-owned utilities, clean water, and renewable energy" would have been a better title for the article "Hetch Hetchy, restore the valley or rebuild the dam." Though the flooding of Hetch Hetchy Valley was regrettable, the people of California have inherited a gem: one of the nation's purest water sources, and also a ready source of renewable, hydroelectric energy. Restore Hetch Hetchy's Web site confirms my suspicions: the "Our Proposal" page gives not a single detail about making up for the loss of this source of clean water and renewable energy. And every day that would be spent conducting the "feasibility study" that Restore Hetch Hetchy wants would be a day not spent securing the water supply for millions of Bay Area residents against the inevitable risk of earthquakes.

Yours truly,
MR R. PAUL MARCELIN
Santa Cruz

Dear Editors,

Cutting the Oil Umbilical Cord

Many say we should be developing alternate energy sources. But they are already developed but not widely utilized. Santa Cruz *Good Times* ran an article within the last 2 years about an existing Solar Cell to charge batteries which inverters produce 120 volts alternating current in phase and frequency with the outside electrical grid. If you doubt this exist go on the Internet at www.mrsolar.com many complete systems are featured there according to power demand. Costs for a system that would make a house 95% self-sufficient run between \$10,000 to \$20,000. The reason I say 95% self-sufficient is 5% of the time you need to run off the outside Electrical Grid to perform repairs and maintenance. OK, so market forces have not been

sufficient to produce a migration in quantities to reduce in meaningful way Oil consumption. What is needed to make it building code that houses must be 95% energy self-sufficient first starting with new construction then requiring homes that are being sold to be upgraded to meet this standard. The people that have the money to buy a home going for \$400,000 to \$500,000 can afford the additional \$10,000 to \$20,000 added to their mortgage. This could be done by the City or County of Santa Cruz (think Globally act Locally). Having no electrical bills would offset the added monthly charge to the mortgage caused by adding this system. Some benefits of this are as follows. Remember the disruptions done to the electrical grid by the 1989 earthquake or the rain storm of 1982 the fewer people without power during such disasters the better. Oil fired power plants would be only supplying power and pollution 5% of the time during repair and maintenance of these systems. The added value to your home. Electric vehicles and hybrid vehicles can be charged at home without adding to your electrical bill. Billions of dollars from the State Treasury would not have to be wasted on companies such as Enron and their oil consortium buddies as no energy crisis would exist. Oil companies that have hijacked our Democracy by purchasing the only candidates that you can vote for on Election Day would have less money to use on their skull drudgery. In closing the current infrastructure of power production and distribution is 19th and 20th century technology unsuited for the needs of the 21st century. The technology already exists what is lacking is the political will to divorce ourselves from the oil companies.

Thank-you
SHAWN PIGOTT

It takes all Kinds...the "Pong Letter"

EDITOR'S NOTE: We often get an interesting response to the paper. However, other times we just get items such as the following. But in keeping with our policy of printing all letters, enjoy!

Part 1

Druid Knot on Holy Oak. From a Pool of Shadows, call I out, a shadow plague of that highly invasive, nasty weed called "Fairy Bells." It propagates by quite astronomical—and by deep runners underground. Rate of growth like that of common mold of bread. Each graceful plant consists of a basal clump of about 25–30 leaves and a stout trunk of about two to three cubits in height. From each stalk hang five to seven dangling silver bells, each on an arched and curving stem. Each Bell sounds the clean note "PONG" when it is touched of quivers in the wind. But what is this! There has been some cosmic glitch—some of the plants are tobacco leaved, while others have the leaves of Marijuana. Worse yet, in about a quorum of the plants, the DNA has been switched. The tobacco leaves are full of THC, the Marijuana leaved contain a lot of Nicotine.

Ave Aeolus, Rex Venturum, Boreas et Austen, Eurys et Favonius.

Winds blow in all directions. Keep those "Fairy Bells" a ringing.

Pong Pong Pong Pong Pong Pong

Part 2

Sodden Hussie Underground Labo-
Continued on **Next Page**

Your Letters

ratories has developed a new genetic marvel a real wonder with “freezing” capability, a cocaine banana. Pull back the peel—a perfect organic suppository. “Bush Bros” the variety name. The variety is quite prolific.

P.S. Sound of “Pong” when inserted, sound of “Pong” when pulled out, pong, pong, pong, pong, pong!

Part 3

Ha Anabis. Arise now from the Pool of Set, Seven (7) Massive, puffy Rubenesque and quite lascivious thunder clouds of shifting rosy pinks in color. Seven shogun sized Imari platters (which sound the musical note of PONG when bonged) oiled high with buns. The clouds of the Cumulo-Nimbo-Copro-Shittus type scud along in loose formation. A heap of fat ladies buttocks scrunched together. Here and there the faces of US Supreme Court Justices appear and scowl. Flashes of chic elegant and gay lavender lighting caress the cloudy cheeks before they strike in odd and unexpected places. Thunder sounds of poops and giggles. A pelting hail of mean proportioned lumps of Osama bin Laden Afghani-Hashish brownies is discharged in cycles. Intermittant showers of blood spackled Digitalis blossoms. The clouds sail in to take position above the US Dept. of Justice—and will remain until recalled.

HAROLD A. SWEET, PH.D.

Trustee of the Corrella Shuttleworth

Family Trust and much, much more

Holder of the Seven Seals

Politics, opinions, politics, opinions

Dear Editors,

As a retired County employee and past Union member who contributed to their recent strike fund, I was appalled at the rush to endorse a candidate for the 3rd District supervisor early in the primary before any other candidate had entered the race. Is this the Democratic way? It is this type of action which gets the Union a bad name. I, for one, will *not* vote for their endorsed candidate, Mardi Wormhoudt, whom I supported in past elections. I urge voters in the Third District to consider voting for the challenger. Mark Primack is a new and refreshing candidate with new ideas and a vision for the future of our community in these difficult times. It is time for a change from the outdated policies of our current supervisor.

SHEILA STUART

Santa Cruz

Editor;

In your extensive coverage of Santa Cruz water issues, I was surprised to see fluoridation included. This is not an issue about water, but about health—because water fluoridation is well-documented for over 50 years, to dramatically reduce dental disease in communities where it has been adopted.

Fluoride occurs naturally in all water supplies and can be found in trace amounts throughout Santa Cruz County. The beneficial effects of fluoridation were first detected in the 1940s, and once established, communities throughout the United States began adjusting fluoridation of their water systems to optimal levels, about

one part per million.

Today, nearly two thirds of U.S. citizens enjoy the benefits of community water fluoridation. Cavities in these communities are reduced by 20–40% in adults, and up to 60% in children. The benefits are so well established that the Centers for Disease Control named fluoridation one of the top ten public health achievements of the 20th century, with measures like prenatal care, immunizations, and family planning.

It's important to realize that fluoridation is not mass medication as its opponents claim. It's a natural, beneficial nutrient, like iron, Vitamin D, calcium and numerous others that are essential for optimal health.

Watsonville, particularly, can benefit from water fluoridation. The level of dental disease in this community approaches that of a third world country. Screenings of elementary school students conducted by Dientes Community Dental Clinic found that 75% of the children had untreated dental decay—twice the state average, and three times the national average.

Two years ago a wide coalition of Watsonville's leaders began a campaign to adopt fluoridation. In July 2001 the Watsonville City Council voted its support, and earlier this year the city received a grant of nearly \$1 million to proceed with construction and operation.

Measure S, a confusing and misleading anti-fluoride initiative, qualified for the Watsonville ballot largely because of exaggerated scare tactics by its backers. Measure S is opposed by virtually every dentist, pediatrician, and medical organization serving the Watsonville community.

Why should well-educated, wealthy communities like Palo Alto, Santa Clara, Berkeley, San Francisco, Beverly Hills, Mountain View—and over 125 other California cities—enjoy the benefits of fluoridation, while the children of Watsonville are denied?

We urge a vote *for* fluoridation, and *against* Measure S.

To read more about this issue, I recommend

<http://www.santacruzhealth.org/phealth/health/Dental%20Health/4Fluoride.htm>

BRUCE K. DONALD, DDS

Chairman,

Monterey Bay Dental Society

Fluoridation Committee

Santa Cruz

Dear *The Alarm!*

In Response to the dentists who have signed their names to a political advertisement that recommends water fluoridation for Watsonville, I wish to point out the following:

In non-fluoridated cities such as Watsonville, fluoride drops and tablets are commonly prescribed as a substitute for fluoridated water.

Health professionals can not prescribe just any amount of fluoride for a child. They are ethically obligated to follow the age/dose schedule as published in their own journals: American Dental Association, June 1995 19-S, and Pediatric Dentistry May 1998, (RE 9511).

The four stages of the age/dose prescription schedule for children in non-fluoridated cities are:

Birth to six months: NONE;

Six months to three years, the equivalent of one cup of fluoridated water/day

Three years to six years, the equivalent of two cups of fluoridated water/day;

Six years to 16 years, the equivalent

of four cups of fluoridated water/day.

Obviously, beginning with “NONE” for infants, it is impossible for a parent to match their child's intake of fluoride from water to the lower amounts in a pill.

Therefore, each dentist and doctor who recommends water fluoridation is saying that children should ingest fluoride in water at levels higher than they can ethically prescribe in a pill. They are publicly advocating overdosing children with fluoride.

Some may argue that plasma peaks from fluoridated water cannot cause the same damage to developing teeth as caused by tablets...not true. Please see “Determinants and mechanisms of enamel fluorosis,” G.M. Whitford (Toxicologist) 1997.

Increased porosity of the dental enamel at varying levels of severity is one result of fluoride overdose and in California it is classified as a health effect rather than as cosmetic damage alone.

The health professionals' position against measure S is even more irresponsible in light of several dental journals' and the CDC's clarification that there is no physiological way that ingested fluoride can reduce tooth decay.

While the health professionals recover from their “fluoridation fantasy,” we can keep our drinking water safe and fluoride-free by voting Yes on Measure S.

PATTIE MILLS

Santa Cruz

Dear *Alarm* Editors,

Every year People Power (Santa Cruz's Bicycle Advocacy Group) sends out surveys and makes endorsements. The year's supervisor race is particularly important. One of the candidates, Mark Primack, has been promoting himself as pro-bicycle while being the only city council member to vote against bike lanes on Soquel. He actively wants to widen Highway One. Mardi Wormhoudt, on the other hand, has been an important opponent to the move to widen Highway One. She was also instrumental in gathering the 10 million currently earmarked for the acquisition of the rail line. She supports Broadway Brommer. People Power is endorsing her.

For Santa Cruz City Council, People Power endorses Tim Fitzmaurice and Mike Rotkin. Tim Fitzmaurice is “opposed to highway widening.” He has “actively supported the acquisition of the rail line and the building of a bicycle/pedestrian trail alongside of it.” He mentioned lots of important details that will need to happen to do it. He has a wait and see attitude about Broadway-Brommer. Tim has been the most important council member in the push for Soquel Bike Lanes. For transportation he mainly walks and takes the bus. Mike Rotkin “does not support widening Highway One.” He writes, “think of what we could do for a public and alternative transportation system in the county with \$400 million dollars.” He supports the rail trail and the two-bridge Broadway-Brommer path. He says that he has “supported every bike lane that ever came before the Council while I was a member.”

Transportation and its relation to growth, pollution and class struggle, is a predominant issue in today's politics. In as much as transportation affects your vote, please carefully consider these endorsements or, better yet, call us at 425-0665 to look at the complete surveys for all the candidates.

MICAH POSNER

People Power

Correction:

Last week we made a mistake when we ran Chris Kortright's letter in response to Robin A. Kopit's letter responding to his commentary in the previous issue of the paper. The following is the full response he intended for publication:

I am writing in response to the letter Robin wrote in the last issue of *The Alarm!* attacking my article on the Middle East.

1) I do not consider Israel a “demon nation.” As a matter of fact, I do not believe in demons, devils or god; as such, I do not use them as descriptions or metaphors when criticizing the domestic or foreign policies of a nation-state. I also have not only criticized Israel; the last article I wrote for *The Alarm!* criticized the domestic policies of both Israel and Egypt. But my criticism do not end there. I have attacked the domestic policies of the US in *The Alarm!* I don't know if you see a trend, but I am critical of nation-states, their leaders, and their policies of repression. I have no desire to ignore the policies of Israel any more than those of the US, Egypt, Sudan, Britain, etc.

2) Robin did not address any of the actual issues in my article because all of the laws I discussed are on the books in Israel and the fallout of these laws are well documented by human rights groups from Israel, the US, Europe and Arab countries, as well as the UN. I do not see where presenting actual laws in Israel and showing their fall out is “immature and adolescent.”

3) There is an assumption in the letter that I do not recognize the significance of the Holocaust. I recognize the significance of the Holocaust and, just like US policies towards the indigenous peoples of this country and African Americans, I understand that these events have a strong bearing on the present, but this does not create an atmosphere where any nation-state's policies are above attack.

4) Last I would like to address the ultimate message of the letter. Because I attack policies of the Israeli nation-state, I am anti-Semitic. First, as a person that does not believe that any nation-state represents the needs and will of its subjects, I do not equate Israel with the Jewish people. Second, the nation-state of Israel doesn't equal the entire Jewish diaspora, as can be seen by the anti-conscription movement in Israel and the Jewish populations in the US, Europe and Israel that are extremely critical of both the domestic and foreign policies of the nation-state. Quoting Martin Luther King, Jr. does not change the fact that there is an extreme difference between a people and a nation-state. Quoting King's interpretation of “God's own truth” does not make the argument stronger because God did not create the nation-state. I also find it highly suspect that King would support the policies of the Israeli nation-state, but I may be wrong.

I will continue to be critical of all nation-states, their leaders and their policies. I will continue to attack repression and state violence. This does not make me anti-Semitic; it makes me an anti-statist, and for this I will not apologize.

—CHRIS KORTRIGHT

Sanat Cruz

Anti-War Protesters Rally in San Francisco

By **RICHARD LANGE** and **GRAHAM PARSONS**
The Alarm! Newspaper Contributors

An estimated 80,000 people gathered Saturday, October 26 at San Francisco’s Justin Herman Plaza to express their opposition to President Bush’s proposed plan to invade Iraq. The rally, which is being called the largest the city has witnessed since the Vietnam War, took place in solidarity with a gathering of as many as 200,000 people in Washington, D.C. Similar demonstrations also took place in Berlin, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Rome, London, Mexico City and Tokyo.

The event in San Francisco began at 11:00 a.m. with a series of speeches by a variety of activists from an assortment of political groups. Helen Caldicott, president of the Nuclear Policy Institute and author of *The New Nuclear Danger: George Bush’s Military Industrial Complex*, called the 1991 Gulf War a war crime. She listed the health costs of that war, costs measured in cancer rates and birth defects that have dramatically increased as a result of the large quantities of depleted uranium left by exploded American warheads. She also discussed the danger of a nuclear attack on Iraq during any future conflict. According to Caldicott, Bush has expressed a willingness to use nuclear weapons against Iraq. She said such an attack has the potential to trigger Russia’s early warning system, which could accidentally launch a

retaliatory strike toward the US. Other speakers included Trent Willis of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union who called for an end to the Bush administration’s attacks on organized labor. The crowd was also treated to a performance by the group Spoken Word and a rendition of “Dump the Bosses off Your Back” by



GRAHAM PARSONS

80,000 people turned out in San Francisco to protest the Bush Administration’s pending war with Iraq; a joint protest in New York City drew an estimated 200,000.

folksinger and longtime peace activist Utah Phillips, who also reminded people to curb their consumption of oil, either by riding bicycles or using public transportation. Phillips believes that oil plays a crucial role in the current push to topple

Saddam Hussein. The crowd, including a group sporting smiling Bush masks and waving dollar bills, responded with raucous applause and chants of “No Blood for Oil.”

At 12:00 p.m. the gathering began its march down Market Street toward the Civic Center Plaza. The sea of protesters filled the wide street from curb to curb as spectators climbed newspaper machines, lamp-posts and trees in vain attempts

in the hundreds. Topping the crowd was a forest of signs and banners that showed that people from all walks of life oppose the war. The messages “Drop Bush Not Bombs” and “Regime Change Begins at Home” were particularly popular. The atmosphere in the thick of the march was festive, as people danced to several percussion groups and sang their way down the route. At various times, the

truck passed through quickly. Peter Camejo, the Green Party’s candidate for California Governor, participated in the march, standing in the bed of a pickup truck, handing out Green Party pennants and posters and greeting supporters. Many marchers carried Palestinian flags, expressing their support for the Palestinian people in their decades-old struggle with Israel, an American ally. The group International ANSWER, one of the rally’s main organizers, stationed members at various spots along the route to collect donations and call on marchers to continue the fight for peace.

Upon reaching the Civic Center, the crowd packed the plaza and spilled onto the adjoining streets as a second wave of speakers addressed the crowd from a stage constructed in front of City Hall. Among them were Peter Camejo, US Representative Barbara Lee and actor Amy Brenneman. They called on President Bush to drop his proposed invasion and allow the United Nations to try to settle through diplomatic means the questions surrounding Hussein’s alleged weapons of mass destruction.

Santa Cruz subs unionize

By **HEATH STEVENS**
The Alarm! Newspaper contributor

Finally, substitute teachers have a chance to speak out against the low pay and poor working conditions that they now experience. Last May, the American Federation of Teachers Union decided that they wished to represent the substitute teachers working for the City of Santa Cruz school district. Five months later, AFT has been recognized by the Santa Cruz City School Board as the official bargaining unit for the Santa Cruz City substitute teachers. On Thursday, October 24th, the contract negotiations committee will meet with the Santa Cruz School Board’s representatives in order to demand living wages, benefits and a better review process for substitutes in the Santa Cruz city school district.

How much money does it cost to live in Santa Cruz?

Currently, in Santa Cruz, subs receive only \$75 for a full day of work and \$43 for a half day. (A half day is defined as 239 teaching minutes, which may extend to up five and a half hours of onsite work.) As things are now, substitute teachers are treated as temporary workers with no raises, job security or guaranteed hours or income. They have no way to negotiate grievances and, in addition, they are subject to an annual review process which they have no participation in. They are given little opportunity to

comment upon or address any issues about this process, even though a negative evaluation may cause them to become blacklisted from working at a particular school. They are certainly never allowed to have a face-to-face discussion with the teachers or staff members of a school that may have turned in a negative evaluation concerning them.

Get paid every two months?

Another interesting aspect of substitute teaching is that once you begin to work at the beginning of the school year, due to eccentricities in the payroll process you are not paid for a full two months after you have begun working. So, if you were to begin work in early September, you would not receive your first paycheck until November 10. I’m unsure how many people, (especially low income workers), in Santa Cruz have enough savings to be able to go two months with absolutely no income, but apparently substitute teachers are somehow expected to manage.

What does it take to be a sub?

Substitute teachers are required to have a Bachelors degree and to pass the CBEST, a temporary certification test, yet they are often paid at a rate of about \$10 an hour, a rate which is below the \$14-an-hour living wage quoted by the Santa Cruz City Council. In fact, substitutes often receive less remuneration than might be avail-

able to them at a restaurant or retail service job downtown, jobs that do not require a Bachelors degree or any higher education.

As things stand, it is hard to see why anyone would wish to continue working as a substitute teacher. But, with the high unemployment rates and intense competition for jobs in the Santa Cruz area, many people interviewed still find that substitute teaching can supplement income from another full- or part-time job, or can be a temporary way to make money while looking for other work.

Homeless teachers?

Another interesting aspect of the substitute teaching story is that at least some portion of substitutes are homeless, especially those who are attempting to survive solely on the income derived from substitute teaching. Terry, one substitute interviewed, had been a substitute for many years while he lived in his car. He currently lives in his RV in a church parking lot and bathes at a local gym while attempting to work full time by subbing for several school districts simultaneously in order. Another substitute, Donald—although he now lives in an inexpensive group household downtown—“camped out” for several years while working as a substitute. He currently only uses subbing as a supplement to the income he makes from another job he has at a local

organic farm. It has been the author’s experience that similar stories of housing troubles seem to abound in the substitute teaching community.

Does it make any sense?

Considering the current anti-homeless political climate in Santa Cruz it is interesting and potentially embarrassing to see that the city is paying its own educators so little money that they may be houseless themselves. Currently, the right wing in this country has an agenda that supposedly is very concerned with the proper moral education of “our children” so that they may go on to become model, gainfully employed citizens who are able to purchase a car and rent or buy a place to live. It certainly does not set a very good example when the very people who are teaching “our children” are homeless themselves

Due to lack of income. It seems to me that if these bureaucrats and politicians really wish to create a better world—and a society in which people do not go to school or work and randomly start shooting others—they might start by putting their money where their mouth is and begin to provide more funding for our teachers and public schools.

For more information, or if you are a substitute teacher who has not yet signed your union card, you may contact George Martinez, AFT union representative, at 425-8939

Regional: Labor Issues

Teamsters Local 705 denounces war plans

By SHAWN GAYNOR
Asheville Global Report

Asheville, North Carolina, Oct. 23 (AGR)—In a reflection of the clearly growing sentiment against war on Iraq, the country’s second largest Teamsters local, based in Chicago, Illinois, denounced Bush’s plans for the war in Iraq. The resolution, passed October 20, was brought by handlers from the CACH and Jeff Street UPS facilities, and states that “Teamsters local 705 stands firmly against Bush’s drive for war.”

