

FREE

THE ALARM!

VOL. 2, Nº21

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 15TH–DECEMBER 6TH, 2002

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Alternatives to consumer culture

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USA Patriot Act under fire from SC City Council

By HALIE JOHNSON
The Alarm! Newspaper

Santa Cruz City Council voted unanimously to pass a resolution opposing parts of the USA PATRIOT Act. Councilmember Mark Primack expressed his support for the resolution saying that parts of the USA PATRIOT Act were sure to cause distrust and weaken any community “from the ground up.” In adopting this resolution, Santa Cruz is joining 13 other cities across the country that voiced their opposition to the Federal Government’s sweeping “anti-terrorist” legislation. It was said that twenty-two other cities are currently considering similar resolutions.

In short, the resolution affirms City Council’s opposition to those parts of the USA PATRIOT Act and certain Justice Department directives and executive orders that weaken or destroy civil rights and liberties. The resolution calls for the protection of those rights contained in the Constitution. The resolution also requests that Congress “monitor the implementation of the USA PATRIOT Act, directives from Attorney John Ashcroft, and executive orders cited herein and actively work for the repeal of those parts of the USA PATRIOT Act and the withdrawal of those Justice Department directives and executive orders that violate fundamental rights and liberties.”

Members of the public spoke mostly in favor of the resolution; many applauded City Council for what they saw as a bold statement. Others complained that Council should not be investing energy in adopting a “foreign policy,” but should be making local issues top priority.

The Mayor will send a copy of the resolution to President Bush, local Congressional representatives and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland.

To view the USA PATRIOT Act in its entirety go to <http://www.epic.org/privacy/terrorism/hr3162.html> or <http://www.ins.usdoj.gov/graphics/lawsregs/patriot.pdf>. To contact Santa Cruz City Council email, citycouncil@ci.santa-cruz.ca.us or call (831) 420-5020.

Soquel Bike Lane Plan approved

Get out the paint. This strip of Soquel will soon host a bike lane, to the relief of local cyclists. The bike lane will cost approximately \$250,000 – \$300,000. Bicycle advocates have been lobbying for years to get the lanes, citing the need for a safe east-west corridor.



Fhar Miess/The Alarm! Newspaper

By HALIE JOHNSON
The Alarm! Newspaper

Anyone who rides their bike on Soquel Avenue knows that as a bicyclist they are in danger. Due to a small shoulder (with parts in need of repair) or no shoulder at all, especially the road from Seabright Avenue to Capitola Road, Soquel is a risky route that many bicyclists use because of no viable alternatives. Residents of Soquel Village and Cabrillo College students who ride their bikes between home or school and Santa Cruz have no safe alternative to Soquel. Because of the risk involved in riding with traffic, it is common to see bicyclists taking the sidewalks of Soquel, putting pedestrians in danger.

In December of 2001, Santa Cruz City Council established the Soquel Plan Line Task Force and asked that it develop a plan

for the installation of bike lanes along Soquel Avenue from Seabright Avenue to the city limits. The task force recommended a short-term plan to City Council at the November 12 meeting. The plan was voted on and passed by the council.

The first goal of the plan is to “Provide continuous bike lanes along entire length of Soquel Avenue.” The plan creates more vehicle and bicycle parking along Soquel Avenue and on adjacent streets. It also places high priority on pavement resurfacing to increase bicycle safety, as well as improvements to several intersections on Soquel.

According to the Task Force the cost estimate for the project is not yet complete, but is anticipated to be in the \$250,000 to \$300,000 range.

For information about bicycle safety and sustainable transportation advocacy, contact People Power (831) 425-0665.

- Tis’ the season to shop until you drop...but is it?
- Local alternative economies brewing in Santa Cruz offer relief for those interested in stepping outside of the shopping malls.
- Is “green” consumerism the solution?
- Is Fair Trade coffee really fair?

Letter from an Editor

Hello and welcome to issue number 21 of *The Alarm!*

Yes, we're still here! The paper you've grown to love is very much alive. We're honored to be able to bring you yet another issue despite our doubts only two weeks ago. Call us commies, radicals, dreamers, anarchists, whatever you deem fit, one thing we do know is that this town has a thirst for what we've got and as long as there's a demand we'll do our best to supply you with the independent paper with news and analysis you have grown accustomed to. Relieved? We hope you are as much as we.

Granted, we do need your support in maintaining *The Alarm!* through the New Year. Any assistance financially and/or resource-wise is needed. Of course, we know we aren't alone in this. As money becomes tighter for all of us, we need to start having some serious discussions about how we can keep doing the sort of projects this community needs without the cold, hard cash to fund those projects. There is a wealth of resources in terms of skills, knowledge, experience and creativity in this community that can help make up for the lack of US Treasury notes and fat bank accounts.