The resolution was passed at a membership meeting attended by roughly 400 Teamsters, and was only discussed for about 10 minutes before

passing with only one member casting a dissenting vote. “There was not very much discussion on it because there was no dissent,” stated Paul Waterhouse, a 705 official, who added that there were many Vietnam veterans who had served in the US Army and Marine Corps present at the meeting. The Teamsters, whose transportation industry jobs are tied closely to oil prices, state in the opening of the resolution: “we value the lives of our sons and daughters, of our brothers and sisters more than Bush’s control of Middle East oil profits.”

“We have no quarrel with the ordinary working-class men, women, and children in Iraq who will suffer the

most in any war,” the resolution continues. The measure raises concerns that the cost of the war will take away billions of dollar from social spending on schools, hospitals, housing and social security. In a clause representing the union’s belief about the motives behind the proposed war, Local 705 states: “Bush’s drive for war serves as a cover and distraction for the sinking economy, corporate corruption, layoffs and Taft-Hartley [used against the locked out ILWU longshoremen].”

“This is the start of doing anti-war work, not the finish,” said Kieran Knutson, a steward at the Jeff Street UPS who co-sponsored the resolution. “Union resolutions, by themselves,

don’t mean anything unless they are used by activists in the workplace to build sentiment and action against the war.”

The 21,000 member union local intends to talk to other Teamsters locals in the area about their concerns about a possible war on Iraq. “We hope this resolution encourages other workers to adopt similar resolutions and encourages the growth of anti-war activities in the labor movement,” concluded Knutson.

To support Local 705 in its stance contact their office at 312-738-2800

Labor Notes

Canadian newspaper publishers face striking workers

Twelve hundred workers at the *Winnipeg Free Press* went on strike October 9 after contract negotiations with the new owners of Canada’s largest independent daily newspaper broke down. The contract expired on September 30 and 96% of the workers eventually voted to strike against the company’s proposed take-backs. Workers went back to the job on October 18 with few major gains, but without concessions, either. FP Canadian Newspapers Ltd. Partnership, the new owners, had wanted to institute a two-tiered wage system which would pay new employees less and rescind certain rights of part-time workers. The 1,100 workers with Communications Energy and Paperworkers (CEP) and 60 pressmen with Graphic Communications International Union (GCIU) won wage and benefits increases and some improvements in working conditions. During the strike, CEP issued a request to its membership: “We’ve already asked you not to vandalize the Free Press sign. Now, we’d like to take it to the next level by returning any letters you may have stolen.”

Meanwhile 275 workers at the *Victoria Times Colonist* have been on strike since September 3 over efforts by the employer to reduce benefits to part-timers, outsource work and reduce the number of unionized workers. The three unions representing the workers earlier rejected a contract offer that

included wage increases. Negotiations were broken off on October 12 due to the impasse. Union officials have indicated that the strike may stretch into the spring. In the meantime, the *Times Colonist* is publishing a scaled-down weekly version of the paper. For their part, the striking workers have published the *Picket Post* several times per week. The unions have photographed and tracked scab replacement workers in attempts to identify them.

In addition, 45 workers represented by the Communication Workers of America (CWA) have gone on strike as of October 11 against the *Cobourg Daily Star* and *Port Hope Evening Guide*, both owned by Osprey Media Group Inc. At issue are wages, benefits, compensation for mileage and an employer proposal to reduce sick days. The strike was authorized in September by a 93% vote.

Indian power workers campaign against privatisation

Around 50,000 power employees staged a *satyagraha* (nonviolent protest, in the tradition of Mahatma Gandhi) on October 18 in cities across the Indian State of Uttar Pradesh as part of a week-long campaign. The workers, including junior and senior engineers, are protesting a government plan to break the State Electricity Board into four separate power distribution companies, a move which the workers say is an attempt to spearhead full privatization of the power utilities sector. After the *satyagraha*, the Uttar Pradesh Power Technical Employees Joint Action Committee called for a work boycott from October 22 to October 24. The government declared the action an illegal strike. The continuing stalemate has prompted the group to extend the strike indefinitely.

Rancor between the two sides escalated after the UP Power Regulatory Commission announced a significant rate hike on October 23. Rates will increase by only two percent for industrial users, but 141% for the power employees themselves. Rates for the domestic sector will increase around 15%. Consumers across the board have criticized the hike, while power employees have emphasized the failure of privatization efforts in other Indian states, drawing attention to rampant power shortages and outages. The extent of those crises dwarfs last year’s energy problems in California.

Millions of workers engage in general strike against Italy’s Berlusconi regime

Hundreds of thousands of workers marched in cities across Italy in 120 locations as CGIL (*Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro*), the nation’s largest union, representing six million workers, called for a general strike against economic policies proposed and instituted by the regime of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. One of the largest of the rallies was held in the northern Italian city of Turin, where the automaker Fiat holds its headquarters. The company recently announced layoffs of 20,000 of its workers while the Berlusconi administration aims to reform a 1970 law to make it easier for firms to lay off workers. The previous day, 1,000 workers traveled from a Fiat factory in Sicily to protest in Rome, where they were thwarted by police from marching on the government’s headquarters.

The general strike is the second this year. The first, which took place in April, was called by CGIL along with the two next largest Italian union federations, CISL (*Confederazione Italiana Sindacati Lavoratori*) and UIL (*Unione Italiana del Lavoro*). Thirteen million workers went out on strike to protest government policies in what was the nation’s largest strike in 20 years. CISL and UIL have since cut deals with the government and each urged their members not to support the latest strike.

Sources: Reuters, World Socialist Website

French education workers strike and protest funding and job cuts

Only three weeks after utility workers struck nationally in protest of plans to partially privatize France’s utilities (see article in the last issue of *The Alarm!*), the nation’s education workers went on strike and rallied at around 100 locations around the country, crippling the education sector for the day. Tens of thousands of workers took part in the action on Thursday, October 17. The strike was announced after Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin proposed the 2003 national budget, which called for the slashing of 5,600 jobs for classroom aides. The government also indicated that it would not renew contracts with 20,000 young people who work in France’s school system.

Source: Associated Press

Can you believe it?

Indian record company sues Hip Hop star

A record company in India has slapped a \$500 million suit on Hip Hop star Shari Watson a.k.a. Truth Hurts and her producer Dr. Dre for using excerpts from an old Hindi film tune in their hot dance club hit, Addictive, reports *India Today*.

Addictive uses a sample from the song “Thoda resham lagta hai” from the 1980s Bollywood film *Jyoti*. When the song was released, it had many Indians jumping up and down as they saw Bollywood’s prolific music industry finally make an impact in the recording industry in America. Saregama record company in Mumbai, which owns the rights to the song, said however the record producers never got permission to use the Indian excerpt. They are filing a lawsuit against Watson, Dre, Interscope Records and its parent company Universal Music Group.

The defense counsel says his clients “did not know how to find the owners of the track.” In India, the singer Lata Mangeshkar is a household name having sung for films for over five decades and even once appeared in the *Guinness Book of World Records* for having the most songs sung.

—Sandip Roy, *India Today*
Source: Pacific News Service

Latino boy terror

A ten-year-old Latino elementary school student in Stockton has been suspended after officials deemed him a terrorist threat because of a drawing he made that the boy says is based on a cartoon TV show, *La Opinion* reports.

Jesus Corona, a student at Fillmore Elementary said he was bored in class and began drawing planes and guns from the show *Dragonball Z* on the Cartoon Network. After the teacher saw the drawings, Corona was taken to the principal’s office. Corona was interviewed by police and suspended because they feared he’d cause harm to the school. School officials say the boy had a history of behavioral problems. Corona’s father said while his son may have fooled around in class and had lapses in attention, he has no history of violence.

—La Opinion,
Source: Pacific News Service



A Victoria Times Colonist newspaper box bears a strike sign from the Victoria Vancouver Island Newspaper Guild

Black Muslim reflects on sniper suspect

By DAVID MUHAMMAD
Pacific News Service

EDITOR'S NOTE: As pundits speculate on sniper suspect John Allen Muhammad's motives and his past membership with the Nation of Islam, a Black man who joined the Nation a decade ago reflects on rage, empowerment and media double standards. PNS contributor David Muhammad (dmuhammad@hotmail.com), a member of the Nation of Islam, recently won the Next Generation Leadership Award from the Rockefeller Foundation for his work with youth.

As I sat in Chicago last weekend listening to Minister Louis Farrakhan announce that John Allen Muhammad was formerly a member of the Nation of Islam, I remembered when I had joined the Nation, nearly ten years ago.

Prior to joining the Nation I was a young, angry Black man. I had grown up on the hard streets of Oakland, California, in foster care, in and out of juvenile hall. One day, I took a Black studies class in high school and learned about leaders like Malcolm X. I learned about the atrocities inflicted on my people and the deplorable condition many still live in.

Now, along with my anger there was growing self-pride and a thirst for more knowledge. This new consciousness helped me change my life. I went from nearly dropping out of school to heading to Howard University. My first published article was titled, "How Black Studies Can Change a Young Man's Life."

But I was still angry. The violent thoughts that had fed my juvenile delinquency had transformed into thoughts of revenge for the condition of Black America.

Then I found the Nation of Islam. Here, my anger was channeled. Contrary to some popular misconceptions about the Nation, I was taught not to hate white people, but to use that energy to develop myself and help my people. When I learned that Blacks are just 13% of the country but nearly 60% of America's inmates, when I learned that Blacks account for 54 percent of all new cases of AIDS in the United States, when I learned that one-third of Black people live in poverty, receive substandard education, health care, and other public services—it made me angry. But I learned to channel that rage to work on the problem rather than take my anger out on whites.

I was taught never to be the aggressor in word or deed. I was taught that Islam was the religion of peace. I was taught not to carry as much as a pen-

knife. No weapons are accepted in the Nation. As Minister Farrakhan said in his press conference, "We don't rely on weapons to protect us, we rely on our faith in Allah."

When I read about Muhammad's affiliation with the Nation of Islam, it seems that some commentators are looking for a motive for his alleged rampage. Articles mention his affiliation, but frequently omit that he severed his ties with the Nation in 1999. In fact, the Nation was looking for him then, due to his domestic dispute with his then-wife, who is still a very active member of the Nation in Washington, D.C.

The sniper's motives were obviously not about race. Five of his victims were people of color, including four Blacks. One of those victims was Ken Bridges, a community leader and very close friend to the Nation of Islam. Another victim was a 13-year-old Black boy. The sniper was clearly not looking to becoming a folk hero in the ghetto.

To me, the most important factor in the sniper suspect's background is his military service, his war experience and his impoverishment as a veteran. How many soldiers return from military service just to continue their violence at home? Where is the intense study of the many servicemen who come home and kill their wives, or the recent shootings by a Gulf War veteran in Arizona? These men are trained to kill, then return home without adequate psychological treatment. They often leave the military and are left with little job opportunities. This may be the true source of the sniper's rage.

But still, so-called experts on talk shows reflexively look toward Muhammad's religion to see if they can find clues to his alleged crimes. I hear people ask if the rhetoric of the Nation provokes violence. I did not see people turning automatically to scrutinize Christianity when Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh was arrested. The vast majority of America's prison inmates are Christians. But it's a given that the killing of innocent people is against the teachings of Christianity.

If John Allen Muhammad is indeed the sniper, then as Minister Farrakhan said in his recent press conference, his acts are as far away from Islam and the teachings of the Nation as Pluto is from the sun.

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John Allen Muhammad is African American Muslims' worst nightmare

By EARL OFARI HUTCHINSON
Pacific News Service

EDITOR'S NOTE: While no evidence has yet appeared to link the suspect in the Washington D.C. area sniper case to terrorist or religious fanatic groups, the fact that he is black and reportedly Muslim has many African American Muslims—they number two million—deeply worried about a witch hunt. Turning Americans against each other is one goal of any kind of terror-monger writes PNS contributor Earl Ofari Hutchinson, and that must not happen now. Hutchinson (EHutchi344@aol.com) is a columnist and the author of "The Crisis in Black and Black" (Middle Passage Press).

Authorities have repeatedly said that they have found no link between John Allen Muhammad and Al Qaida, and if he is in fact the beltway sniper, that they as yet have no clue as to why he launched his one-man terror rampage. No matter. African Americans fear a witchhunt.

A stray and uncorroborated remark that John Allan Muhammad reportedly made expressing sympathy with the September 11 terror hijackers, and the report that he may have been part of the security contingent at the 1995 Million Man March sponsored by the Nation of Islam was more than enough to ignite another orgy of media and public speculation that black Muslims of one faction or another fueled the murderous rampage.

There is as yet no evidence that Muhammad was driven over the edge by anything other than personal rage and frustration over failed marriages, tangled personal relationships, sour business dealings, and a rocky military career. And there is as yet no way to tell when, where, or even if Muhammad did actually convert to Islam. Still, it's no secret that thousands of blacks have converted to militant Islam while serving prison time, or while serving in the military.

There are now an estimated two million African American Muslims. Prison converts make up only a minuscule percentage of that number. The militant Nation of Islam, led by Louis Farrakhan, no longer commands the numbers and influence it did in past years. The overwhelming majority of African American Muslims are orthodox or Sunni Muslims and they have repeatedly denounced the Nation of Islam's past brand of racial exclusiveness as antithetical to the racially egalitarian tenets of Islam.

African American Muslims, including Farrakhan, vigorously condemned the September 11 attacks. African American Muslim leaders were nearly unanimous in their denunciation of the so-called American Taliban, John Walker Lindh, as a traitor and a renegade to Islam. There are hundreds of black Muslims in the US military, and there have been no reported acts of disloyalty on their part. John Allan Muhammad had long since been dis-

charged from active military service.

Many African American Muslims are infuriated at the media's refusal to make distinctions between them and extremist Muslim groups, or distinctions between them and immigrant Muslims. In most urban areas, African American Muslims have established their own mosques, and rarely socialize or interact with immigrant Muslims. Indeed, many gripe that immigrant Muslims often display the same racial prejudices and insensitivities as many whites toward blacks, including hostility to black Muslims. But the intra-religious misunderstandings likely can be chalked up to cultural differences, not racism, and more and more Muslim groups are making greater efforts to reach out to each other across cultural, linguistic and racial gaps.

Nevertheless unlike immigrant Muslims, African-American Muslims still regard the issues of police abuse, failing public schools, HIV-AIDS, gang and drug violence as their major issues of concern. The Arab-Israeli conflict, Afghanistan, and Iraq are way down on the totem pole of priorities. African American Muslims quickly joined with other Americans in deep mourning at the murders of the thousands in the September 11 terror attacks. Many of the victims were African Americans and Muslims.

The beltway sniper's victims, too, apparently were chosen indiscriminately. He targeted women, children, Latinos, a Haitian and African Americans. One of the victims was Kenneth H. Bridges, the founder of Matah, a national black economic self-help organization. Bridges participated in the very same Million Man March at which Muhammad purportedly helped provide security.

It's not inconceivable that some African American Muslims feel intense rage, bitterness and frustration toward Washington's Middle East policy and US racial practices. Yet with the arrest of Muhammad, many African American Muslims are scared stiff that this could cast great suspicion on them, or worse yet ignite a disastrous witch hunt against them and foreign-born Muslims. After Muhammad's arrest, some Muslim leaders in the Washington D.C. area said that they had already received threatening phone calls.

A major aim of foreign-born or homegrown terrorists is to sow rancor, discord and suspicion among Americans, in short to turn Americans against each other. We don't know whether that was one of Muhammad's objectives or not, but it's an objective that should never be attained.

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Will immigration reform help the US fight terrorism?

By **MARCELO BALLVE**
Pacific News Service

EDITOR'S NOTE: The discovery that sniper suspect John Lee Malvo is an undocumented immigrant has re-ignited the debate over changes to US immigration policy. Both the right, which seeks tighter controls, and the left, which favors an amnesty for illegal aliens, may be erroneously framing the debate around national security. PNS contributor Marcelo Ballve (ballve@hotmail.com) is a former Associated Press reporter in Brazil and the Caribbean.

At the height of their desperation over the sniper attacks in Washington, D.C., federal authorities offered undocumented immigrants a chance at a visa if they came forward with information to help solve the shootings.

As it turned out, 17-year-old John Lee Malvo, one of two suspected in the 13 shootings, was a Jamaican who was in the country illegally and was once detained by authorities and released.

The sniper case has added fuel to the debate over changing the country's immigration laws. Those who favor an amnesty for undocumented immigrants say it would help law enforcement by bringing the undocumented "out of the shadows" so they can assist crime and terror investigations. Critics of the approach seek tighter controls on immigration and say an amnesty would only result in a larger population of foreign-born, whom they say serve as cover for criminals and terrorists.

The September 11 attacks sunk well-advanced talks for an amnesty benefiting undocumented Mexicans and dealt a strong hand to groups that support restrictions on immigration into the United States.

"It was a godsend to them," says Wayne Cornelius, head of the Center for Comparative Immigration Studies at the University of California at San Diego. "Before 9/11, most of the anti-immigrant groups were in full retreat. Now, after 9/11, they've been resuscitated." Meanwhile, those who pushed for legal status for some undocumented "quickly lost the courage of their convictions."

But earlier this month, Dick Gephardt, House minority leader, introduced a bill that would grant undocumented immigrants from any country, and their close relatives abroad, a chance at legal status. Gephardt says the amnesty would aid the anti-terror war by bringing the hard-working undocumented "out of the shadows" so authorities can focus on catching real terrorists.

Stephen E. Flynn, senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, says the time is right for an amnesty. "We're about to stir the hornet's nest in Iraq. We're in an especially dangerous time, and if you can get a chunk of the undocumented population processed, it's an advantage to identify who those folks are."

Under Gephardt's proposal, undocumented immigrants would undergo background checks and would need to prove they lived continuously in the United States for at least five years and worked for at least two.

Politics is partly driving the Democrats' efforts. Gephardt needed to

resurrect the legislation—which only has a chance of passing in a Democratic-controlled Congress—to rally increasingly crucial Latino voters in key races in Arizona, New Mexico and Texas to help tilt control of the House and Senate away from the Republicans.

For critics, arguments that amnesty will help the terror war are "window-dressing." Amnesty will provide an incentive for illegal immigration, allow for widespread fraud and plunge the already overburdened Immigration and Naturalization Service into chaos, says Mark Krikorian, executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies in Washington, D.C., which seeks stricter immigration controls.

Krikorian says that foreign-born communities incubate terror. "Immigrant communities provide the cover for bad guys from overseas. We've seen that in Lackawanna, New York, we've seen that in Detroit and we've seen that in Frankfurt," says Krikorian, referring to cities where alleged terror cells were uncovered and to activities in Germany of September 11 hijackers. Krikorian's Web site also features articles detailing Malvo's illegal entry into the country as a stowaway on a cargo ship that docked in South Florida.

A 2001 study by the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development revealed that migration to service, agricultural and construction industries in Europe, Australia and North America helps poor economies by reducing unemployment and increasing incomes through the remittances migrants send back home. In current article for the Canadian magazine *New Internationalist*, author-activist Teresa Hayter writes that looser immigration controls would help alleviate the poverty that creates terrorists, rebels and hard-line regimes in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

As the flow of money and goods between countries increases, restrictions on the movement of labor are rising along with security fears after September 11.

Still, others argue that linking immigration policy to the terror war, whether through tighter or looser controls, is a red herring. Terrorists will always seek to enter countries under the guise of economic migration, they say. Since only extremists argue for a complete end to immigration, and deportation of all undocumented is unrealistic, proven intelligence-gathering tactics remain the best terror-fighting tools.

It is more useful to view an amnesty for the country's estimated 8 million undocumented in terms of public safety, says Anamaria Loya, executive director of San Francisco's La Raza Centro Legal. Undocumented immigrants will be more likely to report crime and cooperate with police if they receive legal status. Most of Loya's clients are among California's more than 2.3 million undocumented residents, by far the largest such population in the country.

"To have an underclass, a second-class category of people," she says, "adds to crime, adds to poverty, and it's an unhealthy way for a society to operate."

Ojo en el INS

Un enfoque en el INS y la política migratoria

La globalización ideológica en contra de la inmigración

□ Cinco mitos sobre la inmigración (parte 4 de 5)

Por **CARLOS ARMENTA**
Colaborador del Semanario ¡La Alarma!

El eurodiputado francés Sami Nair expone y analiza, en un artículo publicado en el diario español El País, lo que el llama "los cinco mitos sobre la inmigración en España."

El presente artículo (cuarto de una serie de cinco) analizará el tercer mito dentro del contexto de la inmigración en los Estados Unidos.

Cuarto mito sobre la inmigración:

La riqueza de los Estados Unidos provoca un "efecto de llamada" en los países pobres.

Aunque se puede pensar que los globalizados medios de comunicación—los cuales difunden una imagen de la vida en los EE UU que se caracteriza por la despreocupación por los problemas económicos y la abundancia—ejercen un "efecto de llamada" en los países pobres, los cuales se ven inundados por las imágenes de películas y series de televisión norteamericanas, el principal efecto de atracción para los inmigrantes lo ejerce en realidad la existencia de una economía informal en el mercado de trabajo de los EE UU.

La mayor parte de los inmigrantes que ingresan a los EE UU prefieren hacerlo ilegalmente debido al inminente rechazo por parte de las autoridades migratorias (INS) si intentaran internarse por la vía legal. Dichos inmigrantes prefieren pagar los servicios de un "coyote," cuyo costo actualmente ronda los US \$2000, que enfrentarse a dicho rechazo y a los complicados trámites burocráticos que se requieren para ingresar legalmente.