Which brings us to this issue... we're focusing this time on consumerism, capitalism and alternative economies. The holiday season is about to land in our laps and for those of us who are not high on the financial food chain, this may be causing a lot more stress than is worth the gesture. Whatever you celebrate—Hanukah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, etc.—many feel that the holidays are a time to show the ones you care

for just how much you care. Thanks to mass marketing campaigns and mainstream media (which we'll call the Hyper-Cunning-Super-Wealthy-Holiday-Industry or HCSWHI), for many of us, caring becomes quantified by the exchange of material objects. Usually bought new, often wrapped in decorative paper and presented to our relatives, friends and co-workers. No one is quite certain where these traditions came from. Still every year we Americans follow one another accordingly in the ritual of spending lots of money, decorating our homes, cooking decadent food and exchanging colorful boxes full of surprises. If we are unable to fulfill this expectation we are either making that conscious choice, are unmoved by these traditions or are unable to live up to the American ideal according to the HCSWHI. In this issue we will not attempt to explore the origin of this consumption-based tradition, but we will look at how consumerism plays out in our

personal lives, our political struggles, and in local and global economics. We will also be looking at some alternatives that are up-and-coming or already in existence here in Santa Cruz and venture to find out why they are unique.

So read on, enjoy our little paper and think of ways that you can help keep it going. Here are some ideas to get you started: if you are a student you may be eligible for an internship for credit; if you know of an issue that is under-covered by other media call us and let us know about it and consider writing an article (email queries@the-alarm.com to pitch story ideas); and if you like what we are doing consider donating money, resources or time to keep us going (this one is probably the most important). Of course never hesitate to write us a letter and let us know what you do or don't like about anything we print.

—Halie Johnson

WHERE'S MY PAPER?!

Don't panic on November 29, when you arrive to the coinbox and find the same issue of the paper staring back at you. In an attempt to get off the "holiday" weekend schedule, The Alarm! will take one week off.

The paper will hit the stands on December 6th and stay on that schedule. Remember don't panic! Re-read the paper if you like—we wouldn't want you to resort to trying to "read" the entertainment weeklies!



Op/Ed

We can't afford an Anti-War movement

By CHRIS KORTRIGHT
The Alarm! Newspaper Contributor

The momentum of the war machine is increasing with the UN Security Council's vote in favor of the US's resolution on Iraq. The war machine is not the only thing that has gained momentum; the anti-war movement has been increasing its voice and appearances on the national and local scenes. I want to pose a few questions to the readers regarding the anti-war movement. Do we need an anti-war movement? What does that movement accomplish? We must oppose the war, but can it be framed within the context of a "peace" or "anti-war" movement? Approaching the war under these labels and moral discussions detracts us from the larger issue: that this war is a product of capitalism.

The immediate focus on the war, although necessary, should not distract our attention from the issue of capitalist exploitation and expansion both locally and globally. We need to analyze and oppose the war from an anti-capitalist perspective because the war is motivated by capital interests. I know many readers are thinking that this statement is obvious, but if you go to the Ocean/Water Street weekly protests, you see American Flags, signs that

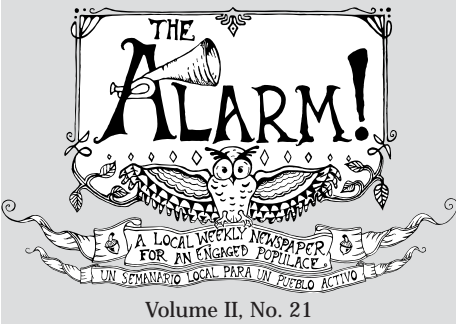
say "negotiations not bombs" and little analysis of either capitalism or nation-state projects.

So, lets look at the war in economic terms. Our present militaristic and aggressive foreign policy is an attempt to minimize competition between capitalist cores and encourage monopolization of markets through imperialist tactics. A large part of the present scenario is the control of oil sources, but not necessarily the oil in the Middle East. US policy makers have their eyes on oil in Central Asia. The US also wants to control sources of oil on which Europe and Japan (our competition within the cores) are dependent. Iraq in many ways is a gateway to both Iran and Central Asia; the US has strategically had its eye on Iraq since the first Gulf War.

Most of the discussions regarding the "War on Terrorism," or even a "War against Islam," miss the motivations of US global militarism. The militaristic actions are for economic domination, profit and improved competitiveness through the control of Central Asian oil; it is not motivated by desires for the removal of Saddam Hussein or the elimination of bin Laden. The economic motivations mean we can't resist US policies

in the name of "anti-war." This will be an anti-war resistance that would fail because the short term view of our situation is extremely bleak. We will bomb Iraq, and then other countries will move into the scope of US policies unless we take down capitalism and remove the motivations for US militaristic interventions.