Asimismo, dicha ilegalidad les asegura el encontrar un trabajo debido a la existencia de un muy bien establecido sistema de contratación de trabajadores indocumentados. Es de sobra sabida la facilidad con que se pueden conseguir tarjetas de residencia, del seguro social e identificaciones oficiales falsas (como licencias de conducir). Los patrones emplean a trabajadores a sabiendas de que los documentos que estos les presentan son falsos y evitan las sanciones impuestas por las leyes migratorias para quienes contratan mano de obra indocumentada, arguyendo que no es su responsabilidad constatar la autenticidad de dichos documentos.

Sin embargo, y gracias a que los patrones saben que dichos documentos son falsos, estos se aprovechan de la ilegalidad de los trabajadores que contratan y los obligan a trabajar en condiciones espantosas. Por ejemplo, los obligan a trabajar hasta ochenta horas a la semana sin pagarles ni siquiera el salario mínimo establecido por la ley, y mucho menos el que se establece para el tiempo extra, el cual debería de ser del doble del normal para el tiempo que exceda las cuarenta horas a la semana.

Al mismo tiempo, dichos patrones reportan en sus registros contables que dichos trabajadores solo trabajan 40 horas a la semana y se les paga el salario mínimo. Es decir, que si el salario mínimo es de, para usar números redondos, US \$5 la hora, se les paga US \$200 por semana. Pero como en

realidad trabajan ochenta horas a la semana, de las cuales cuarenta son de tiempo extra, entonces deberían recibir US \$600. Gracias a la ilegalidad de este sector informal del mercado de trabajo, los trabajadores indocumentados solo reciben un 33% de lo que recibirían de acuerdo a la ley si poseyeran documentos migratorios legales para trabajar en los EE UU.

Como se puede observar, la existencia de este sector informal del mercado de trabajo beneficia en gran medida a las empresas que emplean a trabajadores indocumentados. De igual manera, y aunque las condiciones de trabajo para dichos trabajadores indocumentados sean tan desfavorables, estos las aceptan con la esperanza de cuando menos poder mandar algo de dinero a sus familiares en sus países de origen, o la esperanza de integrarse a largo plazo, junto con sus familias, a la sociedad norteamericana bajo mejores condiciones, es decir, la esperanza de lograr obtener la residencia legal o la ciudadanía.

Otros que se aprovechan del efecto de llamada de dicho sector informal son las compañías que hacen negocio con el envío de remesas de trabajadores indocumentados a sus países de origen. Se sabe que el envío de remesas desde los EE UU es, en el caso de México, la segunda fuente de ingreso de divisas para la economía mexicana, solo superado por los ingresos provenientes de la exportación de petróleo, y superando a rubros de la economía tan importantes como el turismo y la exportación de productos agrícolas.

Así las cosas, compañías como Western Union y Orlandi Valuta, solo por citar algunos ejemplos, cobran aproximadamente 10% del valor de los envíos, sumando ingresos realmente impresionantes.

Aunque se pueda suponer que los inmigrantes piensen que al venir a los EE UU podrían disfrutar de una vida como la de los personajes de "Friends" o de cualquier otra serie de televisión a película norteamericana, son en realidad los testimonios de sus compatriotas que trabajan ilegalmente en los EE UU los que los motivan a venir. Dichos inmigrantes están, como ya se ha dicho, dispuestos a aceptar condiciones de trabajo y de vida paupérrimas, el riesgo de perder la vida al tratar de cruzar la frontera y de utilizar los ahorros de toda una familia después de años de trabajo para mandar a un solo miembro a los EE UU a cambio de la esperanza de poder mandar unos dólares (menos el 10% con el que se queda Western Union, por supuesto) a sus familiares que viven en condiciones de pobreza extrema en sus países de origen.

La mayor parte de los inmigrantes indocumentados saben lo que les espera en los EE UU: una vida que no se parece en nada a la de "Seinfeld" y sus amigos, pero la aceptan porque saben que hay un sector informal del mercado de trabajo que les ofrece la oportunidad de enviar algunos dólares a sus familias. No es, pues, la "riqueza" de los EE UU la que ejerce el "efecto de llamada", sino la existencia de un amplio sector informal de contratación de trabajadores indocumentados en los EE UU.

Eye on the INS

A forum addressing the INS and immigration policy

Of paperwork, resignations and flaming hoops

By MICHELLE STEWART
The Alarm! Newspaper Collective

Where is James Ziglar nowa-days? What is going on with the Department of Homeland Security? Curiously these two questions might be linked, in the sense that they are both contemporary indicators of INS health—which is most certainly failing.

After 9/11, many believed the only way to breath life into the INS was to file it under the Department of Homeland Security (DHLS) and reimagine the agency as more devoted to security than to paperwork. However, as the anniversary of 9/11 came and passed, so too has interest in the DHLS—seems that the INS may not find life support via the DLHS since the DHLS itself is dying a slow death on the Senate floor. Perhaps, jumbling together some 170,000 plus employees that are involved in over 20 federal agencies and 17 unions is a bit tricky—especially when the federal government is trying to strip union rights out of the DHLS bill. Tricky, and this debate on Capitol Hill will likely result in the absolute failure of the DHLS.

Without the DHLS, the INS is left to answer for its own mistakes and shortcomings—many of which are perfect illustrations of bureaucratic inefficiency.

A joke you say...

Indeed, the INS has seen many tragi-comic moments over the past year. Arguably the most notable came when the agency issued visas for the 9/11 hijackers to attend flight school, many months after the Twin Towers had crumbled. Chewed out thoroughly in the media and on Capitol Hill, James Ziglar—the new commissioner of the INS at the time—fumbled around criticism and used the visa fiasco as illustration that the agency needed to be reconfigured. Ziglar relied on a staple response, saying his hands were tied until the agency was divided into divisions that focused on administration and border security. To the rescue was the proposed DHLS. Proponents agreed with weary Ziglar and said that the INS and the FBI could be reconceived under the umbrella of a larger agency.

For the INS, the failure of the DHLS may serve to further illustrate the ridiculous condition of the INS. The INS has gone full-force in drafting and implementing large-scale policy changes, but it lacks the infrastructure to enforce its many new laws and provisions. Indeed, the INS is no longer seen as simply inept; rather, it is inept and becoming slightly senile.

Don't make me stop this car...

Much like the parent who constantly threatens punishment for every offense committed on a road-trip, but never really stops the car, the INS has been running willy-nilly, ordering immigrants and visitors to comply with various programs—but of these new provisions, the INS lacks the capacity to enforce its demands. The bark-worse-than-bite situation can seem rather funny from an outside perspective. However, consider the random ramblings of this agency,

the fear with which immigrants are forced to live with as they attempt to comply with all these new demands, when the final realization is that the agency has neither the ability nor the manpower to enforce its demands. Comical, perhaps, for those who don't have to run frantic with each demand from this agency. Comical, perhaps, if your future isn't dictated by an agency so oblivious to its own ineptitude. To best understand the current condition let's take a look at an example:

During the summer, Ziglar (when he was still seen in public) announced that the INS would be renewing an archaic law that required all immigrants report a change of address within ten days of moving. The law was over 50-years-old, and had not been enforced in nearly 45 years. The announced penalty for failure to comply was either a fine or deportation (INS loves to embrace the extremes). Immigrants heard the call, and 500,00–700,000 people submitted the change of address card. A month later, the INS announced it didn't have the time to process the cards.

Of course this didn't stop the agency from trying to deport a Middle Eastern man for failing to comply. However, an immigration judge stepped in and halted the deporation, pointing out that if the agency had not enforced the law since 1958, how was the man supposed to understand he was subject to it? The INS has responded by turning on their computers and revising a reported 30 forms to help publicize the enforcement of the law. Why are they publicizing this law, when the change of address cards apparently end up in the circular file?

Take this job and shove it...

Is apparently the motto for many INS workers, making it increasingly clear why none of the paperwork is being handled when it is filed: there's no one around to do it.

According to a recent article in *The Oregonian*, “[O]fficers are quitting, sometimes whole shifts at a time. One out of four agents in Arizona left during the past year. In the San Diego area, 30 to 40 agents turn in their badges each week. The national turnover rate for Border Patrol agents has almost doubled this year, to nearly 19%.” Of course, the further implication is that if the DHLS does succeed on Capitol Hill, more agents will leave out of frustration over the lack of union protection in the new agency.

Although the INS has been asked to build its numbers—part of the extra one billion dollars added to the agency's budget was earmarked for hiring more agents—it is obviously failing. More people seem to be leaving than entering the field.

For these and other reasons, it is interesting to then see what the INS has accomplished with its inflated budget and heightened sense of authority.

We know that many people went into detention after 9/11; however, that was largely the job of the Department of Justice rather than INS. We know that a lot of people died in the desert over the past year; however, that was largely the result of Operation Gatekeeper, which has been in

effect for numerous years. We know that a lot of people applied for citizenship—an increase of 63% was reported over the past year—however, this was due to people fearful of being deported after 9/11, not because of some bang-up welcoming project by the INS. We also know that waiting periods for some residency and visa paperwork was reduced from 30 months to eleven; however, this was the result of previous years of work to expedite the permanent residency process. So what has the INS successfully done in the past year with its inflated budget? Well, they report to have successfully targeted and identified some 2,200 illegal airport workers—whew, I feel much safer, and only at a cost of approximately \$454,545.50 each!

The point is that the INS is not becoming streamlined with its bolstered budget, and the DHLS is not going to be a knight in shining armor. Instead, we are left with an agency that is in the process of losing its commissioner—Ziglar annouced his resignation in August—and is lacking the common sense to pull back on its exteme measures. The INS is trying to crawl out from under the rock of ridicule,



and in doing so, it is inflicting itself on the immigrant population.

So, Ziglar remains in seclusion, striking days off the calendar until he can “return to the private sector,” and the agency fumbles along randomly barking orders into the dark. At the core of this crisis is the immigrant who must keep abreast of the list of demands, and pay the various fees, never knowing if the previous hoop she jumped through will really be the last, or if the next one will be on fire.

It seems that the immigrant is the plaything of the INS, as the agency lolls about awaiting the outcome of the DHLS.

In Brief

Going to Supreme Court

This month, the US 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia concluded that the US government is allowed to hold “secret” deportation hearings. The two-to-one decision referenced 9/11 and “national security” issues as a key factor in the ruling. This ruling comes after the August 2002, ruling of Cincinnati’s 6th Circuit Court of Appeals, which required the hearings be open. With these two rulings in hand, it seems that the US Supreme Court will be asked to make a final say on what to do with the large number of post-9/11 deportations.

—MS, Source: *Migration News*

Raising the Costs (Again)

In an attempt to raise revenue from filing fees, the INS announced it is considering raising the filing fee for student visas from \$60 to \$100. This move comes after the agency increased security checks but has often been unable to process visas within 30 days. Many students, especially those from the Middle East, report they are not considering an education in the US because the system is so backlogged they can’t arrive in time for classes to begin. It is this response to the new visa program that has left the INS with a deficit of foreign student applications (and fees). The agency reportedly intends to raise fees, not limit the scope of the security checks to mitigate this revenue loss.

—MS, Source: *Migration News*

Born Again Mexicans

A growing number of Mexicans who became naturalized US citizens are now filing into consulates to regain their lost Mexican identity, *Vida en el Valle* reports.

A 1998 Mexican law and constitutional amendment changed the country’s policy toward dual nationality, allowing Mexican citizens to hold two passports. Before that year, Mexicans who became US citizens were forced to discard their Mexican nationality.

Now, hundreds of Mexicans who felt ambiguous about renouncing their first nationality are going through the simple process of regaining it, the paper said. Many adopted US citizenship simply because they feared losing their residency or work permits. In Fresno, over 1,800 people have regained their Mexican nationality at the local consulate since the program began in March 1998; some 260 have done it so far this year.

—Juan Esparza Loera, *Vida en el Valle*, Pacific News Service\

Inmigrantes nicaragüenses buscan, cada vez más, internarse a Costa Rica en busca de trabajo

Por **CARLOS ARMENTA**

Colaborador del Semanario ¡La Alarma!

Las dificultades económicas por las que atraviesa la mayoría de la población nicaragüense hoy en día motiva, cada vez más, a muchos ciudadanos de este país a emigrar más allá de sus fronteras en busca de sustento para sus familias. Sin embargo, y contra lo que puede suponerse, el destino preferido por dicho migrantes indocumentados no son los EE UU.

En los últimos años, los nicaragüenses que optan por emigrar fuera de su país se trasladan principalmente a Costa Rica. Este flujo migratorio se ha establecido debido a la disparidad que existe entre Costa Rica y Nicaragua en lo que respecta tanto a oferta de trabajo como a salarios.

Los nicaragüenses prefieren, cada vez más, trasladarse a Costa Rica debido a que solo tienen que atravesar una frontera para internarse a territorio tico, lo cual es, obviamente, mucho más fácil que emprender la larga jornada que se requiere para llegar a territorio estadounidense. Además de la diferencia en cuanto a distancia, para llegar a los EE UU hay que cruzar cuando menos cuatro fronteras nacionales y aguantar los abusos y vejaciones de cuatro diferentes autoridades migratorias y policías nacionales, pagar más “mordidas” (término con el que se conoce aquí al soborno) y gastos de transportación. Otra ventaja es el idioma común que se habla en estos dos países (español).

Sin embargo, la jornada y la estancia indocumentada en Costa Rica no está exenta de peligros y abusos. Las autoridades y los patrones costarricenses aprovechan la condición de ilegalidad de estas personas para, tal y como sucede en los EE UU, explotar a los trabajadores indocumentados nicaragüenses.

Por un lado, muchos de los elementos de la policía costarricense exigen a los inmigrantes indocumentados nicaragüenses considerables sumas de dinero—conocidas popularmente como “mordidas”—para evitar su deportación. Sorayda Pulido, originaria de León, Nicaragua, explica como la policía costarricense “nos extorsiona y nos quita los reales cuando se entera de que somos nicaragüenses ilegales en Costa Rica”. Aunque la señora Pulido no especificó la cantidad exacta que los agentes policiales costarricenses le exigían durante su estancia ilegal en Costa Rica, ni cuantas veces tuvo que dar mordida, ella explicó que la dejaron “limpia”. La señora Pulido también nos explicó que no tuvo más remedio que trabajar lo suficiente para ahorrar para el pasaje de autobús de regreso a León.

La Sra. Pulido comentó que, como la mayoría de las mujeres nicaragüenses que emigran ilegalmente a Costa Rica, se dedicaba al trabajo doméstico, por el cual recibía aproximadamente US \$100.00 al mes—un salario considerablemente superior al de US \$60.00 al mes que le pagarían en Nicaragua. Además, explicó, “no hay suficiente oferta de trabajo para las trabajadoras domésticas en Nicaragua. A lo más que una puede aspirar es a lavar ropa y cobrar un córdoba por pieza (un córdoba equivale a aproximadamente siete centavos de dólar)”.

Otro rubro importante de la economía costarricense que emplea a un número importante de trabajadores indocumentados nicaragüenses es el

agrícola. Tanto Sorayda Pulido como Joaquín, residente de Achupapa, Nicaragua (quien se negó a proporcionar su apellido por temor a represalias por parte de sus ex patrones, aún cuando se le explicó que *La Alarma!* Es un periódico de circulación local en Santa Cruz, California), coincidieron en señalar que “hoy en día hay más nicaragüenses que ticos en Costa Rica”. Aunque tal comentario parezca exagerado, en realidad sí hay más nicaragüenses que costarricenses trabajando en labores domésticas y agrícolas en Costa Rica.

La mayoría de los habitantes de Nicaragua sufren actualmente por el deplorable estado de la economía de su nación, producto de los devastadores efectos de una guerra civil que extendió desde mediados de los setentas hasta finales de los ochentas, así como de desastres naturales como erupciones volcánicas, terremotos y, más recientemente, el huracán Match.

Asimismo, existe el problema de una corrupción generalizada dentro del gobierno nicaragüense en todos sus niveles. Dicha corrupción no ha sido combatida efectivamente ni durante los años de gobierno Sandinista, ni durante los más recientes años de gobiernos de derecha. Solo por citar un ejemplo, el ex presidente Arnoldo Alemán, quien gobernó al país hasta el año pasado, se encuentra actualmente acusado de malversación de fondos estatales y lavado de dinero. Sin embargo, no ha sido arrestado porque disfruta de inmunidad parlamentaria. Alemán es ahora diputado de la Asamblea Nacional de Nicaragua (equivalente al Congreso en otros países).

La población de Nicaragua ha dejado también de recibir fondos por parte de los organismos de asistencia financiera internacionales (Banco Mundial, Fondo Monetario Internacional y Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo), aún cuando el Estado nicaragüense ha seguido muchas de las medidas impuestas por el FMI, el BM y el BID para otorgar ayuda. La educación, por ejemplo, no es completamente subvencionada por el gobierno, por lo que muchos niños en edad escolar no asisten a clases. El gobierno de Nicaragua se encuentra también envuelto en el proceso de privatización del agua potable, lo cuál, seguramente, encarecerá el costo de este servicio para la población en general. Todo esto para lograr convencer al FMI, BM y BID de que se le otorgue ayuda financiera al país. Faltará ver quien es el beneficiario real de dicha asistencia financiera.

Todo esto provoca que una gran parte de la población nicaragüense decida emigrar hacia Costa Rica a pesar del trato abusivo que reciben en ese país. Joaquín (de Achupapa) señala que “aunque la última vez que estuve allá trabajé durante dos meses y mi patrón solo me dio, al final de los dos meses, dinero que apenas me alcanzó para regresar a Achupapa, ni un solo real más, no me va a quedar más remedio que volver, porque con mi trabajo de guardia de seguridad aquí en Nicaragua no alcanza ni para frijoles y arroz”.

El caso de Joaquín no es una excepción, sino que se está convirtiendo en la regla para un número cada vez mayor de nicaragüenses: emigrar, a pesar de los abusos y explotación, o morir de hambre.

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MEDIA from Page 1

which led to NBC, Fox and CBS dumping their membership to this industry group—indeed the writing is on the wall, as television stations desert their special interest groups.

For proponents of deregulation, the logic is that other corporations would have the opportunity to try and form small monopolies that could take on such conglomerates as AOL/Time Warner. However, the flaw in this line of reasoning becomes apparent when one contemplates the power of these mega-conglomerates—the realization being that the “smaller monopolies” that may form will never have the ability to challenge a super-corporate cat like AOL/Time Warner, and that ultimately, these monopolies will also be absorbed into mega-conglomerates. Deregulation will not lead to an opening of the market but rather a further consolidation, as the number of major media corporations continues to dwindle, making it increasingly difficult to be a media company that is not owned by a major conglomerate.

A Toaster with Pictures

But what does all of this information have to do with us, with our everyday experiences? All of the above is directly linked to how you receive news: For many people, this means that the way in which they view the world—in relation to what they see in the media—is controlled by a small group of mega-conglomerates. There are now only ten major media outlets when just a few years ago that number was twelve. The number of major companies continues to shrink, while at the same time we increase our capacity to get news everywhere we go: on our local news station, on the major network news, on the AM and FM radio, on cable news, on our cell phones, in print and on the Internet. All of these avenues for information, and only ten absolute sources spilling it out?

Mark Fowler, the FCC head under the Reagan Administration once remarked that the television was “a toaster with pictures,” and yet that toaster dictates much of what we know and understand about the world around us. From Fowlers perspective, he was making reference to the television as a glorified appliance. Its status has been elevated substantially today, yet the comment still stands on its own. So, what do we do with this appliance?

Many people believe that if they don’t own a television and acquire their news on the radio or through the print media that they have side-stepped the corporate cat. But that is not the case, and it does not solve the larger problem.

Each week hundreds of local “alternative” weeklies hit the stand, and people snatch them up for the information on when movies are playing and what bands are in town. The underlying assumption, however, is that the alternative weekly is a source for independent local news. Not the case.

Take Santa Cruz for example, *Metro Santa Cruz* is owned by Metro Newspapers, which also owns four other weeklies and lists its corporate office in San Jose. *The Good Times* is owned by Pacific Sierra Publishing, which is located in Merced and publishes other community newspapers. How local or independent can a paper be when it is owned and managed with a group of other papers?

A close look at these papers will illustrate that the “alternative” weekly’s goal is to generate advertising revenue. Look at the pages of these papers and compare them with a daily paper and a pattern will appear: more ads, less news.

Here we find one of the chief concerns regarding media consolidation, there is more of a focus on advertising and gener-

ating capital than there is on publishing news for the community. One can hazard a guess that the reason so many weeklies are owned by just a few companies is that this is a means to pool advertising. Just one look at the website for Metro Newspapers illustrates that the focus is on ads. This is the problem we face when “news” becomes business. As readers of news, all of us need be to acutely aware of the implications of consolidation both on the local and the international level. Unfortunately, on the national and global scale we are only going to see a further consolidation of assets.

The media lobbyists in Washington have millions of dollars at their disposal that essentially guarantee we will be taking a step towards deregulation and larger conglomerates. However, we can be critical of corporate media while also finding relief.

AOL/Time Warner is the largest media organization; Clear Communications is the largest radio station owner (1700 AM and FM stations). Five major newspaper companies are identified as owning a lion’s share of the daily presses in the country. Armed with this information, we can make a conscious choice to treat these sources as tainted goods.

Living in Santa Cruz, we are lucky to have access to actual independent media. We have an active community television station, a free radio station that is going strong after seven years, and an indy media that has been maturing rapidly over the past year, (and of course this little paper you are reading!). In just these sources we have all of the mediums covered. However, in addition, we have KUSP and KZSC that bring in such services as Pacifica and Democracy Now. In addition to these souces, UCSC publishes a series of newspapers such as *City on the Hill* and *FishRap*. Why rely on CNN as “our source for news” when in Santa Cruz you are privileged to have access to so many competing voices filled with news of local, national and international scope.

We hope you can make use of the various sidebars and charts in this issue, and that you enjoy hearing from the voices of local independent media providers.

While you read the perspectives of indy media sources, and perhaps consider becoming a supporter and/or an active voice in this battle against corporatization of news, I would like you to consider the following:

“That some transnational company that knows little and cares less about your community, and whose main allegiance is to its stockholders and advertisers, will own your local daily and weekly newspapers, all your television and radio stations, the cable system, the Internet service provider, several of the national networks that serve you, your local video stores and movie houses, many of the magazines and books you read, and all of the sports teams in your area. That would allow endless cross-promotions of the owner’s interests, and probably very little hard news about anything having negative impact on advertisers or on the company itself. Everything you read or see, every opinion, every image, and every jot of information would arrive through one corporate filter”—Neil Hickey, *Columbia Journalism Review* (7/02).

I don’t think it can be said more clearly than this, so be aware of the filters and consider the significance of “alternative” when deciding who “your source” for news truly is.

Looking for alternatives? Add these sources to those covered in this issue of the paper—indy everywhere if you look for it!

Adbusters Media Foundation
1243 W. 7th Ave.
Vancouver, BC V6H 1B7, Canada
Phone: (604) 736-9401
info@adbusters.org ;
www.adbusters.org

Alternative Radio
P.O. Box 551
Boulder, CO 80306-0551
Phone: (800) 444-1977
ar@orci.com
www.alternativeradio.org

Center for Independent Public Broadcasting
1910 Cochran Rd., Manor Oak 2, Ste. 441
Pittsburgh, PA 15220-1203
Phone: (412) 563-4150
cipb@ciponline.org
www.bipbonline.org

Center for Media Literacy
3101 Ocean Park Blvd., Suite 200
Santa Monica, CA 90405-3022
Phone: (310) 581-0260
cml@medialit.org

Commercial Alert
3719 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 281
Portland, OR 97214-5145
Phone: (503) 235-8012
alert@essential.org
www.commercialalert.org

Common Dreams Newscenter
P.O. Box 443
Portland, ME 04112-0443
Phone: (207) 799-2185
editor@commondreams.org
www.commondreams.org

Facets Multimedia
1517 W. Fullerton Ave.
Chicago, IL 60614-2087
Phone: (773) 281-9075
www.facets.org

Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR)
130 W. 25th St, Eighth Floor
New York, NY 10001-7406
Phone: (212) 633-6700
fair@fair.org; www.fair.org

FreeSpeech TV
P.O. Box 6060
Boulder, CO 80306-6060
director@freespeech.org
www.freespeech.org

Independent Media Center
general@indymedia.org
www.indymedia.org

Institute for Public Accuracy
915 National Press Building
Washington, DC 20045-1928
Phone: (202) 347-0020
dcinstitute@igc.org; www.accuracy.org

KZSC Santa Cruz
Student Music East, UCSC
Santa Cruz, CA 95064
Phone: (831) 459-2811
www.kzsc.ucsc.edu

Making Contact National Radio Project
1714 Franklin St., Ste. #100-251
Oakland, CA 94612-3409
Phone: (510) 251-1501
makingcontact@radioproject.org
www.radioproject.org

MediaChannel.org
1600 Broadway, Ste. 700
New York, NY 10019-7413
Phone: (212) 246-0202

editor@mediachannel.org
www.mediachannel.org
Media Education Foundation
26 Center St.
Northampton, MA 01060-3027
Phone: (413) 584-8500
www.mediaed.org

Media Literacy List Serve
www.ithaca.edu/looksharp/resources/media-l.html

Media Scope
www.mediascope.org

Media Study
www.mediastudy.com

Media Watch
P.O. Box 618
Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0618
(800) 631-6355
mwatch@cruzio.com
www.mediawatch.com

New California Media and Pacific News Service
San Francisco Office
275 9th St.
San Francisco, CA 94103
Phone: (415) 503-4170
news.ncmonline.com
news.pacificnews.org

Pacifica Campaign
51 MacDougal St., Ste. 80
New York, NY 10012-2921
Phone: (800) 797-6229
pacificacampaign@yahoo.com
www.pacificacampaign.org

The Progressive
409 E. Mail St.
Madison, WI 53703-2863
Phone: (608) 257-4626
circ@progressive.org
www.progressive.org

PR Watch Center for Media and Democracy
520 University Ave., Ste. 310
Madison, WI 53703-4916
Phone: (608) 260-9713
editor@prwatch.org
www.prwatch.org

Radio for Change
info@radioforchange.com
www.workingforchange.com

Z Magazine and Z Net
18 Millfield St.
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1122
Phone: (508) 548-9063
lydia.sargent@zmag.org
www.zmag.org

Z Media Institute
18 Millfield St.
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1122
Phone: (508) 548-9063
sysop@zmag.org
www.zmag.org

Contact information for the groups covered in this issue of the paper will be listed at the end of each article. The list above is far from complete and we encourage you to go to the bookstore and order these magazine, or check them out online. Included in this list are groups who are working on issues surrounding media consolidation or independency. Much of the above list was compiled by David Basamian and printed in The Decline and Fall of Public Broadcasting, printed by South End Press. To order go to www.southendpress.org.

Media of, by and for the masses



The Santa Cruz Independent Media Center has been online since January. It is part of a worldwide network of Independent Media Centers (IMCs) existing mostly on the internet, but branching into other media. Local IMCs are collectives of volunteers with non-hierarchical, democratic decision-making structures. In order to organize under the IMC name, local groups are required to agree to a set of Principles of Unity meant to ensure that IMCs remain democratic media outlets. The Alarm! Newspaper's Fhar Miess caught up with Aaronius—one of Santa Cruz IMC's eight volunteers and its publicity and outreach guy—to get some of his thoughts on IMC and independent media.

Fhar Miess: Could you give us an overview of Indymedia, what it's all about, some of the concepts behind open publishing?

Aaronius: Indymedia was born out of the WTO protests in Seattle and was a culmination of efforts by many different players in the alternative media scene, including Whispered Media, Paper Tiger, Deep Dish and others, and represented the first time in the history of protests that activists in the streets could bring the content that they were making on their video camcorders or audio cassette recorders or cameras to a physical place where all that content would be immediately compiled and then put on-line for all the world to see. That is, in and of itself, the essence of open publishing. I shouldn't say that that particular process is the best description of open publishing, but that was definitely a catalyzing moment. People there could definitely use public-access terminals and put their own content up, but at that time, it was mostly a core collective that was putting all the content online. It still falls under the category of open publishing because that core group of people was just regular people like you and me coming together and being in a collective, but compared to what it is now—you could say it's come a long way.

Basically, the way I see open publishing, it's a strategy for democratized media in which there is no differentiation between reporter and audience because it's free and transparent and accessible to anyone...well, anyone who has access, which is a problem, but less so all the time, especially because there's public access terminals in libraries and on campus and for not too much money at coffee shops. So, that's becoming less of a problem. The philosophy of open publishing is rooted in the idea that what we have now in terms of journalism and media is not satisfactory. In fact, it is not only unsatisfactory but is contrary to the values of a democratic society in that they do not further any sort of forum for public insight in relation to public affairs, but rather foster an atmosphere of entertainment so that people will be compelled to be better consumers. Out of that paradigm came this backlash, which is Indymedia, which is a non-corporate, anarchic, decentralized mass medium—predominantly based in cyberspace, but also expands out into print, radio, video, satellite even—that is a direct and fundamental challenge to the hegemony mass media.

FM: As a volunteer with SCIMC, what do you see as your role in the Santa Cruz community?

Aa: I feel like I was a catalyzing agent in starting a process in Santa Cruz that I had considered to be inevitable anyway, but since it hadn't yet started, I felt compelled to do it. I emailed Sherry Herndon, who was one of the core IMC organizers going back to Seattle and she and a handful of other people orchestrate the process of bringing new IMCs online. I told her that in Santa Cruz I had a network of people who had expressed interest in forming one and that I'd like to go ahead and go through whatever process that was necessary to get started.... Since then, I feel like my role has mostly just been—my friend Jeff Caplan from Art and Revolution talks about “focalizers”—and so that's kind of what I've been in a focalizing role. It's organizing, but it's also motivating and making sure that people are excited and interested in getting the word out. So I kind of have my hands in everything to various degrees. Right now, I have a very

specific focus, which is publicity and outreach. One of the first things that I decided that I needed to do in order for this to really embody the values of a democratic system was to disempower myself enough to feel that everyone is equally empowered. And had I not chosen this one specific role, I would probably feel like I was the still person who started it and was in charge and that's not....

On the broader scale, I feel that the most important arena that we can fight within to address the problems that face us on a global and local and interpersonal level is the arena of culture and not the arena of politics or economics or the nonprofit sector. I think that it's culture that's going to have the greatest impact. I feel like I represent a generation of people that was raised on TV and video games and had a three-second attention span, and being able to reach people on that level is much more challenging and much more necessary, I feel, than other strategies. So, Indymedia at once represents a political shift away from existing power structures but even on another level represents a cultural opportunity for people to explore their creativity using new media that also happen to be informative and engaging and important for society.

FM: What have been the most significant difficulties in getting this project off the ground?

Aa: Pretty much the same difficulties that characterize any organization, especially in Santa Cruz. It's getting people to commit for a long period of time. People are always coming in and out. I think the most difficult process has been just retaining people who can commit to working on elements of Indymedia that need to be worked on over time. But, to be honest with you, I have not once felt so overwhelmed by any one challenge that I thought Indymedia was ever going to disintegrate or dissolve or anything like that. I left for the entire summer. I left for three months. I had zero to do with Indymedia for three months. I came back and it was just as strong as when I left it. Which is a sign to me that what exists now in Santa Cruz is something sustainable. Indymedia Santa Cruz will survive, with or without the individuals who may come and go. That is also something that characterizes organizations these days that use cyberspace and that use networking strategies that weren't available to us even ten years ago. It's so easy to network and it's so easy to come on just by joining our listserve and learning our interface of our website that you don't need to work your way up any ranks, you don't need to take classes. You can seriously just log on and click publish and **boom** your name is in print online and the world can see it. It's that simple. Point being, there's just not that much hard-core work to do day-to-day to maintain the site. The majority of the work comes in outreach and branching out and starting new projects and creating alliances and working with other independent groups like *The Alarm!*, Santa Cruz Community Television, Free Radio. We have lots of things on the horizon that I'm definitely looking forward to.

Members of the public can post their own stories to Santa Cruz Indymedia by going to <http://santacruz.indymedia.org/>. If you would like to get involved with the Santa Cruz IMC collective, email imc-sc@lists.indymedia.org. Santa Cruz IMC will have its next meeting on Sunday, November 3 at 7 p.m. at Caffè Pergolessi.

All Together Speak

Young people, take advantage

By HALIE JOHNSON
The Alarm! Newspaper

Santa Cruz County is fortunate to have a big handful of media outlets for the public and specifically for youth. Listed below are just a few of the resources that are just waiting to be tapped into. This by no means is a complete list, but it's somewhere to get you started. You can always write letters to any of the local publications from *The Sentinel* and *The Register-Pajaronian* to the *Good Times* and of course *The Alarm!*. You can also call into talk radio shows and some of the programs on Community Television. What's important is that you voice yourself.

With countless policies and laws that exclude young people from the public eye, you can't always count on adults to watch out for you, sometimes you have to take the media into your own hands, and damn does it feel good!

Community Television of Santa Cruz County (CTSCC)

Anyone with an interest in film production, or who wishes to get the word out about anything should take advantage of this resource. CTRSCC might as well be called the Santa Cruz County Peoples' School for Film Production. They offer a number of already affordable classes that will instruct you with everything you need to know to become a prodigy filmmaker. The bonus is that if you're a student you're probably eligible for scholarships to take any of these classes. Learn Hi-8 and SVHS editing skills, how to operate a camera, how to make lighting work for you, how to produce a show and how to be a director. As if all this wasn't exciting enough, once you've completed your masterpiece, sit back and watch it with your friends and family on Channel 27. Community TV can be contacted at: 816 Pacific Ave. Santa Cruz, CA 95060 Phone: (831) 425-8848 Fax: (831) 425-3958 www.communitytv.org

ShoutOut

ShoutOut is a free online publication written by and for teenagers. It's a place for teens to create a forum for teens to express their opinions and hear what other teens are saying. It's providing reliable information about the lives of teens.

ShoutOut can be contacted at: Population Services International, 406 Main St. Watsonville, CA 95076 Phone: (831) 722-9277 Fax: (831) 722-9279 Email: ShoutOut@psic.org

Free Radio Santa Cruz

Free Radio is a pirate radio station that complies with FCC regulations. It's been operating illegally for a long time (If that doesn't just tickle you, than I don't know what does). It's commercial-free, grass roots, no noise, sometimes fuzz, sometimes Action, civil disobedience, Free Speech." What's



An independent venue

YO! Youth Outlook is an award-winning literary monthly journal that features the voices of young people. YO! chronicles the world through the eyes and voice of young people between the ages of 13 and 19. YO! has a high profile with a daily column in the San Francisco Examiner. YO! stories also run in other publications—from graffiti artists to filmmakers to incarcerated youth. YO! Youth Outlook editor Kevin Weston spoke with Halie Johnson of The Alarm!

HJ: How did you get involved with YO!?

KW: I started in '92 as a young writer, then I became a staff person until '95. I came back in the summer of 2000, as a co-editor and eventually took over as the editor. Sandy Close of Pacific News Service invited me back.

HJ: What made you want to work with youth?

KW: It's kind of what I've always done. I look at it as who I am, at least who I was. I consider myself an advocate now. As I got older I realized the need for young people to have advocates to connect with them. I'm very interested in young people and what they're going through. I have loyalty to this organization because they gave me my first shot at writing. I want to give other people that opportunity because of what it did for me.

HJ: Who do you think should have control over the media?

KW: Technology gives regular people control over media. I think everybody should have control. Everyone has the ability to express themselves. They should be given the

opportunity to be heard. Young people should have access to media. The community especially needs this culture we almost don't have a voice in print.

HJ: What are some of the challenges you face as a media outlet?

KW: We've been a small operation. We're pretty efficient. We're people in transition or a

The biggest challenge is staying in the lead. We're not trying to be the best, we're not necessarily staying at all, but being true to the main thing is to stay in the lead. We try to push the envelope. I think there's a tendency to all sound the same. I

Pacific News Service is on the edge, so *Youth*



ther Now k Out!

vantage of the media!

JOHNSON

paper Collective

, quarterly publication
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c.org

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te radio station in non-
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y for seven years now.
e the rebel deep within
(what will.) Free Radio
assroots news, music,
but in all “24/7 Direct
nce in defense of our
really exciting is that



for the voices of youth

ures in-depth reporting pieces and first-person essays, comic strips and poetry pages.
ages of 15 and 25.

er, a national distribution of 40,000, and an annual expo of youth communica-
n nationally and internationally over the Pacific News Service wire.

arm! about working with young people and the role of independent media.

Outlook

l. Communities of color
media; any marginalized
should have control. In
don't exist unless you

of the challenges you

round for a while, so
Working with young
at risk is challenging.

e is to remain relevant.
e PC with the product,
sticking to any politics
o individual voices. The
relevant, stay fresh and

envelope in youth me-
endency for youth media
want to avoid that.

has a history of being
Outlook borrows from

you too can be part of this subversion of the
radio stream! [Please note, there is minor risk
involved in participating in an illegal operation,
but you won't be alone.] The biggest self-im-
posed regulation is that programmers will lose
their shows for broadcasting hate messages
(that includes song lyrics). To get a show you
must submit a sample tape of what your pro-
gram would sound like, and fill out their ap-
plication to propose your idea. FRSC contact
info:

P.O. Box 7507

Santa Cruz, CA 95061

Voicemail: (831) 427-4523

Live studio line: (831) 427-3772

Email: frsc@cruzio.com

The Alarm!

What a novel idea. You could be a columnist
for *The Alarm!* and the good news is you can
write about anything you want and you're not
doing it for a grade. But there's even better
news: we'll pay you for articles, commentary
and printable artwork. We're especially inter-
ested in stories of underground culture, and
those less told. But, like Kevin Weston, the
editor of *Youth Outlook* said, “there are youth
angles to ever story,” and it's rarely the story
that gets told. If you're interested, send your
ideas to us, or call:

P.O. Box 1205

Santa Cruz, CA 95061

Phone: (831) 429-NEWS

Fax: (831) 420-1498

Email: queries@the-alarm.com

Submission guidelines can be found at:
www.the-alarm.com

If I've failed to list any other local media out-
lets that are youth-friendly, write me and let
me know. Please feel free to contact me for
more information about how to get in on the
movement to take back public control over the
media.

halie@the-alarm.com

25% technical, 75% social media

Free Radio Santa Cruz is an unlicensed low-power “pirate” radio station that has been broadcasting for seven years. The station operates as a collective. Decisions regarding the running of the station are made by consensus of all the programmers at regular meetings. Mistress Violet, a programmer with the Free Radio Santa Cruz collective shares, some of her thoughts with The Alarm! 's Fhar Miess.

Fhar Miess: As a Free Radio programmer,
how do you see your role in the community?

Mistress Violet: I think one of the great
benefits of FR is that the focus is brought back
from CNN and national news to the communi-
ty at large. A lot of people have this perception
that if it's not on mass media outlet, then it's
not really news, and therefore what they do in
their normal lives is not important. So when
you have a media center that's putting out
stuff that's happening in people's daily lives
and you're hearing the voices of your friends
over the air, which is an official media, there's
no questioning if this is really news. This is
news. It's out there. It's being shared with
all these people. It's newsworthy. So there
becomes this different standard, a different
understanding of what is news and what's im-
portant in people's lives. The real truth is that
what happens in *your* life is important. It takes
some of the alienation out of newscasting in
particular, but media in general.

The other great thing is that because we
don't have sponsors, we don't have to cater to
any sponsors, so we're not catering to cigarette
companies or any media companies. We're
not covering up for the government. We're
not taking money from this, that or the other
person. So, we really don't have to censor.
The other thing is that because we're so low-
budget—we don't pay a licensing fee, which
is astronomical, and the point of having an
astronomical licensing fee is to force you into
that kind of corporate sponsorship, I feel—so
without that, we don't have to worry about
marketability, we don't have to worry about
playing mainstream music, we don't have to
worry about that one listener who's going to
disconnect and not hear our ad, and we also
don't have to worry about what our corporate
sponsors are gonna to say—if they're going to
pull our ad—about what we have to say. So
we can distribute freely alternative media.

FM: If you don't have accountability to
corporations or politicians and so forth, do you
conceive of yourself as having accountability
to a larger group?

MV: Well, we have accountability to our-
selves, and I think we do have in some loose
sense an accountability to our listeners to pro-
vide them with things they need to hear. It's
kind of strange to think of accountability. We
do have a “no hate-speech” clause. If we hear
you doing hate-speech, we'll shut you down.
We'll say, “it's fine to do this on pirate radio,
but you can start up you're own pirate radio
station.” You can say anything you want
as long as it's not advocating or promoting
violence against any group, and
that includes subtle things like
sexism and stuff like that. So,
I don't know if that means that
we're accountable to the commu-
nity at large or just accountable to
ourselves because we don't want
to work with that kind of group.
And maybe that's the same thing
because we try to draw the people
in the collective from the people in
the community.

FM: What is the hardest part
about keeping the whole thing go-
ing?

MV: The hardest part is the so-
cial aspect, and that's always going
to be the hardest part. I went to the
Autonomous Media Conference in
Tucson, Arizona and I got to meet
this guy who's a super-genius
engineer and he can weld all the
circuits together and put up a trans-
mitter in the mountains and do all
these really sneaky and wonderful
things, and he said—and I think it's
true—it's only 25% technological
and 75% social. Frankly, I feel like
FRSC is doing a really good job of
keeping afloat and keeping alive,
but we're doing a really crappy

job in stuff we should be doing like having
Spanish-language programming, getting more
minority voices out there and also thinking of
not just ourselves and our own existence but
also creating bridges with other pirate radio
stations and also providing a training ground
for folks who will then go out and start up
new pirate radio stations. I think we're doing
horribly on that front, and that has to do with
social issues among and between ourselves.
How together are we, really? We're together
somewhat, and that's always gonna be the
case. It'll fluctuate.

FM: Do you attribute that to the structure
that you're committed to?

MV: Not personally. I have a lot of faith
in collectives, some of it perhaps unfounded.
I think one of the problems is that we don't
spend a lot of time educating ourselves on
what a collective is and what we expect out of
a collective member and we also don't enforce
against negative behavior when we encoun-
ter it. Part of that is that we're a volunteer
group—it's not our careers and it's not the
place where we spend most of our time.

FM: Hopefully!

MV: (Laughs) Yeah! If it is, there's a prob-
lem.

FM: What do you see in the future for
FRSC and for independent media in general?