If we hope to show solidarity to those suffering on the global capitalist peripheries, we need to do more than stop bombs from being dropped on them. We must attack the economic apparatus that has initiated these militaristic attacks. An "anti-war" movement can not achieve this. An analysis of militaristic violence that ignores economic violence will not end or reduce suffering in either the peripheries or the cores. I'm not calling to integrate war resistance into the "anti-globalization" movement because the issue cannot be seen as "anti-global." There is a need for globalism right now. But globalism should not be confused with capitalist globalization. The way to stop wars and suffering is to incorporate our resistance to US militaristic interventions into the larger global anti-capitalist resistance.



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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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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 was very disappointed to see that three other worthy local alternative publications were given no mention at all in your article, "Battling Corporate Media. Those three publications are: The Connection, The Comic News and the Green Press.

I guess the Green Press is not actually a publication because we have twelve pages in the Comic News generously donated to us by Thom Zajac, the publisher. Thom has been putting out the Comic News for 18 years ALL BY HIMSELF! Three of us lay out the Green Press and we're volunteers. We've gotten help from local writers like David Blume, Theodora Kerry, Robert Norse, Thomas Leavitt, Elizabeth Handley, Becky Johnson, Jim Ross, Steve Argue, Ruth Hunter, David Pavlovich and many more.

We have promoted the Alarm! numerous times in the Green Press. In one of my MediaWatch columns I specifically named the Alarm! as an alternative publication that readers needed to check out in order to get a better take on reality.

We (Santa Cruz's alternative media) are being overwhelmed by the corporate media's wealth, resources and monopoly of radio and television airwaves and print circulation. We are small media outlets that are trying to get some reality out to the citizenry so that they can get a more true perspective on reality. We all need to work together and support each other.

I suggest that all of us who are trying to give citizens that better perspective should hold a meeting including all alternative radio stations, print media, Indymedia and Community TV in Santa Cruz. Then, together, we can figure out how to better and more widely promote alternative takes on local, national and international events and how they affect us here in Santa Cruz.

I would highly recommend Dean Alger's book Megamedia: How Giant Corporations Dominate Mass Media, Distort Competition and Endanger Democracy to you and all your readers interested in corporate domination of the world's media and how to break that domination.

ED OBERWEISER,
Layout and copyeditor, Green Press
Santa Cruz

Dear Alarm! editors,

When I picked up the recent edition of the Alarm! I was happy to see the front-page caption, "Battling Corporate Media." Slightly lower on the page I read, "there are alternatives right here in Santa Cruz County."

Before I continue, let me say I'm glad the Alarm! exists. I approve of the topics you've chosen, I think you do a good job of analyzing local issues, some of which I wish I had more time to report, and I applaud your attempts to include the Latino community among

your (our) engaged populace. These are reasons the Green Press has urged our readers to read and support the Alarm!, both before you were published and since you've been in circulation.

I was slightly dismayed when I saw no mention whatsoever of the Green Press, the Comic News or the Connection. Knowing how hard it is to keep up with everything and pull a paper together on a deadline I thought for a second we were just overlooked. Then I remembered that just days earlier you didn't neglect asking us for information you sought. The Green Press and Connection both came through for you on a moments notice.

I've had several readers call me to express their concerns that the Alarm! didn't include the Green Press in your alternative media issue. Arrogant, elitist, blind and afraid of competition are words I heard people use to describe what I still prefer to view as your oversight. I told them all to let you know how they felt. Hopefully you have heard from them yourselves.

Personally, I feel there is no room for competition when we're "battling corporate media." If we don't work as a team toward radical solutions to the amoral, greed driven, power hungry, mind control mainstream media has unleashed on the masses, we are truly doomed.

Keep seeking truth, keep printing it, and remember who your friends are. You need them (us).

Sincerely,
RAY NEWKIRK

Editors,

... I find it supremely ironic that, in your issue covering "alternative media" in Santa Cruz County, you omitted the one example of local "alternative media" that reaches more people than anyone else, The Comic News, and the one prose publication, the Green Press, that is doing, in my honest opinion, a far better job of covering local and national issues, than any other paper in the county, including yours (although I welcome the Alarm!'s presence).

Perhaps these weren't considered because the Comic News is mostly syndicated content, and the Green Press isn't "commercial"? If this was simply an oversight, I've got to seriously wonder what else sitting right in plain sight you're missing.

Regards,
THOMAS LEAVITT

[Editor's note]

Ed, Ray and Thomas,

Thank you for voicing your concerns about our last issue, number 20, focusing on independent media and highlighting some of the indies in our county. We need to hear it when we're lacking something important.

It's true that the Comic News and the Green Press have come through for us on many occasions. Our intention in the last is-

sue was not to purposefully exclude those and the dozen or so others that we left out—that are our "competition." Quite the contrary, our intention was to encourage the growth and momentum of all indie media sources in Santa Cruz and around the world. In being "independent" we realize the contradiction we'd be creating to par ourselves against other indies.