MV: I think it needs to be something that's
larger and wider and we need to look upon
ourselves as a movement, and not only a
movement of radio—which is something we
don't do now, but we really should—not only
involving radio, but every single kind of media
possible. Within our own towns, we need to
network between and among people who are
doing radio, video, music and other kind of
media, and really get all those infrastructures
tight and together. The other thing we need
to be doing is training people to go out—give
them a responsibility, give them a leadership
position—so when they go out to another
city they have the confidence to say, “I can
do this!” Oh yeah, and printed media, too!
(Laughs)

FM: (Laughs)

*Free Radio Santa Cruz broadcasts 24/7 at 96.3
FM. They are in need of new programmers and
donations. Visit them on their website at http:
//members.cruzio.com/~frsc/ or call their voicemail
at (831) 427-4523. Donations can be sent to: Free
Radio Santa Cruz, P.O. Box 7507, Santa Cruz,
CA 95061. They are also reachable via e-mail at
frsc@cruzio.com.*



FHAR MIESS/The Alarm! Newspaper

Mistress Violet staffs the Free Radio studio

In Retrospect

Free Spaghetti Dinner

BY BLAIZE WILKINSON
The Alarm! Newspaper Columnist

Readers of *The Alarm!* who were in Santa Cruz in 1969 and 1970 may remember *Free Spaghetti Dinner (FSD)*, an alternative newspaper that ran every other week for about a year. Since I wasn't in Santa Cruz at the time, and I was not able to read at the age of one and a half anyway, my first look at the paper came during this week's "adventures in microfilm" session at the public library. At first, I was only mesmerized by the groovy graphics, stoney advertisements and references to clothing as "threads" and money as "bread." With sections like "Cranberry Jam" and "Rabbit Circus," as well as instructions on building a geodesic dome, the paper struck me at first as the product of a group of pot-smoking, tuned-in, turned-on, but dropped-out people, who warned me "Don't Go to Woodstock: IT'S NOT FREE!"

Tuned-in and turned-on they may have been. But they were not dropped-out. Articles on a Free Breakfasts for Children program—"started by the Black Co-operative Association of Santa Cruz and the Brown Co-operative Association of Watsonville"—along with notes on draft counseling, ideas about composting, information on the possible nuclear plant to be built in Davenport, critiques of highway projects and reports on development plans for Lighthouse Field are all evidence of a group of people deeply engaged in both their small community and in the larger world.

While I found almost anything from *FSD* to be interesting—from macrobiotic recipes to a hilarious board game called "Satori"—for the sake of this week's focus on independent media, I will look at several articles that dealt with media, the role of "news" and *FSD's* own status as an alternative newspaper.

The February 1970 issue contained an article about *The City on a Hill Press*. The article quoted *CHP* editor Jonathan Kirsch, who said "My obligation lies entirely and completely with the students of the University, whose fees indirectly support our publication, and whose buying power attracts advertisers." This obligational confession, *FSD* went on to say, "is tantamount to recognizing that a student newspaper should reflect real student concerns—the draft, Vietnam, racism and lifestyle among others—above traditional fare of student government news." Kirsh claimed that "the illusion of economic dependence on administration subsidies" created a climate of "repressive self-censorship" that has "too long plagued college newspaper editors and exuded an aura of irrelevance for the majority of student readers." Kirsh announced that now "the only censorship will be that exercised by the writer over his [sic] own contributions."

The influence of funding sources on media is all the more worrisome in our modern age of corporations. Our news often comes from a source that not only supplies us our entertainment, but that also might own as subsidiaries the very companies whose advertisements interrupt both news and entertainment. Even allegedly "free" sources of media are deeply implicated in the corporate pay structure. I remember a number of years ago, NPR did a report that

was severely critical of Archer Daniels Midland. Since ADM, "Supermarket to the World," was always announced as a major sponsor of NPR, I worried at the time about what the repercussions of the critique would be. To its credit, NPR did not flinch from telling the story. And, to its credit, ADM did not pull its support after the broadcast. Funding for "independent" media does not just spring forth fully-formed like Athena from the head of Zeus. The *FSD* article about the *City on a Hill*, with its references to administration subsidies and advertising dollars, reminds us of the continuous struggle against "repressive self-censorship" we in the "independent" media must engage in.

Free Spaghetti Dinner reminds us that censorship can be more than just self-censorship. An article titled "H.S. Censors Nixed" covered the ruling of US District Court (Connecticut) Judge Robert C. Zampano against high school officials bent on censoring media distributed to students. The ruling came out of a suit by the underground paper *Stamford Free Press* against the Stamford (Connecticut) Board of Education. "The suit was filed after the principal of the high school refused to let the editors distribute a special test issue of the paper on school grounds until he read it." Judge Zampano's ruling called such a requirement "a classic example of prior restraint of speech and press which constitutes a violation of the First Amendment." The school officials "had argued that they were responsible for protecting students from political incitements, libel, slander, obscenity and other disruptive or potentially disruptive material." In his ruling against the school officials, Judge Zampano explained that "The risk taken if a few abuse their First Amendment rights of free speech and press is outweighed by the far greater risk run by suppressing free speech and press among the young."

Today, in the wake of Columbine and in the era of metal detectors and locker searches at high schools, I imagine that free speech issues are still contentious in public education. The *FSD* article on high school free speech is still timely, and reminds us that First Amendment rights need to be consistently extended to young people as well.

In April 1970, *Free Spaghetti Dinner* distinctly placed itself as an alternative newspaper in a series of critiques of the Santa Cruz *Sentinel*. Under the headline "A Senile Sentinel," the author told a story: "One day last spring, after glancing over the Santa Cruz *Sentinel* want ads...I started flipping through the rest of the newspaper. Then new to Santa Cruz, I dismissed its dullness and stereotypical views as a *product* of the proverbial 'small town' mentality. Now, after a year of subdued conflict with that mentality, I see the *Sentinel* as a major reinforcer and even prime *producer* of that mentality, not merely a reflection of it." The author continued, "I hold no prejudice against small towns or daily newspapers; on the contrary, I value them more as their numbers decrease each year. Yet, the specific situation demands that we as residents of Santa Cruz County change our attitude towards the 'other' Santa Cruz newspaper from one of benign neglect to providing, in effect, sentinels to the *Sentinel's* influence in shaping



the thought and opinion of the whole community."

The ensuing article critiqued the *Sentinel* in numerous ways. *FSD* called attention to the fact that the managing editor of the *Sentinel* had "served on every major committee concerning roadways in Santa Cruz County," and that the *Sentinel* reporting on highway projects could not be considered unbiased. In a (reluctantly-given) interview with publisher Fred D. McPherson, *FSD* subtly reminded its readers that non-corporate media is not necessarily free or independent. Later, the article called attention to what the author saw as the *Sentinel's* excessive and slanted coverage of city and county development meetings: "the *Sentinel* reads like a daily state of the community report to the local Chamber of Commerce."

The article concluded with a call to arms: "we must begin to curtail the *Sentinel's* influence; for, if unchecked, their efforts could just possibly shape the social and physical environment of Santa Cruz beyond our ability to cope with it, much less enjoy living here."

As a columnist and copy editor for an "alternative" paper, I was invigorated by *Free Spaghetti Dinner's* stance on media. I am probably more square and moderate than my fellow Alarmists, but I believe that I share with them a deep concern for the influence of media on our daily lives and on our deepest thoughts and personal outlooks. I don't envision *The Alarm!* as a rival of any particular paper in Santa Cruz. Rather, it is our own attempt to create a sentinel against complacency and knee-jerk consumerism, against the dulling of our thoughts and the stymieing of our actions. I worry daily about the financial health of *The Alarm!*. This worry springs partly from a desire to maintain my paycheck, but also from the recognition that, with all its flaws, this paper has the ability to do some good. I imagine a day, 32 years from now, where somebody at the public library will get a kick from reading microfilms of that odd little paper, *The Alarm!*. I just hope that there are more than one year's worth of issues for that future person to peruse.

If any former members of the *Free Spaghetti Dinner* staff are still around, I just want to say thanks. Thanks for the insight into Vietnam-era Santa Cruz. Thanks for reminding me that the word "hippie"—while it has been sullied in recent years by its association with apolitical drifters—was once applied to people who were thinkers, dreamers, possibly stoners, but also *doers*. Anyone interested in left-wing independent media in Santa Cruz could do themselves a favor by going down to the public library and reading all of *Free Spaghetti Dinner* on microfilm. It's fun, it's educational and, in a pretty deep way, it's inspiring.

Pasta Manifesto

EDITOR'S NOTE: While *The Alarm!* has not been in the habit of printing poetry, the following editorial from *Free Spaghetti Dinner* (see "In Retrospect") contains ideas that are worth reprinting here. While we don't support the generic use of the word "man," and the "space-ship" metaphor is a little stoney for our taste, overall we want to say "groovy," and "right on!"

There are We
and We are: You
are We together?

A local medium
turned inward / turned outward
to see the unity / diversity
in our universe
in our world
which is our town
which is our selves.

A local medium
integrating the visual
with the literal
to be
an exchange for
the diverse pockets
of our Community
to hear one another's voice
to see one another's face.

We reject the assuming
of stereotypes
which confines both
the seer and
the seen
in a one-dimensional prison

We seek to transcend
the artificial dichotomy of us / them
to accept the harmony of I / We.

We strive for the
overview / totality
Recognizing the
selfview / particular
which brings us to the common denominator;
which brings us to the common denominator:

food
shelter
clothing
education
comfort
love

a dividend of resources
a divisor of needs
a quotient of We
on a finite spaceship
hurtling towards
a distant
now.

A vision:
Monterey Bay Community
as a life / positive model
for a new age
with the re-integration
of man and nature
the co-operation
of man and man.

Just a vision.
A community of human beings
planted in local soil
nourished by vision and work
an organic process are We
you
are We
together.

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War Notes

■ A column following the developments of our new permanent war, the war on terrorism

By SASHA K
The Alarm! Newspaper Columnist



North Korea

North Korea’s confession that they have an active nuclear weapons program, in breach of a 1994 agreement with the US, has many people asking “why are the Koreans admitting this now?” North Korea is already under diplomatic pressure and has been named as one of the three members of the infamous “axis of evil,” so why bring more pressure upon themselves? North Korea is certainly not in good shape, economically or in terms of international relations—they have few friends left in the world. But for all Bush’s talk of the axis of evil, North Korea hasn’t gotten much attention lately. Now they have. And, perhaps, that is the point.

By playing the nuclear weapons card, North Korea might be trying to bring about a more engaged relationship with the US. North Korea seems to be betting that this confession will bring about negotiations with the US that could lead to normalization of relations. Of course, with the Bush administration such a bet might be a long shot.

Strangely enough, the Bush administration took half a month to disclose North Korea’s confession. Why did the US hold the information secret for so long? It looks like the Korea issue has started another internal battle in the Bush administration: with Powell’s State Department looking to negotiate and the Rumsfeld wing pushing a much harder line. Powell has already started talking on the diplomatic front, meeting with the South Korean Foreign Minister Choi Sung-hong and Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov late last week.

“This is a time to approach this matter with care, to consult closely with our friends. We are all in this,” Powell told reporters. Others within the State Department indicate that the US will take a flexible approach to North Korea. And President Bush stated that, unlike with Iraq, the US would use diplomatic pressure, not military threats, to persuade North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons program.

Department of hypocrisy

The different treatment that North Korea and Iraq are getting isn’t lost on the Iraqis. Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, one of Saddam Hussein’s most trusted advisors, bluntly stated, “North Korea has admitted to having a secret nuclear program. The United States is not asking that North Korea be inspected in the way they are asking for Iraq to be inspected. Why? Because there are two things absent in North Korea: oil and Israel. The reason for this warmongering policy towards Iraq is oil and Israel.” Aziz’s statement is part of the diplomatic wrangling surrounding the expected UN resolution on Iraq.

Bush speak on the diplomatic

front: To the confusion of many, Bush has redefined one of his favorite terms, “regime change.” “[I]f he [Saddam Hussein] were to meet all the conditions of the United Nations, the conditions I’ve described very clearly in terms that everybody can understand, that in itself will signal the regime has changed,” Bush said. So now a regime change does not mean a new regime is put in the place of the old, but that Hussein (since Bush defines the regime as Saddam Hussein) changes his ways.

This sudden change in terminology comes, of course, as Bush is trying to convince the big five permanent Security Council members to pass the US version of a resolution on Iraq. Negotiations for such a resolution have been going on for over six weeks. Both France and Russia, however, have been circulating proposals in the UN that take out language that could be interpreted as authorizing an attack on Iraq, forcing the US to slowly remove such language.

But on October 23, the US finally formally presented the Security Council with its draft resolution, which included a threat of military action. The Russian ambassador to the UN, Sergey Lavrov, stated that Russia opposed any resolution that included automatic authorization for the use of military force, and that the demands on Iraq for inspections were “unimplementable, unrealistic.”

Yet it is unlikely that France, Russia or China will veto the resolution if the US can garner the seven votes—plus Britain and the US—necessary out of the fifteen Security Council member states. Mexico and Ireland are key pivot votes.

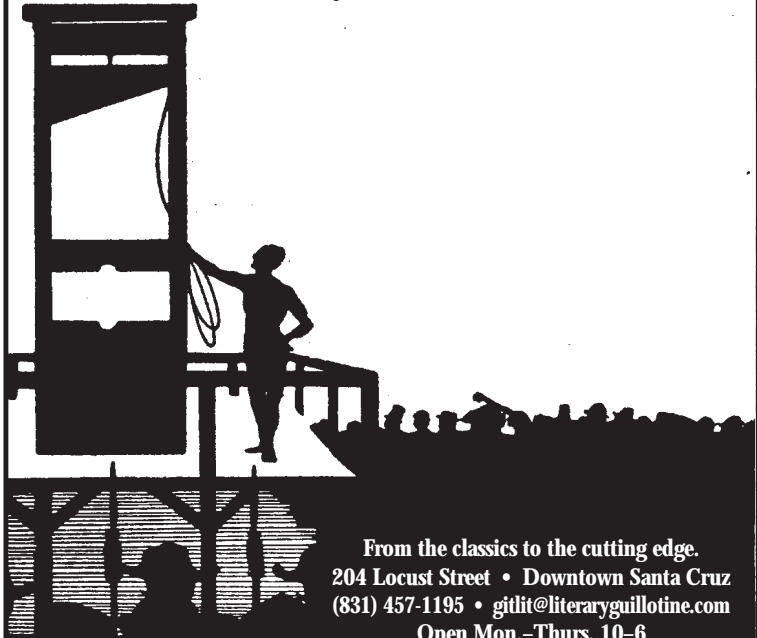
The US, fearing that the resolution won’t be strong enough for its tastes, is now arguing to have inspections carried out quickly and forcefully in order to push Iraq into noncompliance. After many weeks of debate on the UN resolution, the US wants to make sure it can still fight its war in the winter months (beginning between December and February), before the sand storms and heat of the spring and summer make war efforts more difficult. Both Powell and Condoleezza Rice, the national security advisor, argued that the inspections should be a quick test of Saddam Hussein.

War preparations

The build-up in the Gulf is speeding up. More and more troops are arriving at bases in the Gulf. Two aircraft carriers are soon to leave for the Gulf bringing the total there to four. The Defense Department is also beginning to train at least 5,000 troops recruited from the Iraqi opposition to act as spotters and translators in the coming war. More dangerous for regional stability, there are reports that the Bush administration is planning a joint strike with Israel into Iraq’s western territory to disarm any missiles that threaten Israel.

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Is there a Hip-Hop vote?

By LEE HUBBARD
Pacific News Service

EDITOR'S NOTE: In Black communities across the country a young "Hip-Hop generation" is increasingly distinguishing itself from the conventional wisdom of the civil rights establishment. PNS contributor Lee Hubbard (superle@hotmail.com) writes on Hip-Hop, national and urban affairs.

When legendary Hip-Hop icon LL Cool J recently endorsed New York Republican Governor George Pataki over the Democratic Party nominee, who is Black, it surprised many in New York state politics and the civil rights community.

New York State Comptroller H. Carl McCall, the Democratic gubernatorial candidate and the first Black to win a statewide race there, had already secured endorsements of Hip-Hop icons such as Russell Simmons and Sean "P-Diddy" Combs and was expected to carry favor with Hip-Hoppers such as LL Cool J.

"It's not about parties, it's not about race, it's not about what's cool or not cool," Cool J said in front of a flock of cameras and reporters last month. "It's about action and it's about people stepping up."

Though proud McCall was running, Cool J based his endorsement on Pataki's handling of the September 11 terrorist attack in New York. He said he was also impressed with the large amount of economic development that could be seen in his community, which he attributed to Pataki's policies.

While Hip-Hop has been one of the defining cultural and social agents of change in the United States in the last 20 years, many older Blacks from the civil rights generation have questioned the culture's political activism and its ability to effect change.

When artists or activists from the Hip-Hop generation do act, many of the old-line civil rights activists expect they will follow their lead. But this doesn't always happen. During the 2001 Los Angeles mayor's race between Kenneth Hahn and Antonio Villaraigosa, Najee Ali, Dominique Diprima and other Hip-Hop activists broke with the Black civil rights community in supporting Villaraigosa.

The Black generation gap can be seen in issues surrounding education, the criminal justice system, entrepreneurship and voter participation.

"Our generation is finding our own way," said Hashim Shamori, author of the book *From Da Underground: Hip-Hop Culture as an Agent of Social Change*. "While most will vote Democratic, it is not the same type of party allegiance that can be seen in their parents."

While Blacks from the civil rights generation lived under Jim Crow laws and other exclusionary practices, Blacks from the Hip-Hop generation have no memories of this.

"The Hip-Hop generation tend to be more objective in their political thinking," according to Alvin

Williams, founder of Black America's Political Action Committee (BAM-PAC), which commissioned a study on the differences in the generations. "They do not have the scars that their parents or grandparents had during the Jim Crow era."

Williams BAMPAC study found that younger Blacks from the Hip-Hop generation tend to be more issue-orientated than focused on a particular political party.

"They will be motivated by issues such as cutting taxes, improving public education and reforming social security. They will vote for candidates based on these issues," Williams said.

A third of Blacks aged 26 to 35 consider themselves political independents, according to *Diverging Generations: The Transformation of African American Policy Views*, a report by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a Black think tank. On the issue of school vouchers, traditionally opposed by Democrats, the survey found that Blacks under the age of 50 are much more likely to support vouchers than Blacks over 50.

Can the so-called Hip-Hop generation be organized into a voting bloc?

Groups such as Russell Simmons Hip Hop Action Network, which uses artists to publicize an issue, have mobilized a Hip-Hop generation constituency that successfully protested and reduced education cuts in New York. But critics say this group and others have done little besides hold a series of high-profile rallies and political endorsements.

"What does it mean to say you are endorsing someone, but you are not organizing a constituency?" said Bakari Kitwana, author of *Hip-Hop Generation*. "On some level it is grandstanding, and on another level, it is a joke."

While younger Blacks from the Hip-Hop generation are beginning to run for political offices or advocate political positions, Kitwana believes it will take grassroots organizing from these artist and activists before the changing dynamic in African American politics is more fully revealed. LL Cool J's endorsement of Pataki may be the first step in that direction.

"The world that I come from, a lot of people aren't interested in politics," said Cool J. "But after seeing how the governor handled the 9/11 situation, seeing what happened in this city... I decided, you know what? I'm going to vote; I'm going to register."

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Missing ingredient for democracy—the right to vote

By JEFF MILCHEN
Pacific News Service

EDITOR'S NOTE: As November 5 approaches, Americans should know they do not have a constitutionally guaranteed right to vote, but are granted a privilege to vote that may be refused or ignored by states, much as Florida controversially purged legally registered citizens from rolls in 2000. It's time for a constitutional amendment, writes PNS contributor Jeff Milchen, that might guarantee the right to vote as inherent in US citizenship. Milchen directs ReclaimDemocracy.org, a nonprofit devoted to promoting democracy and restoring citizen authority over corporations.

Maybe it's a mean streak in me, but as I hear repeated exhortations to do my civic duty at this time of year by "exercising my right to vote." I've been known to goad a particularly earnest person with the comment, "But I don't have a right to vote."

Confusion turns to bewilderment when I add, "and neither do you."

True, we have Constitutional amendments that outlaw preventing a person from voting based on their race, sex and age, but those protections are hollow because all citizens may be disenfranchised—stripped of voting privileges—so long as it is done without bias. Voting is presently a privilege that may be granted or revoked at the discretion of government officials.

This little-known truth underlies the fiasco we experienced in the last presidential election in Florida, for instance, and still hasn't been fixed.

While numerous electoral reforms have been debated since that 2000 debacle, we should first establish a long-neglected foundation of democracy—one that already exists in at least 135 nations—by amending our Constitution to guarantee our right to vote, and to have our votes count equally. By securing a right to vote as an inherent right of citizenship, numerous other reforms will be more achievable.

For example, an affirmative right to vote would have armed Florida residents to fight victimization by state officials who purged legally registered citizens (most of whom were Black and/or Hispanic) from the voter rolls. Currently, any state has the power to refuse or ignore our votes in presidential elections, and as Florida's legislature asserted in 2000, any state legislature may simply choose electors with no voter input whatsoever.

A right to vote would enable citizens to challenge anti-democratic structures that routinely prevent citizens in sev-

eral states from enjoying a choice other than Democrats or Republicans. For example, Georgia has institutionalized two-party dominance with no outside competition by requiring independent or "third party" candidates for US Representative to gather signatures from five percent of registered voters, a feat that no person has accomplished in nearly 40 years.

While we lack an affirmative right to vote, state officials can and do permanently disenfranchise some citizens for a past felony, even after a sentence is served. Offenses that are used to deny voting rights in one state sometimes are misdemeanors in others. Virginia, for instance, strips citizens of voting privileges for life simply for possessing a certain quantity of marijuana. Regardless of one's position on drug crimes, we should recognize that blocking ex-offenders from political participation undermines the process of re-integrating persons into society as productive, engaged citizens.

Then there's the perennial case of Washington, D.C., residents, who lack voting representation in Congress entirely. Just months before the Supreme Court decided the 2000 election in *Bush v. Gore*, a majority of the justices ruled that the nearly 600,000 residents of Washington, D.C., have no legal recourse for their lack of representation. In that case, *Alexander v. Mineta*, the Court majority noted that our Constitution "does not protect the right of all citizens to vote, but rather the right of all qualified citizens to vote."

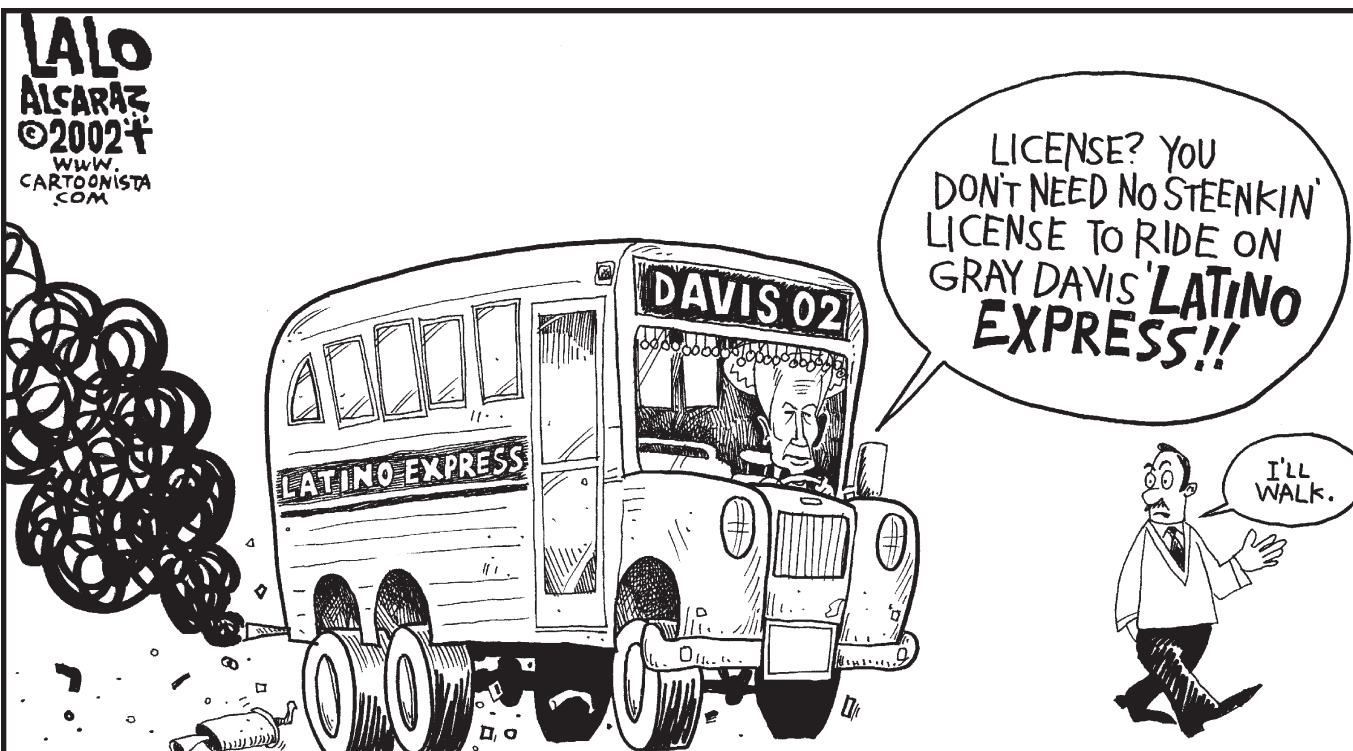
Though Washington, D.C., residents outnumber those of some entire states and pay taxes like the rest of us, they have no say in the federal laws they must live under. If that were changed, the capital would be the only US Senate district with a Black majority, but bills to right this situation are held hostage by partisan politics.

Those who think the Supreme Court could rectify such injustice through a more generous interpretation of our Constitution might wait a long time. In *Bush v. Gore* the majority reinforced the idea that "the individual citizen has no federal constitutional right to vote...." Although their statement refers to electoral votes for the presidency, it reinforces the reality that voting is a privilege granted at the discretion of those in power.

Though some may consider the legal reasoning in that decision dubious, the Supreme Court is not to blame when it comes to voting rights; the justices have interpreted our Constitution correctly. It is our job to amend it to guarantee what American University law professor Jamin Raskin calls "the right of the people to vote and, therefore, to govern."

While most Americans assume universal suffrage to be a struggle already won, a Constitutional right to vote is the next vital step toward realizing the goal of one person, one vote. www.pacificnews.org

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*Mark Primack is fourth from the right in the back row. If you want to read more about Mark's role in saving the Circus Trees see www.markprimack.org

Dangerous diplomacy—Israel, North Korea both rattle nuclear sabers

By FRANZ SCHURMANN
Pacific News Service

EDITOR'S NOTE: In the game of nations, writes PNS Editor Franz Schurmann, nuclear arms are a diplomatic weapon used by all who have them. Two divided nations in the news — Israel and North Korea — have had nuclear weapons policies for 50 years or more, posing a danger to the world even after the end of the Cold War. Schurmann (fschurmann@pacificnews.org) is an emeritus professor at the University of California, Berkeley, and has long written on East Asia and China.

Is there any connection between President Bush's recent defense of Israel's right of retaliation against attack by Iraq and North Korea's admission a day later that it has secretly been pursuing a nuclear weapons project?

A clue to a possible connection can be found in the English-language edition of the Israeli daily *Ha'aretz* of August 15. Well-known military expert Ze'ev Schiff wrote: "If Iraq strikes at Israel with non-conventional weapons, causing massive casualties among the civilian population, Israel could respond with a nuclear retaliation that would eradicate Iraq as a country."

By revealing its secret nuclear weapons project to the United States, North Korea is in effect playing the same risky game of nuclear diplomacy as Israel.

Some in Washington have questioned whether North Korea has operational nuclear weapons. But the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace has stated that North Korea's nuclear program began in the 1950s. That means Pyongyang has had a nuclear weapons policy for a half century.

As for Israel, "It has been actively investigating the nuclear option from its earliest days," according to the Federation of American Scientists (FAS). "The program took another step forward with the creation of the Israel Atomic Energy Commission (IAEC) in 1952."

Israel is now reputed to have some 200 operational nuclear weapons. Like North Korea, Israel has had a nuclear weapons policy for 50 years.

Another FAS statement about Israel's nuclear weapons policy may also shed light on North Korean policy: "The Israeli nuclear weapons program grew out of the conviction that the Holocaust justified any measures Israel took to ensure its survival." It is well known that Israel is surrounded

by hostile states. So is North Korea. Russia is no longer an ally. China is by treaty bound to defend North Korea, but Beijing is hardly an admirer of North Korean leader Kim Jong-il. The two Koreas yearn for more family reunification, but, as a recent bloody clash on the high seas demonstrated, they remain bitter enemies.

If Israel fears deeply a "Holocaust II," North Korea fears it could share the fate of the German Democratic Republic, a.k.a. East Germany. North Koreans know well that it was Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev who "gave" run-down East Germany to booming West Germany. The "Gorbachev" for North Korea could be China President Jiang Zemin or his successor, Vice President Hu Jintao. China's relations with South Korea, after all, are far better and more profitable than with North Korea.

An incident in China's border areas near North Korea underscored the fragility of relations between Beijing and Pyongyang. In September, Kim Jong-il announced he was creating a special zone in North Korea to experiment with capitalism called the Sinuiju Project. Kim selected a very wealthy Chinese capitalist with Dutch citizenship, Yang Bin, to head the project, evidently without consulting the Chinese. As Yang was inspecting various towns in the China borderlands with Korea, where the people are mostly Korean, the Chinese police suddenly arrested him. It was not clear what the charges against him were, but they likely had to do with organizing independent activities without informing the authorities.

Even if Sinuiju should thrive, this will not rid the North Koreans of the fear that some day they could find themselves handed over to South Korea. South Korea's president has no desire to take over famine-stricken North Korea — but neither was German Chancellor Helmut Kohl eager to be presented with East Germany by Gorbachev eleven years ago.

The one country that made the East German transfer possible was the United States. President George Bush Sr. could have said no, but did not. Now George Bush Jr. faces an analogous situation vis-à-vis North Korea. Significantly, just when the Israel and North Korean nuclear weapons news broke, Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly was in Pyongyang. And Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was in the White House.

Few US and international experts and diplomats fear that nuclear weapons will soon be fired. They are more concerned with resolving conflicts that have made America's recession so difficult to root out. But both Israel and North Korea are dangerously divided countries. Those divisions are cancers that threaten not only these countries themselves, but the world as a whole.

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Southern shift -- Brazil's Lula more nationalist than leftist

By FRANCISCO JOSE MORENO AND ALEJANDRO EGGERS MORENO
Pacific News Service

EDITOR'S NOTE: Calling Brazil's new president a leftist is far too simplistic, write PNS contributors Jose Moreno and Alejandro Eggers Moreno. In fact, the former metal worker's election is a clear demonstration of the changing face of Latin American politics, where nationalism and globalization are becoming more important terms than "left" and "right." The authors are president and vice president, respectively, of Strategic Assessments, a consulting firm in Tiburon, California, and Washington, D.C. Francisco Jose Moreno taught political science at New York University and was vice president for Latin America for Philip Morris International for 13 years.

Headlines across the world shout about Brazil's new "leftist" president. But Luis Inacio Lula da Silva won a landslide victory in Latin America's largest economy by blurring traditional ideological boundaries and forming a broad-based, nationalist coalition of Brazilians ready to take on US economic priorities and global financial institutions.

Lula's success is a clear demonstration of the changing face of Latin American politics. The traditional struggle between conservatives, backed almost unanimously by business and financial leaders, against socialists or populists supported by the working class is giving way to a new conflict. This conflict is between those committed to preserving national interests and those willing to accede to the demands of international financial institutions.

During the course of the campaign, Lula softened his staunch left-wing views and moved toward a more moderate, business-friendly position. He chose Jose Alencar, a millionaire textile magnate, as his running mate. He promised to uphold Brazil's international commitments and rejected a moratorium on foreign debt. He sought and won the support of numerous business and financial leaders, and proposed the formation of a Council of Economic and Social Development with representatives from business, trade unions and other sectors of society to negotiate a new social contract.

At the same time, Lula did not deny his dislike for the finance-oriented market policies driven by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other global institutions. He repeatedly denounced the current economic system and insisted he would under no circumstances support the US-backed Free Trade Agreement of the Americas, claiming the proposed hemispheric free-trade zone would essentially signify the American annexation of Brazil's economy. Global free trade models, he said, would only become viable when all countries have equal opportunities and conditions to become competitive.

This is how did Lula managed to reconcile his seemingly leftist economic views with his newfound friendliness

toward business leaders:

The demands of the international financial community over the past decade, specifically the strong emphasis on finance over production, has put Brazil in the position where the interests of most local businessmen, many local investors and middle class professionals are beginning to coincide with those of the workers. The IMF-backed policies of recent years have been designed to pour money into the country, regardless of how it is used or distributed. As a result, most of the money has turned to profits for foreign corporations or gone to the richest Brazilians, and much has been taken out of the country for investment elsewhere. Little attention has been paid to actually strengthening the ability and capacity of the Brazilian economy itself, leaving in the lurch all but the largest businesses, all of the workers and most of the professionals who serve them.

So when Lula talks about how Brazil's problems go beyond its debt and that the country needs to focus more on boosting imports, creating jobs, and stimulating local business, he speaks for a wide range of Brazilians, employers and employees alike.

He reframed the election from a contest between the left and the right to a struggle over who gets to determine Brazil's future — the US-led global financial community, or Brazil.

It is not difficult to explain how Lula was able to secure such a large percentage of the vote. Unlike other recently elected leftist leaders in the region — Hugo Chavez in Venezuela, for example — Lula's popularity does not stem from a personality cult or an overwhelmingly destitute population desperate for any kind of change. He has been very clear that he has no interest in a Chavez-style popular revolution, and there is no indication that Brazilians would have any interest in such.

Lula has managed to gain the support of his old enemies because he is no longer seen as protecting the poor against the abuses of businesses, but as protecting Brazil against the abuses of the United States and the financial policies it sponsors. Yet Lula's blurring of traditional liberal-conservative ideological distinctions in favor of a common nationalistic outlook is not limited to Brazil. In Argentina, for example, the financial crisis has polarized the country into pro- and anti-IMF camps, the latter including workers and business owners.

As Latin America continues to reject the economic model that has been foisted upon it during the past decade, politics will increasingly take this form in the rest of the region.

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Harry Hay, paved the way for modern gay activism, dies at 90

By STUART TIMMONS

OCTOBER 25, 2002—Henry “Harry” Hay, known as the founder of the modern American gay movement, has died at age 90. The pioneering gay activist devoted his life to progressive politics and in 1950, he founded a state-registered foundation and secret network of support groups for gays known as the Mattachine Society. He was also a co-founder, in 1979, of the Radical Faeries, a movement affirming gayness as a form of spiritual calling. A rare link between gay and progressive politics, Hay and his partner of 39 years, John Burnside, had lived in San Francisco for three years after a lifetime in Los Angeles.

Hay had been diagnosed weeks earlier with lung cancer. Despite his illness, he remained lucid and died peacefully in his sleep in the early hours of October 24.

“Harry Hay’s determined, visionary activism significantly lifted gays out of oppression,” said Stuart Timmons, who published a biography of Hay in 1990.

“All gay people continue to benefit from his fierce affirmation of gays as a people.”

Hay is listed in histories of the American gay movement as first in applying the term “minority” to homosexuals. An uncompromising radical, he easily dismissed “the heteros,” and never rested from challenging the status quo, including within the gay community. Due to the pervasive homophobia of his times (it was illegal for more than two homosexuals to congregate in California during the 1950s) Hay and his colleagues took an oath of anonymity that lasted a quarter century until Jonathan Ned Katz interviewed Hay for the ground-breaking book *Gay American History*. Countless researchers subsequently sought him out; in recent years, Hay became the subject of a biography, a PBS-funded documentary and an anthology of his own writings.

Previous attempts to create gay organizations in the United States had fizzled — or been stamped out. Hay’s first organizational conception was a group he called Bachelors Anonymous, formed to both support and leverage the 1948 presidential candidacy of Progressive Party leader Henry Wallace. Hay wrote and discreetly circulated a prospectus calling for “the androgynous minority” to organize as a political entity. Hay’s call for an “international bachelor’s fraternal order for peace and social dignity” did not bear results until 1950. That year, his love affair with Viennese immigrant Rudi Gernreich, (whose fashion designs eventually made him a *TIME* cover-man) brought Hay into gay circles where a critical mass of daring souls could be found to begin sustained meetings. On November 11, 1950, at Hay’s home in the Silver Lake district of Los Angeles, a group of gay men met which became the Mattachine Society. Of the original Mattachine founders, Chuck Rowland, Bob Hull and Dale Jennings pre-deceased Hay; Konrad Stevens and John Gruber are the last surviving members of the founding group.

“Mattachine” took its name from a group of medieval dancers who appeared publicly only in mask, a device well understood by homosexuals of the 1950s.

Hay devised its secret cell structure

(based on the Masonic order) to protect individual gays and the nascent gay network. Officially co-gender, the group was largely male; the Daughters of Bilitis, the pioneering lesbian organization, formed independently in San Francisco in 1956. Though some criticized the Mattachine movement as insular, it grew to include thousands of members in dozens of chapters, which formed from Berkeley to Buffalo, and created a lasting national framework for gay organizing. Mattachine laid the ground for rapid civil rights gains following 1969’s Stonewall riots in New York City.

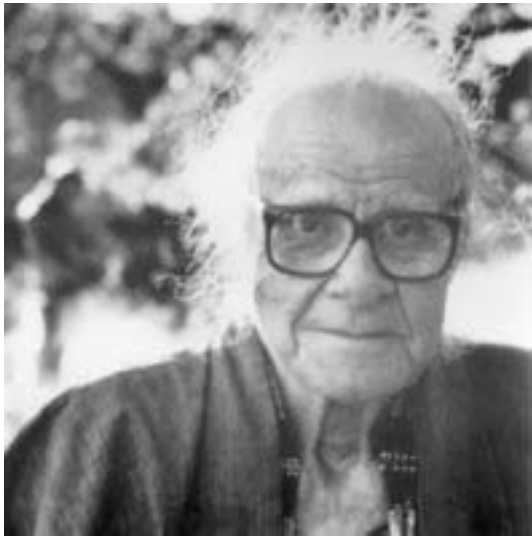
Harry Hay was born in England in 1912, the day the Titanic sank. His father worked as a mining engineer in South Africa and Chile, but the family settled in Southern California. After graduating from Los Angeles High School, he briefly attended Stanford, but dropped out and returned to Los Angeles. He understood from childhood that he was a sissy—different in behavior from boys or girls—and also that he was attracted to men. His same-sex affairs began when he was a teenager, not long after he began reading 19th Century scholar Edward Carpenter, whose essays on “homogenic love” strongly influenced his thinking.

A tall and muscular young man, Hay worked as both an extra and ghostwriter in 1930s Hollywood. He developed a passion for theater, and performed on Los Angeles stages with Anthony Quinn in the 1930s, and with Will Geer, who became his lover. Geer took Hay to the San Francisco General Strike of 1935, and indoctrinated him into the American Communist Party. Hay became an active trade unionist. A blend of Marxist analysis and stagecraft strongly influenced Hay’s later gay organizing.

Despite a decade of gay life, in 1938 Hay married the late Anita Platky, also a Communist Party member. The couple were stalwarts of the Los Angeles Left; Hay taught at the California Labor School and worked on domestic campaigns such as campaigning for Ed Roybal, the first Latino elected in Los Angeles. The Hays occasionally hosted Pete Seeger and Woody Guthrie when they performed in Los Angeles, and Hay recalled demonstrating with Josephine Baker in 1945 over the Jim Crow policy of a local restaurant. When he felt compelled to go public with the Mattachine Society in 1951, the Hays divorced. After a burst of activity lasting three years, the growing Mattachine rejected Hay as a liability due to his Communist beliefs. In 1955, when he was called before the House UnAmerican Activities Committee, he had trouble finding a progressive attorney to represent him, he felt, due to homophobia on the Left. (He was ultimately dismissed after his curt testimony.) Hay felt exiled from the Left for nearly fifty years, until he received the Life Achievement award of a Los

Angeles library preserving progressive movements.

For most of his life Hay lived in Los Angeles. However, during the early 1940s, Hay and his wife lived in New York City; he returned there with John Burnside to march and speak at the Stonewall 25th celebration in 1994. During the 1970s, he and Burnside moved to New Mexico, where he ran the trading post at San Juan Pueblo Indian reservation.



His years of research for gay references in history and anthropology texts lead Hay to formulate his own gay-centered political philosophy, which he wrote and spoke about constantly. His theory of “gay consciousness” placed variant thinking as the most significant trait in homosexuals. “We differ most from heterosexuals in how we perceive the world. That ability to offer insights and solutions is our contribution to humanity, and why our people keep reappearing over the millennia,” he often stressed. Hay’s occasional exhortations that gays should “maximize the differences” between themselves and heterosexuals remained controversial. Academics tended to reject his ideas as much as they respected his historic stature.

A fixture at anti-draft and anti-war campaigns for sixty years, Hay worked in Women’s Strike for Peace during the

Vietnam War as a conscious strategy to build coalition between gay and feminist progressives. He also worked closely with Native American activists, especially the Committee for Traditional Indian Land and Life. Hay was a local founder of the Lavender Caucus of Jesse Jackson’s Rainbow Coalition during the early 1980s, determined to help convince the gay community that its political success was inextricably tied to a broader progressive agenda. His decades of agitation for coalition politics brought him increasing appreciation in later life from labor and third-party groups.

A second wind of activism came in 1979 when Hay founded, with Don Kilhefner, a spiritual movement known as the Radical Faeries. This pagan-inspired group continues internationally, based on the principal that the consciousness of gays differs from that of heterosexuals. Hay believed that this different way of seeing constituted the contribution gays made to society, and was indeed the reason for their continued presence throughout history. Despite his often-combative nature, Hay became an increasingly beloved figure to younger generations of gay activists. He was often referred to as the “Father of Gay Liberation.”

Hay is survived by Burnside as well as by his self-chosen gay family, a model he strongly advocated for lesbians and gays. His adopted daughters, Kate Berman and Hannah Muldaven also survive him. A circle of Radical Faeries provided care for him and Burnside through their later years. Harry Hay leaves behind a wide circle of friends and admirers among lesbians, gays and progressive activists.

In Memorium

Newark Teen Remembered

On Friday, October 25th, hundreds of mourners flocked to St. Edward’s Catholic Church in Newark to remember the life of Eddie “Gwen” Araujo. The church was at full capacity and hundreds held vigil outside for the young transgendered teen who was killed earlier in the month.

Teenagers cut class and joined members of the gay, lesbian, transexual, bisexual, transgender community to mourn with Gwen’s family and friends. The large turnout was due, in part, to the family’s willingness to open the service to the public, stating that the outpouring of support had assisted them in coping with their loss.

The life of 17-year-old Gwen was cut short when the transgendered teen was strangled and beaten to death in early October.

According to police, Jaron Nabors, 19, of Newark, Jose Merel, 24, of Newark and Michael Magidison, 22, of Fremont killed Gwen at Merel’s home when it was revealed that she was anatomically male. Police allege the men lured Gwen into the garage of the home then beat her and strangled her to death.

In an effort to cover up the crime, the three men then drove 150 miles

away to the a logging area near Placerville.