The Comic News has been rocking this county for 18 years! Completely independent, political commentary through comics, how cool is that?! The editor (and backbone), Thom Zajac, was a friend and supporter of the Alarm! long before we went to print. The Green Press is an exceptional venue for dissenting voices on subjects of local, national and international importance, published in the Comic News and put together by unpaid volunteers who believe in the need for a subversion and critique of mainstream, corporate news. We hope to continue to work with the Comic News, the Green Press and the Connection for as long as we're kicking.

There are a handful of indie publications we failed to mention here or in our last issue. To those and the above mentioned, please don't hesitate to write us and tell us what you're doing and how we can work to support one another. We'll see what we can do to broaden our coverage in the future and mend any ties we may have weakened.

-HJ

Dear Alarm,

Congratulations on another great issue of The Alarm! all about Battling the Corporate Media. I've enjoyed your new sexy layout. Great independent stories, letters, opinions, full-page ads of Mark Primack,...Wait, what was that last one? Ok, I'm not here to condemn that decision to run that ad, but I do, wholeheartedly, wish to see the inner dynamics that lead to the decision to run that ad. Were there tears, shouts, heads looking at the ground in resignation, celebration on having somebody pay for a full page ad? Was there gnashing at all over the decision to run it? What is The Alarm! attitude toward electoral politics? I don't recall seeing any endorsements of candidates in past issues. Was it a business decision in the end?

As you probably know, the race between Primack and Mardi Wormhardt was one of the closest and hottest ones this past election, with Mardi winning by a few hundred votes. Something like the Alarm! ad could have made the difference. For, I don't think Primack was placing the ad because he likes you or your politics, but to get votes. His was a campaign of getting big bucks and having huge signs at strategic locations, especially real estate connections he has through his architecture work. Mardi's one of winning a tremendous number of endorsements and a grassroots support, though she did get large amounts of funding as well. Did you notify the Wormhardt campaign about the ad to see about getting one from her?

Mardi is probably the most influential woman politician in the county. We are sadly lacking a strong woman's voice like hers in regional issues, as a look at the make up of the city council could begin to attest to. I remember her coming in to The JunXion, when it was up and running, and holding weekly office hours in there to speak with students about issues important to them. On transportation issues, she wants to not widen Highway 1, Primack wants to widen. This is a huge issue for the quality of life for us all, especially those of us who do not ride cars. Primack is seemingly in the hands of developers. I for one was thoroughly unimpressed by his attitude toward people opposing the recently passed Downtown Ordinances.

The condescension could not have been greater. He even went so far as to come up with some half-assed remark pulled out of context, from The Alarm, about transiency in Santa Cruz. The Alarm felt compelled to respond in detail to rebut his comments. Now, you print an ad from him? I can see wanting to engage him, but wonder if this ad was not a step further than this, an act of capitulation.

But again, I am not here to condemn, but to understand the process. Would you take an ad from the armed forces, or Coke, etc.? Where is the line? One of the things that I like about Adbusters is their writing in of editorial decisions on many of their stories and fake ads. Maybe something like this could be done with this ad. If it was a business decision to run Primack's ad, perhaps a front page article, with the bold headline "LAST ISSUE" could motivate folks, get out the bucks. Yes, our community would be worse off without The Alarm, and I wish you well in making more issues in the future. Maybe an article on what it costs to put out a publication. I put my 50 cents in the machine, now here I am putting my 2 cents in on this issue.

Love and rage,
DOUG CRONYN

[Editors' note]

Dear Doug and others,

We appreciate the shared concerns many have raised regarding the Primack ad in the paper. We will not attempt to explain our financial situation (hopefully you are somewhat aware) and why we would dare to accept a full page ad from a candidate for County Supervisor. Please note, however, that the ad was NOT an endorsement, as is stated at the top of page 17 in our last issue. We are probably the only paper that did not run any endorsements, and with few exceptions, will not play the game of political lobbying. We will let you in on one piece of information: almost all of the candidates were approached (including Mardi Wormhardt) and given the opportunity to take out an ad. Many said they did not have the money or expressed interest but in the end never followed through. If you think an ad in our paper could have swayed the vote by some percentage we're flattered. Thank you.

To answer your question: "Would you take an ad from the armed forces or Coke, etc.?" Come on now! In the unlikely event that they actually sought ad space in our paper, I doubt we would accept it. If so, it would surely be placed next to a piece about the predatory policies of military recruits or the union-busting of Coca-Cola in Latin American plants—we're tricky like that.

—The Editors

Dear Editor,

I appreciated Jeff Milchen's article "Missing Ingredient For Democracy—The Right To Vote". I would like to add, however, some information on the right to vote in the state of California. This is important because ignorance of the law also strips people of their right to vote.

The only "convicted" felons who can not vote in the state of California are those in a state or federal prison on a felony or those who are on felony parole. Registered voters who are "convicted" felons who are on probation, off of parole, or in a county jail can vote. Anyone else in a county jail can vote as well.

This holds more importance than just the right vote. It is important for victims of the criminal injustice system to be part of the potential jury pool.

Sincerely,
STEVE ARGUE

Your Letters

Dazed democrats could look to 'Lula'

By ROGER BURBACH

Pacific News Service

EDITOR'S NOTE: Just days before the Republican sweep of midterm elections, a left-wing candidate in Brazil won decisively in presidential elections. Like the Democrats, Luis Inacio "Lula" da Silva moved to the center. Unlike them, writes PNS contributor Roger Burbach, he stuck to core principals. Burbach is author of *Globalization and Postmodern Politics: From Zapatistas to High Tech Robber Barons* (Pluto Press, 2001). He directs the Center for the Study of the Americas (CENSA) in Berkeley, Calif.

Thunderstruck Democrats should look south of the border, to Brazil, for an example of how to win the hearts and minds of voters.

Nine days prior to the US elections, Luis Inacio "Lula" da Silva overwhelmingly won the Brazilian presidency with 61% of the vote and turned the Workers Party into Brazil's leading political organization. In the campaign, the Workers Party, like the Democrats in recent years, moved to the center.

But the Workers Party did not abandon its core, progressive principles. Lula made it clear in the campaign that the party had an alternative economic program that favored urban and agricultural workers along with the middle class and national manufacturers. Lula said no to the financial interests that speculate on the Brazilian economy and

sap the country's resources. He said yes to the social sectors that are willing to roll up their sleeves and work for a better Brazil.

The day after his victory, Lula established the Secretariat for Social Services. Its mandate is to eliminate hunger among 20 million Brazilians during the Workers Party's four-year rule. This goal may or may not be achieved, but it is a goal that enjoys widespread national support.

What if the Democratic Party adopted such a bold policy by pledging to eliminate the poverty that afflicts 25% of America's children?

In fact, the few Democrats who did take courageous, principled stands were among the few Democrats to win resoundingly on November 5.

Take Representative Jim McDermott of Washington state. Along with two other Congressmen, McDermott went to Iraq in late September and declared that "US war is not a solution." Republicans immediately tried to tar him as "Baghdad Jim," and compared his visit to Iraq to Jane Fonda's trip to Hanoi during the Vietnam War.

But McDermott won reelection with 75% of the vote, a bigger margin than that received by any other congressional representative in the state of Washington.

Another Democratic Congressman, Dennis Kucinich of Ohio, who denounced the impending war against Iraq and may be a presidential candidate in 2004, won with 74% of the vote in his district.

The Democratic leadership, headed by Tom Daschle and Dick Gephardt, who both entertain presidential ambitions, caved into Bush's war resolution. What did it gain them? Nothing.

The most poignant legacy of a Democrat who stood on principles

is that of Paul Wellstone of Minnesota. After his vote against Bush's war resolution he surged ahead of his Republican senatorial opponent. In the last poll taken by the Minneapolis Star before he died in a plane crash, Wellstone led 47 to 41%.

On the other hand, Walter Mondale, Wellstone's replacement on the ticket, is part of the "old-boy" Democratic network and sits on a number of corporate boards like Cargill, Inc.—the world's largest grain trading company, which makes most of its profits by speculating on global food supplies. Mondale lost the election because the people of Minnesota realized he stood for little more than politics as usual. He was just a pale reflection of Senator Wellstone.

If the Democrats are to recover, they will have to forge a platform that stands for the disadvantaged, the working class and the troubled middle class. It will have to challenge the ever-increasing domination of the US economy and politics by petroleum and corporate interests.

Democrats must promote an alternative economy, one that can develop new technologies and resources to mitigate environmental destruction while simultaneously ending poverty in the United States and abroad. Such a program would require massive investments that would unleash new technological and productive forces, just as Lula is calling for in Brazil.

During the Cold War the US government created jobs and stimulated the economy through massive expenditures on a wasteful military-industrial complex. There is every reason to believe that a campaign to build an alternative economy that reduced our reliance on fossil fuels and ended human impoverishment would be successful in creating a more sane and humane world. Lula took a first step in Brazil. Democrats at home should look to his example, learn and then lead.

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View from the Arab world—the other elections

By RAMI G. KHOURI

Pacific News Service

EDITOR'S NOTE: Just as the midterm election results will affect US foreign policy, recent elections in several key Arab countries will have important international repercussions. PNS contributor Rami G. Khouri examines Islamist party victories in several Arab nations and finds important lessons about democracy and dissent. Khouri (rgskhouri@hotmail.com) is a political scientist and columnist for the Jordan Times.