Gwen’s mother reported her missing in the coming days. However, on Monday night while watching Monday Night Football, one of the men involved divulged his secret to a friend.

The story began to circulate of what had happened to Gwen—eventually the story reached the family and the police.

It took two weeks for police to recover the body. Nabors eventually led authorities to Gwen’s body in the Sierra Foothills.

To date, only one of the three men has entered a plea (not guilty)—all three men face murder charges with hate-crime enhancements.

The family has been forthright in their acceptance of Gwen’s sexual identity and expressed gratitude to the support they have received from the community in their time of need.

The family has also set up a fund in Gwen’s memory. Contributions can be sent to Eddie Araujo Jr. Memorial Fund, San Benito Bank, 300 Tres Pinos Road, Hollister, CA 95023. The account number is 63100130158.

Calendar of Events

Send calendar submissions to calendar@the-alarm.com or mail hard copies to:
The Alarm! Newspaper
ATTN: Community Calendar
P.O. Box 1205
Santa Cruz, CA 95061
Please include the date, time, title of event, description and contact number. Submissions are due on Tuesday by 5PM for that Friday's edition.

SATURDAY 11/2

2 PM Day of the Dead: Pro-Peace March/Demonstration/Celebration & Die-In. Sponsored by the Iraq Action Network, the Resource Center for Nonviolence & more. "Come in costume. Come in joy. Play on drums. Play on words. Bring a poem. Bring a friend, defend peace. Defend life." At the San Lorenzo Park, SC.

2 PM & 8 PM El Teatro Campesino presents *ZOOT SUIT*. Playwright Luis Valdez masterfully synthesizes fact & fiction using the Sleepy Lagoon murder case to examine Chicano Zoot Suit culture, prejudice & the role of the media in the judicial system. Ticket prices range from \$8-\$16 (group rates are available), call 623-2512 for reservations. At El Teatro Campesino Playhouse, 705 Fourth St., San Juan Bautista.

SUNDAY 11/3

3 PM El Teatro Campesino presents *ZOOT SUIT*. Playwright Luis Valdez masterfully synthesizes fact & fiction using the Sleepy Lagoon murder case to examine Chicano Zoot Suit culture, prejudice & the role of the media in the judicial system. Ticket prices range from \$8-\$16 (group rates are available), call 623-2512 for reservations. At El Teatro Campesino Playhouse, 705 Fourth St., San Juan Bautista.

MONDAY 11/4

7-9 PM The Diversity Center's Coming Out Group. A peer support group for anyone dealing with issues of coming out. For more info Call 425-5422. At the Diversity Center, 177 Walnut Ave., SC.

7 PM Art & Revolution monthly meeting to discuss past actions & future plans. At the Resource Center for Nonviolence, 515 Broadway Ave., SC.

7-9:30 PM Israeli Palestinian Dialogue. This panel will address the origins and current views of the Israeli Palestinian conflict. Sponsored by Santa Cruz Hillel & Colleges Nine & Ten. Call Shalom Bochner, 426-3332, for more info. At the College Nine Dining Hall, UCSC.

7:30 PM The United Nations Association meeting. John Hope, President of the Santa Cruz Chapter of the UN Association will speak on the role of the UN in peacekeeping & the current situation in Iraq. We will show a video on Banning Landmines followed by a full discussion on both issues. Call 426-3101 for more info, or Pat Arnold at 425-7618. At Loudon Nelson, SC.

7:30 PM Author & psychologist Elaine Aron carefully illustrates how to successfully parent & teach a deeply reflective, sensitive to the subtle & easily overwhelmed child in *The Highly Sensitive Child*. The author of *The Highly Sensitive Person* & *The Highly Sensitive Person in Love* offers insight on how to thrive in a not-so-sensitive world. Call 462-4415 for info. At the Capitola Book Café, 1475, 41st Ave., Cap.



TUESDAY 11/5

7-9:30 PM Israeli Palestinian Dialogue. Focuses on Palestinian Perspectives (Christian & Muslim). What are some sources of violence & tension within Palestinian culture? What are the sources of peace & reconciliation within Palestinian culture? Sponsored by Santa Cruz Hillel & Colleges Nine & Ten. Call Shalom Bochner, 426-3332 for more info. At College Nine Dining Hall, UCSC.

7:30 PM Author Les Standiford presents *Last Train to Paradise*. "An account of Henry Flager's dizzying ambition to construct a railroad linking Key West to the Florida mainland, meticulously capturing the turn of the century period & the remarkable parable of one of man's greatest triumphs & defeats." Call 462-4415 for info. At the Capitola Book Café, 1475, 41st Ave., Cap.

WEDNESDAY 11/6

7 PM "War in the Middle East? Iraq, Afghanistan & Palestine," a community forum & grassroots organizing event, with speakers: Medea Benjamin (founding director of Global Exchange), Stephan Zunes (author of *The Tinderbox: US Middle East Policy & the Roots of Terrorism*) & Barbara Lubin (executive director of Middle East Children's Alliance). \$6-\$25 suggested donation; free for youth under 18; no one turned away for lack of funds. Proceeds will benefit Global Exchange, Middle East Children's Alliance & the Santa Cruz Peacemakers' Resource Center for Nonviolence. Call 457-0431 for more info. At the Veterans Memorial Building, 846 Front St., SC.

7-9:30 PM Israeli Palestinian Dialogue. Focuses on Israeli Perspectives (Jewish). What are some sources of violence & tension within Israeli culture? What are the sources of peace & reconciliation within Israeli culture? Sponsored by Santa Cruz Hillel & Colleges Nine & Ten. Call Shalom Bochner, 426-3332 for more info. At College Nine Dining Hall, UCSC.

7:30 PM Author Christina Schwarz discusses her newest book *All is Vanity*. "At once darkly comedic & moving, this witty exploration of female friendship, envy & misguided ambition...deliciously satirizes the desire for success & illuminates the depths of betrayal we save for our friends." Call 462-4415 for info. At the Capitola Book Café, 1475, 41st Ave., Cap.

THURSDAY 11/7

12-1:30 PM Can local business compete with web sites like amazon.com? Without a doubt. To learn the skills you need to sell your products online come to Cruzio's Business Brown Bag event focused on E-commerce for small businesses. Call Cruzio at 459-6301 x 246 for more info. At the Museum of Art and History in downtown SC.

7 PM Benefit screening of the documentary: *Fierce Grace*, on the life and times of Ram Dass, with a special guest appearance by Ram Dass. All proceeds benefit the Santa Cruz Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana (WAMM). Tickets are \$20/person. Those unable to attend the benefit who wish to make a donation to WAMM may send checks to: "The Freedom Fund," 309 Cedar St. #39, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. Call 423-8209 for more info. Documentary screening is at the Rio Theater, 1205 Soquel Ave., SC.

7-10 PM Trinh T. Minh-Ha—*The Fourth Dimension* (2001), screening and conversation with the filmmaker. Sponsored by the Feminist Studies Research Unit of the IHR, Women's Studies Department & Institute for Advanced Feminist Research. Call Stephanie Casher, 459-1274 for info. At the Media Center, UCSC.

7-9:30 PM Israeli Palestinian Dialogue. What are some possible solutions to the Israeli Palestinian conflict? Sponsored by Santa Cruz Hillel & Colleges Nine & Ten. Call Shalom Bochner, 426-3332 for more info. At College Nine Dining Hall, UCSC.

7:30 PM In *Transparencies: Poems*, Carolyn Grassi has created a work of intensity that speaks of life's transformations. Call 462-4415 for info. At the Capitola Book Café, 1475, 41st Ave., Cap.

SATURDAY 11/9

2 PM & 8 PM El Teatro Campesino presents *ZOOT SUIT*. Playwright Luis Valdez masterfully synthesizes fact & fiction using the Sleepy Lagoon murder case to examine Chicano Zoot Suit culture, prejudice & the role of the media in the judicial system. Ticket prices range from \$8-\$16 (group rates are available), call 623-2512 for reservations. At El Teatro Campesino Playhouse, 705 Fourth St., San Juan Bautista.

SUNDAY 11/10

3 PM El Teatro Campesino presents *ZOOT SUIT*. Playwright Luis Valdez masterfully synthesizes fact & fiction using the Sleepy Lagoon murder case to examine Chicano Zoot Suit culture, prejudice & the role of the media in the judicial system. Ticket prices range from \$8-\$16 (group rates are available), call 623-2512 for reservations. At El Teatro Campesino Playhouse, 705 Fourth St., San Juan Bautista.

7 PM Homeland Security & The Patriot Act—the war on terrorism here, at home. Part five of the fall study series. Sponsored by the SC Peacemakers & led by Sharon Delgado & Kara Zugman. Call 423-1626 x 302. At the Resource Center for Nonviolence, 515 Broadway Ave., SC.

7:30 PM National correspondent of *The Atlantic Monthly*, William Langewiesche brings *American Ground: Unbuilding the World Trade Center*. "Originally published as a landmark series...*American Ground* is the story of people who responded to the destruction & the community that formed in the wake of an incredible horror." Call 462-4415 for info. At the Capitola Book Café, 1475, 41st Ave., Cap.

MONDAY 11/11

7:30 PM Poet Laureate, Dennis Nurkse, of Brooklyn inspired by "daily life, common speech & dreams," brings *The Fall* to the Book Café. Call 462-4415 for info. At the Capitola Book Café, 1475, 41st Ave., Cap.

TUESDAY 11/12

7-9 PM Rubén Martínez, *Strangers No More: How the Newest Americans Will Redefine America*. Martínez will discuss migration to the US on a global scale with special attention to the way in which solidarities among working peoples are hindered by media, the state and corporate capital. This critique of "globalization" & the disparities it exacerbates between hemispheres serves as a call for new language to describe the new international village we live in. Call Julie Jacobs, 459-5743 for info. At the Holy Cross Church, 126 High St., SC.

7:30 PM Author Ilene Philipson, Ph. D presents *Married to the Job: What We Live to Work & What & What We Can Do About It*. "...*Married to the Job* is a groundbreaking study of workaholism—and the loneliness that ultimately nurtures it"—Barbara Ehrenreich. Call 462-4415 for info. At the Capitola Book Café, 1475, 41st Ave., Cap.

WEDNESDAY 11/13

7-9 PM Ihr Dean's Distinguished Lecturer, WJT Mitchell, "Cloning Terror: What do Pictures Want?" Professor of English & Art History at the University of Chicago, editor of the interdisciplinary journal *Critical Theory*, Mitchell is known specifically for his work on the relations of visual and verbal representation in the context of social & political issues. Call 459-1274 for more info. At Kresge College, Rm. 159, UCSC.

7:30 PM SOFFA (Significant Others, Partners, Friends, Families & Allies & Transgendered folks) Support Group. For more info call 425-5422 or email clarabrandt@yahoo.com. At the Diversity Center, 177 Walnut Ave., SC.

7:30 PM Author John D. Freyer presents his journey in *All My Life for Sale*. Frustrated with his inability to halt the constant stream of objects into his apartment, Freyer decided to sell all but what he could fit in the trunk of his car on eBay. "Soon his belongings were sold all over the world" Freyer then set off to visit them in their new homes. Part photo-album, part travelers diary & auction log, "it stands as a beautiful testament to one man's journey & the interconnectedness to us all." Call 462-4415 for info. At the Capitola Book Café, 1475, 41st Ave., Cap.

THURSDAY 11/14

4-6 PM Women's Dialogues in the Americas: Preliminary Findings of HD2 Action-Research Partnerships Presentations & Reception. Guest speakers include: Jonathon Fox & Centolia Maldonado, Juan Poblete & Perla Wilson. Commencement reception for both Action Research & Curricular Development partnerships 2002-2003. Call Elizabeth Lopez, 459-3789, for more info. At Merrill College, Baobab Lounge, UCSC.

7:30 PM Author Linda Chavez's *An Unlikely Conservative* recounts her journey from the Young People's Socialist League to the Reagan wing of the Republican party—and the sometimes shocking personal experiences that shaped her views. Call 462-4415 for info. At the Capitola Book Café, 1475, 41st Ave., Cap.

FRIDAY 11/15

6:30 PM (meal) **8 PM** (program) RCNV Annual Dinner featuring Kevin Danaher, founder of Global Exchange. Tickets \$35-\$250/person, \$250-\$500/table of 8, \$5-\$15 for program only. For info & reservations call 423-1626. At the United Methodist Church, 250 California St., SC.

7-10 PM "Documenting the Past and the Future:" A screening & conversation with filmmakers Freida Mock & Terry Sanders. Film screenings: *Maya Lin: A Strong Clear Vision*, "Into the Future: On the Preservation of Knowledge in the Electronic Age. Call 459-1274 for info. At the Media Theater, UCSC.

8 PM “Oakland Art Show Imagines a World Without Prisons”, opening night. The show will feature a variety of visual & literary work submitted by prisoners, former prisoners & their families. Sponsored by the Prison Activist Resource Center—an Oakland-based support organization for prisoners & activists. Art showings will start Nov. 10 & be on display through Dec. 1. Call Marc de Giere, (510) 981-9134, for more info. At the Black Box, 1928 Telegraph Ave., downtown Oakland.

SATURDAY 11/16

10 AM–4 PM Full Force Self-Defense Workshop, taught by Kidpower. Experience your power by using full-force self-defense techniques in simulated assault scenarios with a fully-padded male attacker. You must pre-register. Childcare provided by making a reservation as soon as possible with the Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women office, 420-6298. At Louden Nelson Center, 301 Center St., SC.

2 PM & 8 PM El Teatro Campesino presents *ZOOT SUIT*. Playwright Luis Valdez masterfully synthesizes fact & fiction using the Sleepy Lagoon murder case to examine Chicano Zoot Suit culture, prejudice & the role of the media in the judicial system. Ticket prices range from \$8–\$16 (group rates are available), call 623-2512 for reservations. At El Teatro Campesino Playhouse, 705 Fourth St., San Juan Bautista.

SUNDAY 11/17

2:30 PM Tea with the Kensington Ladies’ Erotica Society present *Sex, Death & Other Distractions*. The Kensington Ladies is a group of everyday Bay Area women who have been meeting clandestinely for over a quarter century to share & critique their erotic poems, essays & stories. Call 462-4415 for info. At the Capitola Book Café, 1475, 41st Ave., Cap.

3 PM El Teatro Campesino presents *ZOOT SUIT*. Playwright Luis Valdez masterfully synthesizes fact & fiction using the Sleepy Lagoon murder case to examine Chicano Zoot Suit culture, prejudice & the role of the media in the judicial system. Ticket prices range from \$8–\$16 (group rates are available), call 623-2512 for reservations. At El Teatro Campesino Playhouse, 705 Fourth St., San Juan Bautista.

WEEKLY EVENTS, SERVICES, SUPPORT GROUPS & MEETINGS

SATURDAYS SABADO

11:30 AM–12:30 PM One-For-One Needle Exchange. Call 427-4557 (before 5 PM) for info or to schedule a home visit. In side door of the Drop-In Center, 412 Front St., SC.

12:30–1 PM Redwood Grove Hike. Guided & informative tour through the redwoods. Call to confirm 335-7077. At Henry Cowell Redwood State Park, HWY 9, Felton.

6–6:30 PM KPFA Radio News. 88.1 FM KZSC.

10 PM–Midnight One-For-One Needle Exchange Street Outreach. Call the mobile phone 234-3668 to hook up with outreach workers. In the vicinity of downtown, the Beach Flats & Ocean St., SC.

SUNDAYS DOMINGO

9 AM–1 PM Live Oak Farmers’ Market. At the East Cliff Shopping Center, 1515 East Cliff Dr., Live Oak.

10 AM–3 PM Food Shares: Free Food Exchange & Barter Stand. Share your harvest with your community. Call Rebecca for info 429-5557. At the Live Oak Grange, 1900 17th Ave., Live Oak.

10 AM–3 PM Compartiendo Comida: Intercambio de Frutas y Verduras Gratis. Comparte su cosecha con su comunidad. Para mas información, llame a Rebecca a 429-5557. A la Live Oak Grange, 1900 17th Ave., Live Oak.

11:30–12:30 PM One-For-One Needle Exchange. Call 427-4557 (before 5 PM) for info or to schedule a home visit. In side door of the Drop-In Center, 412 Front St., SC.

6–6:30 PM KPFA Radio News. 88.1 FM KZSC.

6–8 PM The Needle Exchange’s Harm Reduction & Drug Policy radio show, 96.3 FRSC.

MONDAYS LUNES

9–10:30 AM Creative Writing for Fun. Adults 55+ learn to make creative writing easy and enjoyable in this friendly and supportive class. Register by calling 420-6180 or visiting the Downtown Senior’s Office, SC.

12–4 PM Cook with Food Not Bombs Santa Cruz. Call 425-2667 for location.

12–4 PM Condoms, coffee and conversation at the Drop-In Center, 412 Front St., SC.

3–5 PM Free HIV testing, educational videos, information and safer sex supplies. Call 761-8595 for info. At Casa Bienestar, 90 Mariposa Ave., Wats.

4 PM Food Not Bombs, free vegan food served in front of Cinema 9. On Cooper St. & Pacific Ave., SC.

4:30 PM “Merrymaking Monday.” Join Food Not Bombs and Downtown for All in a celebration that is all-inclusive. Hackeysackers, skateboarders, jugglers, merchants, tourists, etc. invited. At the corner of Pacific Ave. & Cooper St., SC.

5:30–8:30 PM One-For-One Needle Exchange. Call 427-4557 (before 5 PM) for info or to schedule a home visit. Inside the main room of the Drop-In Center, 412 Front St., SC.

6–7 PM KPFA Radio News. 88.1 FM KZSC.

7–8:30 PM Closet Free Radio. GLBT affairs show, longest running queer show. 88.1 FM KZSC.

TUESDAYS MARTES

12 PM–2 PM One-For-One Needle Exchange. Call 427-4557 (before 5 PM) for info or to schedule a home visit. In side door of the Drop-In Center, 412 Front St., SC.

12–6 PM Organic fruits, vegetables and flowers grown at the UCSC Farm and Garden. At the corner of Bay St. & High St., SC.

2:30–3:30 PM One-For-One Needle Exchange. Call 427-4557 (before 5 PM) for info or to schedule a home visit. On the corner of Coral St. & Limekiln, down the street from the River St. Shelter, SC.

2:30–6:30 PM Felton Farmers’ Market. 6090 HWY 9, Felton.

5 PM Youth Coalition SC. At the Resource Center for Nonviolence, 515 Broadway Ave., SC.

6–7 PM KPFA Radio News. 88.1 FM KZSC.

7–8:30 PM Green Voice, poetic explorations of ecopolitics and social justice. 88.1 FM KZSC.

6:30–7:30 PM Grupo de apoyo para madres y niños sobrevivientes de la violencia doméstica. En español. Defensa de Mujeres, 406 Main St., Wats.

6:30–9 PM Parent’s Support Group. For parents who need more information to understand or help a loved one during and after use of drugs and alcohol. Call Casa Bienestar 761-8595, 90 Mariposa Ave., Wats.

6–7:30 PM Sudden Death Support Group. Call 688-7684 for info. At the Hospice Caring Project, 6851 Soquel Dr., Aptos.

7 PM Earth First! Meeting. At 509 Broadway Ave. (next door to the Resource Center for Nonviolence), SC.

7 PM Downtown for All meeting. At the Wired Wash Cafe on Laurel St., SC.

7 PM Santa Cruz Peace Coalition meeting. Call 841-9139 x1917 for info. At the Resource Center for Nonviolence, 515 Broadway Ave., SC.

10 PM–Midnight One-For-One Needle Exchange Street Outreach. Call the mobile phone 234-3668 to hook up with outreach workers. In the vicinity of downtown, the Beach Flats & Ocean St., SC.

WEDNESDAYS MIERCOLES

12 PM–1 PM One-For-One Needle Exchange. Call 427-4557 (before 5 PM) for info or to schedule a home visit. In side door of the Drop-In Center, 412 Front St., SC.

12–4 PM Cook with Food Not Bombs Santa Cruz, call 426-2667 for location.

2:30–6:30 PM Santa Cruz Farmers’ Market. Lincoln & Cedar St., SC.

4 PM Food Not Bombs serves free, hot, vegan food, at the Farmer’s Market, Lincoln & Cedar St., SC.

5:30–6 PM KZSC Radio News. 88.1 FM KZSC.

5:30 PM Gay Men’s Volleyball. All levels welcome. Call 459-7506 for more info. At the Main Beach, SC.

6–7 PM KPFA Radio News. 88.1 FM KZSC.

7–8 PM Santa Cruz One-For-One Needle Exchange. Call 427-4557 (before 5 PM) for info or to schedule a home visit. In side door of the Drop-In Center, 412 Front St., SC.

7–8:30 PM Drop-in domestic violence support group/grupo de apoyo para sobrevivientes de la violencia doméstica. In English y en español. Childcare available. Hay cuidado di niños. Women’s Crisis Support, 1658 Soquel Dr. Suite A., Santa Cruz.

7–8:30 PM Talkabout. A call-in talk show with interesting guests. 88.1 FM KZSC.

7:30 PM “Lets talk about the movies,” a free discussion group open to all who enjoy talking about movies. Each week a local movie critic, or member of LTATM leads a discussion about a film currently playing in the area. Go to www.ltatm.org to find out which film is next. At the Del Mar Theater, mezzanine level on Pacific Ave., SC.

THURSDAYS JUEVES

12–6 PM Organic fruits, vegetables and flowers grown at the UCSC Farm and Garden. At the corner of Bay St. & High St., SC.

12:30–4 PM Youth hours. Condoms, coffee and conversation at the Drop-In Center, 412 Front St., SC.