AMMAN, Jordan—Interested in political realities in the Middle East? Forget Iraq, Israel/Palestine, Iran, oil and terror for a moment, and ponder instead the important lessons from the elections that took place in the last six weeks in Algeria, Morocco, Bahrain, Turkey and Pakistan.

The election results and their internal dynamics should be sobering news for ruling Arab governments and political elites, and also for the United States, Israel and their friends in the area. After losing credibility broadly in recent years, Islamist parties made dramatic gains in five very different countries.

Without exaggerating these countries' common factors or their significant differences, some striking recurring patterns deserve attention. Three factors stand out: the official results, the real balance of political forces in society not reflected in the official results, and the growing gaps between governments and their people.

First, the official results: in all five elections, opposition Islamist groups either won outright or achieved significant gains. The biggest victory was by the Justice and Development Party in Turkey, giving it a parliamentary majority and control of the next government. In Bahrain, the Islamists won 24 of the 40 elected seats in the 80-member parliament (the other 40 seats are appointed by the king).

In Pakistan, the Islamists scored big victories in two of the four national provinces and should share power in a national coalition government. In Algeria, the municipal elections saw the Islah and other Islamist parties hold their ground behind the resurgent National Liberation Front. In Morocco, as the government coalition maintained control of parliament the biggest gains were made by the Islamist Justice and Development Party, and Islamist seats jumped from 14 to 42.

Second, the real balance of political forces in society is very different from what the elections revealed. Islamists and other opposition groups tend to enjoy even greater public support than was reflected in the voting. That's due to several reasons: governments had banned some opposition parties (Turkey, Algeria); electoral districts were gerrymandered to restrict opposition forces and exaggerate pro-government support (most of the Third and Arab worlds); states unilaterally usurped

power from legislatures and shifted it to the presidency-by-coup (Pakistan); or governments arranged some voting processes to help their preferred candidates.

Such practices caused some leading Islamist and leftist opposition groups to boycott the polls (Bahrain and Morocco, and Jordan five years ago). If all political forces had participated in truly free and fair elections, the opposition Islamists would have won much greater victories and pro-government forces would have been more severely discredited.

Third, the election results point to a large and growing gap between government policies and public opinion. Nevertheless, we should applaud these countries for self-confidently holding their elections on time, despite irregularities or volatile regional events. This is the whole point of holding elections—to gauge the pulse of the citizenry, and to give every citizen a real sense of empowerment in being able to express an opinion, elect leaders, shape policies and hold leaders accountable.

Countries that absorb such strong showings by opposition Islamist and leftist parties and respect majority wishes are stronger, more mature and more secure for going through the process.

What is the accurate combination of local, regional and international issues that motivates so many voters to

choose opposition groups and to reject their incumbent ruling elites?

My own guess is that local issues predominate. Note that most Islamist parties use the words "justice" and "reform" in their names and slogans. But the impact of American and Israeli policies should not be underestimated. In three of these five countries where anti-government forces scored big (Pakistan, Turkey and Bahrain), there is a very strong American military presence, and equally powerful political ties with Washington.

We also have our first NATO member (Turkey) governed by an Islamist party. Voters concerned about local issues of social justice and economic development may also be saying that they would like the United States to be a partner and friend, rather than a self-imposed lone arbiter of regional orders, legitimate regimes or security norms.

We Arabs—and Americans, too—should listen well and carefully interpret what plain folks around here are saying as they speak with passion and clarity at the ballot box. The beauty of democracy is that if we screw up by ignoring people's views, we usually get a second chance to listen again, when the citizenry speaks forcefully. It has just done that in Algeria, Morocco, Pakistan, Bahrain and Turkey.

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Whose Peace? Yours or Mine?

By JAKOB SCHILLER
The Alarm! Newspaper Contributor

EDITOR’S NOTE: Jakob Schiller is one of the co-editors of City on the Hill Press one of the major publications produced for and by students at UCSC.

An armed member of Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, a militant offshoot of Yasir Arafat’s mainstream Fatah movement, entered an Israeli kibbutz on Monday, November 11, and killed five people. Israel responded by bombing a metalworks factory in Gaza, where they claimed motar shells used against settlers had been produced. After two years of the second Intifada, there appears to be a clear pattern developing in the Palestinian/Israel conflict: you attack us and we’ll attack you right back.

Both sides blame the other for starting the conflict, and both sides blame the other for drawing it on. Supporters of Israel claim that if terrorists stopped

attacking them there could be peace. Supporters of Palestine point out that if Israel had never occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip there would be no need for a liberation movement; on and on and on. The debate eventually goes back to 70 A.D., or sometimes earlier.

Here in the United States, battles concerning the conflict are also raging. College campuses, where political, religious and social issues are continually discussed, have become foci in the debate, creating tension and hostility between students and the surrounding communities. UC Berkeley and San Francisco State University came into the spotlight last year for protests and confrontations between Israeli and Palestinian supporters and were severely criticized for the increase in conflict.

At UC Santa Cruz a polarization has also occurred between groups

who support opposite sides of the issue. Last year tension boiled over during an event entitled, “Palestinian Awareness Week”. And a rift between the two sides still exists. In an effort to engage in dialogue instead of debate, subsequent events have been sponsored, most notably the recent series of panel discussions created by the University Religious Council, entitled, “Israeli/Palestinian Dialogue: Perspectives on the Conflict.”

However, it has unfortunately become even more apparent after these panel discussions that dialogue alone is not going to solve the conflict here in the United States, in the Middle East or on the UCSC campus.

Throughout the recent panel event, both sides made attempts to break down barriers and engage in productive discussions, but each night it was apparent that both sides went home still strong in their convictions

that they were right. As productive as the some of the panelists’ suggestions were, it was clear that this particular approach was not the solution.

While both sides will claim that the other has to concede first, this recent event, along with others, have also made it apparent that one particular talking point is going to be the deciding factor: Israel’s withdrawal from the Occupied Territories. As speakers on both sides of the discussion pointed out, the occupation is illegal and only helps to exacerbate and continue the conflict

(Unfortunately, and characteristic of the Pro-Israeli argument, the Pro-Israel speakers conceded the illegality of the occupied territories and then proceeded to claim that the Palestinian terrorists have brought the occupation on themselves. Which came first, the chicken or the egg?)

A similar problem plagues the UCSC campus at large. While this event and others attempt to put up a façade about peace, real arguments between supporters of Israel and supporters of Palestine continue on, mostly unchanged. And while confrontation between the groups is not the answer, asking for peace without conceding some ground is the wrong way to go about creating change.

Stop the suicide bombings? Sure, pull out of the Occupied Territories, stop the settlements, and stop treating the Palestinians as second-class citizens. Stop interfering in efforts to create peace? Sure, stop fighting for your peace at the expense of everyone else’s peace.

Let’s continue to hear both sides, but let’s also be fair. Denial is hard to overcome, especially concerning an issue people are so passionate about. But until Israel and its supporters begins to acknowledge Israel’s part in the creation and maintenance of the current conflict, there will be no peace in the Middle East and only a continuation of conflict at UCSC. Let’s work together for peace, but not just one side’s version of it.

Keep free speech alive on campus

By MITRA EBADOLAH, RITA HAMAD AND SHADI HAMID
Pacific News Service

EDITOR’S NOTE: On campuses across the country, Arab and Muslim students report disturbing incidents of intimidation and efforts to silence political speech. PNS contributors Mitra Ebadolahi, Rita Hamad and Shadi Hamad insist that universities must remain safe places for political expression. The three are undergraduates at the University of California, Los Angeles, Harvard University and Georgetown University, respectively.

American college and university campuses have long been vibrant places for personal and political expression. But since September 11, 2001, students of Middle Eastern descent, ourselves included, have encountered increasing hostility toward our right to speak to politically controversial matters.

It’s a troubling extension of the post-Septmber 11 climate, where intimidation, hate crimes and a loss of basic civil liberties have become pervasive realities for Arabs and Muslims in America.

All of us know young Muslim women who for days and even weeks would not venture outside their dorms because they wear *hijab* (an Islamic head covering) and felt they would be targeted. For them, the scoffing comments or annoyed stares have simply become too much to bear. All of us also know international students from the Middle East who have pulled out of their courses to return home due to a sense of being no longer welcome here.

When criticizing US foreign policy, we too have been told to “Go back home,” despite the fact that we are American citizens.

We are not alone in this tense political atmosphere. As the controversy grows over the Israel-Palestine conflict, Jewish students at colleges across the country have suffered a number of ugly incidents due to their religion and stance on Israel. At the University of Colorado, there were reports of swastikas painted at a booth set up by a Jewish student organization. At the University of California, Berkeley, a brick was thrown through a glass door at the Jewish Hillel center. Such actions are absolutely intolerable.

Recently, 300 college presidents

signed a letter purporting to call for “intimidation-free campuses.” Who could possibly oppose the reaffirmation of our universities as safe-havens for open, free and critical debate?

In fact, more than 1,700 college presidents who were asked to sign the letter declined. They were right to do so. Their move is a hopeful sign for those of us struggling to maintain the right to have a political voice on campus.

The letter, drafted by the American Jewish Committee, had one central problem: it only mentioned Jewish students and “supporters of Israel” as potential targets of intimidation. Such one-sidedness is disconcerting. Just as we should never forget what happened on September 11, we should also never forget events that followed. Within weeks after the World Trade Center strikes, street attacks against those of Middle Eastern decent reached such a level that President Bush went to a mosque to call for an end to the violence.