3 PM–4:30 PM One-For-One Needle Exchange. Call 427-4557 (before 5 PM) for info or to schedule a home visit. In the New Leaf Market Parking Lot (look for the white HIV testing van), Fel.

5 PM–6 PM One-For-One Needle Exchange. Call 427-4557 (before 5 PM) for info or to schedule a home visit. In the New Leaf Market Parking Lot (look for the white HIV testing van), Boulder Creek.

6–7 PM KPFA Radio News. 88.1 FM KZSC.

6:30 PM–8:30 PM One-For-One Needle Exchange. Call 427-4557 (before 5 PM) for info or to schedule a home visit. In the main room of the Drop-In Center, 412 Front St., SC.

7:30–9 PM Anxiety and Panic Support Group, for individuals seeking support for general anxiety, panic, social phobias and OCD. At the Twin Lakes Church, 2701 Cabrillo College Dr., Aptos.

7 PM Gay Teen Alliance. For youth ages 14–25, all genders, bilingual. For info call 772-8200. 12 E. Gabilan St., Salinas.

7 PM Drop-in domestic violence support group. Call 426-3062 for info. At the Walnut Avenue Women’s Center, 303 Walnut Ave., SC.

7–8 PM (beginning) **8–9 PM** (intermediate/advanced) Free salsa dance class. At the Wired Wash Cafe on Laurel St., SC.

7–8:30 PM Young Warriors. Young women’s leadership program. Drop-in support also for survivors of violence. Call 426-3062 for info. At the Walnut Ave. Women’s Center, 303 Walnut Ave., SC.

7–8:30 PM Wise Guys. Drop-in support group for teenage survivors of violence. At the Walnut Ave. Women’s Center, 303 Walnut Ave., SC.

9 PM Dance Church, free-form dance environment, bring an item for the altar. All ages. Call 466-9770 for more info. At the 418 Project, 418 Front St., SC.

FRIDAYS VEIRNES

1:30–5 PM Women’s hours. Condoms, coffee and conversation. At the Drop-In Center, 412 Front St., SC.

3–5 PM One-For-One Needle Exchange. Call 427-4557 (before 5 PM) for info or to schedule a home visit. Parking lot of the Laundromat at Barson St. & Bixby St. (look for white HIV testing van), SC.

4–5 PM Women Only One-For-One Needle Exchange. Call 427-4557 (before 5 PM) for info or to schedule a home visit. Inside the main room of the Drop-In Center, 412 Front St., SC.

3–7 PM Watsonville Farmers’ Market. Main & Park St. around the Plaza, Wats.

5 PM Peace Vigil and human billboards protesting war. Call the Santa Cruz Peace Coalition 427-2676 for more info. At the intersection of Ocean St. & Water St., SC.

5–6 PM One-For-One Needle Exchange. Call 427-4557 (before 5 PM) for info or to schedule a home visit. Inside the main room of the Drop-In Center, 412 Front St., SC.

5–6 PM Condoms, coffee and conversation at the Drop-In Center, 412 Front St., SC. Beach Flats & Ocean St., SC.

6–7 PM KPFA Radio News. 88.1 FM KZSC.

10 PM–Midnight One-For-One Needle Exchange Street Outreach. Call the mobile phone 234-3668 to hook up with outreach workers. In the vicinity of downtown, the vicinity of downtown, the Beach Flats & Ocean St., SC.

MONDAY - FRIDAY LUNES-VEIRNES

1 PM Democracy Now! with Amy Goodman. 96.3 FM, FRSC.

5:00 PM Free Speech Radio News. 96.3 FM, FRSC.

5:30 PM Earth First! Radio. FRSC 96.3 FM.

7 PM Green Voice radio show. KZSC 88.1 FM.

Tuesdays & Wednesdays 3–6:15 PM Free HIV testing at the Drop-In Center, 412 Front St., SC.



- Across
- 1

Band of countries
- 5

Fall-blooming herb
- 10

“Buffalo ____”
- 14

In short supply
- 15

Naval free time
- 16

Blood measurement
- 17

Locale of 2,400 U.S. troops
- 18

Kind of seal
- 19

Romantically involved couple
- 20

Apointee of Hubert Humphrey’s Senate seat in 1964
- 23

Typhus fever transmitters
- 24

Makes up his mind
- 27

Analeptics
- 30

Motorcycles might split it
- 32

Only ____ can prevent florist friars
- 33

Richard Harris’ blood
- 34

What Boris Becker avoided
- 35

Ballyhoo
- 36

Of interest to the numismatist
- 37

Man
- 38

Darn
- 39

Early symptom of tetanus
- 40

Famous Peak
- 41

Stove
- 42

Fuss
- 43

Iniquitous
- 44

To tinkle in Nice
- 45

“Giving a _____ to Diane Arbus is like putting a live grenade in the hands of a child.”—Norman Mailer
- 47

Trans-Mongolian Railroad sight
- 48

“The first 1960s radical elected to the U.S. Senate.”—*Mother Jones* magazine
- 54

United Nations member (1955–present)
- 56

Life-preserving
- 57

Natasha Lyonne role in “Pee-wee’s Playhouse”
- 58

Healing gel
- 59

Musical composition
- 60

Testing stage
- 61

Domino dots
- 62

Got cold feet
- 63

Before long

- Down
- 1

Supercilium
- 2

Monk
- 3

Viva voca
- 4

Moderate
- 5

Notifies
- 6

Sutures
- 7

Poi ingredient
- 8

Neck and neck
- 9

Burned by the sun
- 10

Finesse
- 11

Ratio’s first term
- 12

Give her a bum steer
- 13

Temporary maintenance of perception (abbr.)
- 21

Per
- 22

Bass and Pete’s Wicked
- 25

Sharp pain
- 26

Email author
- 27

Breath-freshening candy
- 28

Frozen food brand
- 29

Chucklehead
- 30

Jacket part
- 31

“...____ of evil.”—GW Bush, February 2002, while discussing the North Korean Peace Museum
- 34

Kon ____, by Thor Heyerdahl
- 37

Oysters and scallops
- 38

Winnipeg is its capital
- 40

Yma Sumac’s home country
- 41

Humans have 12 pair
- 44

Announced with bells
- 46

Soothes
- 47

Forest opening
- 49

Next to
- 50

Small case
- 51

Not closely defended
- 52

Cold War alliance
- 53

Distinctive style
- 54

Lift with the tongue
- 55

Muslim caliph

K	C	O	R		T	E	N	E	T		S	T	O	T
E	I	R	E		S	T	I	T	S		N	O	E	N
E	R	A	H		E	U	S	S	I		E	O	A	V
R	E	R	K	C	A	R	C	T	U	N		K	O	R
				O	E	C								
L	A	T	O	T		R	E	T	E	W	I	R	E	P
A	C	I	M		S	E	Y			D	E	D	U	E
E	A	R		E	U	H		W	O	B		C	T	E
T	I	W	T	U	O		N	A	M		E	N	I	L
S	C	A	T	L	I	D	A	C			G	N	I	S
			A	C	C	E	M			L	E	G		
R	V	O	H		A	C	N	A	L	B	A	S	A	C
E	R	A	P		G	N	O	M	A		S	E	I	L
E	Z	I	S		A	R	I	A	M		A	E	S	A
S	C	A			S	M	I	S			L	L	A	T

Answers from last puzzle (# 015)

Wholly Cross-Words

By Oliver Brown

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20					21						22			
			23					24				25	26	
27	28	29					30	31				32		
33						34						35		
36						37					38			
39					40						41			
42					43					44				
45			46					47						
		48				49	50					51	52	53
54	55					56					57			
58						59					60			
61						62					63			

Puzzle #016



For comments, questions or hints, email: xword@kingturtle.com

THE K CHRONICLES

SAY.. HOW 'BOUT THEM ANAHEIM ANGELS WINNING THE WORLD SERIES, HUH?

THE U.S. USED TO BE LIKE THAT..SCRAPPY, RESILIENT, DETERMINED..A TEAM YOU COULD REALLY ROOT FOR.

YET THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS INSISTENT ON STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE AGAINST SADDAM HUSSEIN... WITH OR WITHOUT A TEAM BEHIND IT...

STRIKE ONE!!

Heh, Heh...Didn't see that one coming...I swear!! Who would've thought?

(911 miles per hour)

THE FUNNY THING IS..SADDAM ISN'T EVEN THE ONE WHO'S PITCHING!! AL QUEDA HAS ALREADY MANAGED TO SLIP ONE STRIKE BY US....

MEANWHILE..AL-QUEDA IS SITTING ON THE MOUND..PREPARING TO THROW US ANOTHER CURVE...

YOU HEARD ME RIGHT, SADDAM!! I'M COMIN' FOR YA!!

STRIKE TWO!!

ZING!!

THE U.S. RALLY MONKEY IS TRYING DESPERATELY TO GET PEOPLE BEHIND IT..BUT THE PUBLIC'S NOT BUYING IT...

ooo!! ooo!! ooo!!

DOMESTIC POLICY

NOW THE U.S. IS MORE LIKE BARRY BONDS...

PLenty of money...

PLenty of power..PLenty of ego..BUT YOU CAN'T WIN THE BIG ONE ALL BY YER-SELF...

GIANTS

HUSSEIN IS THE OPPOSING PITCHER WE COULDN'T GET TO A DECADE AGO..SO WE'RE OBSESSED...

MOST SCOUTS BELIEVE SADDAM AIN'T GOT MUCH NOW...THAT HE'S PAST HIS PRIME.

HUSSEIN!! I'm comin' to get you!!

..THAT'S WHY HE'S BEEN SITTING ON THE BENCH

SO FAR WE'VE MANAGED TO RECRUIT ONE TEAMMATE.. & I'M NOT SO SURE THEY EVEN KNOW WHAT THEY'RE GETTING INTO...

I'm ready for some bloody action!!

STOP

PO BOX 591394 SAN FRANCISCO CA 94159-1394 SEND STAMP FOR CARTOONS...

keeflik@hotmail.com

www.kchronicles.com

Classifieds

To place a listing email us at
classifieds@the-alarm.com
or fill out this form and send it to:
P.O. Box 1205
Santa Cruz, CA
95061

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Text:

Section listings:

☐ for sale/for grabs/for trade

☐ services offered

☐ work opportunities

☐ musicians and artists

☐ lost and found

☐ pets

☐ housing

☐ garage sales

☐ seeking...

☐ personally

Classified rates

\$2.50/line Standard display
\$20/inch Display classifieds
(we charge an additional
one-time fee of 35% for ads
that require design work).


To place an ad call 429-
NEWS between 9 a.m. and
5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday
or Thursday. Ads received
after the classified section
is full will be held for the
next issue.

Users' guide for
personal ads

To place a personal ad,
email:
p e r s o n a l s @ t h e -
alarm.com
or send the form on the
left completed to:
P.O. Box 1205
Santa Cruz, CA 95061

To reply to a personal
ad, email:
p e r s o n a l s @ t h e -
alarm.com. Specify
which listing you are
responding to by includ-
ing the number you
see at the beginning of
the ad and placing it in
subject heading of
your message. All
responses will be
forwarded.

Personals cost
\$2.50/line.
Good Luck!



Work Opportunities

Seeking: Young male models!
Chance to be in 'Playgirl' & \$\$!
423-9738 for info

The Alarm!
Newspaper seeks
contributors. We
are looking for bi-
lingual applicants
with strong writ-
ing and editing
skills. Please send
a letter of interest
and writing sam-
ples to: P.O. Box
1205, Santa Cruz,
CA 95061.

*El colectivo de
El Periódico La
Alarma!*
busca colabora-
dores. Aceptamos
aplicaciones de as-
pirantes bilingues
con habilidad para
escribir y editar
artículos. Favor
de mandar una
carta de interés y
ejemplos de sus
escritos a: P.O.
Box 1205, Santa
Cruz, CA 95061.

For sale/grabs/trade

Black and Decker Panel saw.
\$75.00 obo. Call 425-2727

MOPED or SCOOTER? I
will buy it if it runs. Email:
michelle@the-alarm.com

Personals

You asked for it...so here
they are—real personals for
real people. See the previous
column for info on how to re-
spond and place an ad. YOU
WON'T NECESSARILY FIND
A DATE, BUT YOU WILL HAVE
A LAUGH!

LOOKING FOR LOVE

10040201 I am a 30 yr old
grass roots, permaculture,
pirate radio, worker-owned
revolution on 2 wheels. I like
riding bikes, eating out, cooking
nice vegetarian meals, read-
ing, watching movies, listening
to punk and folk music and
smoking lots of pot. I have a
vasectomy, because I believe
in MY right to choose. I'm
the knight of cups offering the
emotional fulfillment of your
heart's dreams, and desires.
I'm looking for a hippie-punk
woman 24-35, who is emotion-
ally stable, down to earth, and
desires monogamous relation-
ship. No polyandrous, bipolar
drama queens please. Sex
fiend scores bonus points! Lets
make criminal mischief, as we
lock down together!

10040202 Like puzzles? If so,
I've got a challenge for you. I'm
29, usually male-identified, shy
but outspoken, goofy but seri-
ous, sloppy but anal, ambitious
but lazy, moody but stable,
brusque but cordial, mag-
nanimous but petty (mostly the
former), suave but a total dork
(mostly the latter), and gener-
ally just a hard nut to crack, but
worth it. In search of someone
active and engaged—physi-
cally, emotionally, intellectually
and politically—patient and inci-
sive enough to get to know me,
unafraid of intimacy, unseduced
by shiny things, undeterred by
complexity and unaccepting of
cowardice. Lets fit our pieces
together and see what hap-
pens.

LOOKING?

10040203 Remember the 80s,
yeah! Well, let's hook up if you
want to get together and com-
pare notes on tube socks, head-
bands, LA Gear, velcro, shoulder
pads and the Culture Club.

10040204 Oral Fixation! I am
21, red-headed with no gag
reflex. I love to eat popsicles,
carrot sticks, churros and large
cucumbers. Light relationship
only—I've been told that as a
girlfriend I suck.

10040207 I fell from the wagon
to the night train. I kissed the
bottle. I should've been kissing
you. You wake up to an empty
night with tears for two.

08230201 I never want to grow
up! I'm Peter Pan! Be my Wen-
dy! Must be into juggling, Japa-
nese punk rock, Kali Mocho.

08230204 Elvis lips! Hot wax!
Crayola Fetish! I'm a sassy
newsie looking for a companion
to pour my cider while I sit on
the stoop.

08230206 Jack-guzzling, cam-
el-smoking, sensitive Emo man-
child seeks similarly-wounded
stylish, cute girl for leftist poli-
tics, debauchery and discus-
sions of Hot Water music lyrics.
Black hoodie a must, fishnet
stockings a plus. Does your
soul cry out in the dark? Mine
does too. Let's bleed together
and make it a double.

I SAW YOU...

10180201 You were a rainfall
of laughter. No real Usher
look alike, but your moves did
remind me of a boy that I once
knew. I like creme brûlé too...
And your smile was cute... can I
be your friend too?

10180202 You: the vet who
kindly removed the tick from my
dog's behind. Me: the panicky
man who was afraid of a bug.
Oscar's doing great, but what
he really likes is romantic walks
on the beach.... care to join us?

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www.the-alarm.com

831-429-NEWS

Vivendi better known as a colossus of the privatized water industry – from Puerto Rico to Three Valleys Water in the UK

merged with media company Seagram in 2001, Europe's answer to AOL. Time Warner, Vivendi Universal has taken 'convergence' furthest – integrating film, music and mobile phones. As a telecoms giant it has big stakes in the cables and wires that deliver these services.

New entry!
VIVENDI UNIVERSAL
Chair Jean-Marie Messier
Revenue 2001 \$134 billion
Employees 250,000

PLUS
Owens 2 French major mobile phone companies.
Vivendi Telecom International has operations in Spain, Hungary, Portugal, Monaco, the water, Poland and Egypt.
Five theme parks.
Universal Studios group – including UK train service Connex from Barcelona to Beijing.

Canal + the leading French station has 14 million subscribers in 11 European countries. **Universal Studios** has networks across the world, and theme channels like 'Action and Suspense', whilst Universal TV owns TV series such as *Kojak*, *Miami Vice*, *Colombo*. Cinemas include the Cineplex Odeon chain, and United Cinema International.

29 operations from Poland to Brazil including CNN, Time Warner Cable with 13 million customers in the US.

24 book brands – from Time Life Books to Little, Brown and Company.

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Media

Ultra Concentrated
Top Selling Brands

The largest six media companies in the world – with just a few of their 'family brands'.

PLUS
In January 2001 one of the largest mergers in corporate history made America Online (AOL) and Time Warner the world's biggest media company. A real empire of innovation: music, movies and publishing assets, complemented by AOL's dominant Internet presence, all fed by customers – through Time Warner's cable network. Think of it as AOL.

entire Turner record labels, and the AOL US and AOL International (14 countries) plus eight other online ventures including CompuServe and Netscape. Time Warner Cable is trail-blazing a telephone service over the Internet in the US.

spend an incredible 84 per cent of their Internet time on AOL, which provides a regulated business and shopping environment dominated by in-house brands – from Time magazine to Madonna's latest album.

Theme parks, Warner Bros studio stores in 30 countries, and tied merchandise.

spend an incredible 84 per cent of their Internet time on AOL, which provides a regulated business and shopping environment dominated by in-house brands – from Time magazine to Madonna's latest album.

*** Biggest media mergers ever in 2001**
*** Now with record-breaking monopoly!**

AOL has 27 million subscribers. They spend an incredible 84 per cent of their Internet time on AOL, which provides a regulated business and shopping environment dominated by in-house brands – from Time magazine to Madonna's latest album.

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1
AOL TIME WARNER
Chair Steve Case / CEO Gerald Levin
Revenue 2001 \$31.8 billion
Employees 75,000

The Disney Channel
broadcasts in 8 countries. International sports channel ESPN broadcasts to over 165 countries in Asia, Europe, Latin America. Other channels include Walt Disney TV, Sportsvision Australia and including St Louis Daily Record, Beauty and the Beast.

Five magazine publishing groups and four newspapers including St Louis Daily Record, Beauty and the Beast.

Major US TV networks ABC television & radio – 10 television stations and 29 radio stations.

Include Disneyland LA and Paris, Disney World Florida, MGM studios, Disney's Animal Kingdom, World Sports Complex, 27 hotels with over 36,000 rooms, two cruise ships, and the Disney Institute where professionals can 'discover the business behind the magic'.

emphasising questions about hiring and safety practices at Disney World.

2
The Walt Disney Co
Chairman and CEO Michael Eisner
Revenue 2001 \$13.4 billion
Employees 120,000

PLUS
Walt Disney, Disney Touchstone, Miramax films, Buena Vista, and Infocast, 6 music labels, several hockey and baseball teams, and 720 Disney Stores worldwide.

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3
Bertelsmann
Chairman and CEO Dr Thomas Middelhoff
Revenue 2001 \$13.3 billion
Employees 64,800

PLUS
Gruner & Jahr publishes 80 magazines worldwide, from *Femme to Prima*, and owns nine newspapers across Germany and Eastern Europe.

from Germany to Malaysia online book shopping across the planet, Lycos web portal, Barnes & Noble.com – and numerous other online ventures.

Bertelsmann Music Group (BMG) operates in 54 countries, its US labels own in turn 200 labels worldwide.

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4
Viacom
Chairman and CEO Sumner Redstone
Revenue 2001 \$12.8 billion
Employees 120,000

PLUS
CBS has 200 affiliated TV stations, and distributes its shows globally. MTV the music video channel reaches 342 million households worldwide. Viacom also owns VHI, MTV's music channel 'competitor'. Other major networks include Nickelodeon, Paramount and Comedy Central.

controlling media ownership when it bought TV network CBS. Within a week, Senator McCain had proposed a change to those rules. Viacom is McGraw-Hill's fourth biggest 'career patron'.

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FOX News, and seven other US news networks. In the UK, Sky, 5ky with 150 channels and services.

Australian channel FOXTEL. STAR TV satellite service reaches over 300 million people across Asia.

Phoenix satellite TV and four other channels serve much of China, News Corp also broadcasts into India, Japan, Indonesia, New Zealand, Latin America, Europe.

HarperCollins and seven other publishing houses.

News Corp uses its global reach to localize its tax calculations, getting its accounts done in countries with low tax rates – and a result it paid only 6.1 per cent tax worldwide in the 8 years to June 1998.

5
News Corporation
Chair Rupert Murdoch
Revenue 2001 \$13.5 billion
Employees 51,500

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6
The New York Times
Chair Arthur Ochs Sulzberger
Revenue 2001 \$1.8 billion
Employees 12,000

PLUS
Major overings, from venture with Vivendi Universal with 104 cinemas in Europe, Japan and South America. Blockbuster is the world's largest renter of videos with stores in 27 countries.

over 2,000 book titles annually, Outdoor, the largest advertising company in the world.

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7
Walt Disney Co
Chairman and CEO Michael Eisner
Revenue 2001 \$13.4 billion
Employees 120,000

PLUS
Walt Disney, Disney Touchstone, Miramax films, Buena Vista, and Infocast, 6 music labels, several hockey and baseball teams, and 720 Disney Stores worldwide.

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8
Time Warner
Chair Steve Case / CEO Gerald Levin
Revenue 2001 \$31.8 billion
Employees 75,000

PLUS
Warner Bros studio stores in 30 countries, and tied merchandise.

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2 The Independent.
Historical Commission for investigating the history of the Eisenhower House during the 'Third Reich'. <http://www.ushistory.org/eisenhower>.
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