Some things have improved since then, but much has not. Last month, the Center for American Islamic Relation’s annual report revealed that in the last twelve months, the number of hate crimes against Middle Easterners quadrupled from the previous year.

Campuses were not immune from backlashes and blatant intimidation. Only a week after the September 11 attacks, two Muslim girls were beaten at Moraine Valley College in Palos Hills, IL.

Free speech for students of Middle Eastern descent has fared little better. Only four months ago, Zayed Yasin, a Harvard graduating senior slated as a commencement speaker, had to remove the word “jihad” from the title of his speech due to death threats against him. Approved by University President Lawrence Summers, the speech was intended to reclaim the true meaning of the word “jihad” as the moral and personal struggle to better oneself and one’s community. It was a critical, historical commentary, one that Richard Hunt, a Harvard Dean who read the proposed draft, described as “healing” and “non-confrontational.” Yet it was censored.

Attempts to silence free speech have continued, especially on matters

concerning Israel and Palestine. In a particularly McCarthyist turn, a recently founded website called Campus Watch encourages students to report professors who criticize Israel.

Reaction to an emergent divestment movement that hopes to pressure Israel to end its military occupation has been similarly troubling. As students on campuses across the country have called for their schools to withdraw US corporate investments supporting Israel’s highly repressive policies, they have unjustly been called anti-Semites.

This is the worst kind of slur. Student critics of Israeli policies are no more anti-Semitic than opponents of apartheid were anti-Afrikaner or advocates of Tibet are anti-Chinese. Criticizing the actions and laws of a country is very different from attacking people for their religion, nationality or ethnicity.

US universities have always been places largely free from intimidation, free from pressures to conform in religion or politics and free from slurs meant to squelch debate. This must not change. Freedom of speech on campus must not become a relic of a once open and democratic past.

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Commentary From the Schools

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Labor Bits

Boston janitors win contract

After four weeks of walkouts, nightly parades, civil disobedience and mass demonstrations, Service Employees' International Union (SEIU) local 615 (formerly local 254) has settled on a new contract with cleaning maintenance companies. The new contract, announced October 23, increases the number of janitors with health benefits by 1,000 (bringing the total to 2,900 out of 10,700 covered under the contract), provides sick days for all janitors and increases wages by 30% over the five-year life of the contract.

Some janitors and supporters are expressing opposition to the contract, noting that it leaves almost 8,000 janitors without health coverage. The two sick days negotiated were fewer than the five expected and the 30% wage increase still leaves wages at \$13.10 per hour compared to \$17 for New York City janitors.

The contract was ratified November 9 by a vote of 622 to 103, indicating an exceptionally low voter turnout below 7%. Many janitors, supporters and union officials consider the contract a qualified victory that makes a step toward improved quality of life while fostering the collective action and solidarity of workers previously alienated from unionism by an undemocratic union leadership. The SEIU local has been reorganized since this corruption.

UMass organizing

Part of the windfall of the Boston janitors' campaign was an increased solidarity between students and workers. That solidarity is carrying over as workers and students at the 28 campuses across the University of Massachusetts system organize for funding of their contracts. Separate contracts are negotiated for each union and the governor generally signs off the funding of these contracts. Acting Massachusetts Governor Jane Swift this time vetoed pay increases, prompting 200 rank-and-file workers at UMass Amherst on November 6 to urge the Trustees of the university system to get their contracts funded. They threatened a walkout if the con-

tracts are not funded. All of the union workers are working under the coalition Higher Education Unions United, representing an unprecedented system-wide coordination. Students also protested, demanding the restoration of affirmative action at the university.

Dissension mounts in the ranks of the PMA

At 4 a.m. on November 1, International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) negotiators reached a tentative agreement on the technology issue with the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA), which represents shipping and stevedoring companies at West Coast ports. The union called the agreement a major victory and claimed that "we had bottom-line concerns about jurisdiction and the employers met those concerns." The details of the technology package, however, are not being released until the entire contract package is negotiated. A "press blackout"—suggested by the federal mediator—was agreed to by the PMA and ILWU. Some, such as Andrea Cappannari and Rafael Azul, writing for the World Socialist Website, consider the deal a major concession to employers.

Apparently, one or several companies under the umbrella of the PMA also consider the deal a concession on their own side. The *Journal of Commerce* reported that "A faction of employers who strongly opposed the concession were outvoted by another group within the PMA," citing sources within the PMA.

The ILWU has suggested that contract negotiations are presently at a standstill and are being sabotaged because of internal dissent in the PMA. In particular, they blame Stevedoring Services of America, the largest stevedoring company in the US. In a statement to its members on November 7, the ILWU claimed, "though the article does not mention SSA by name, it is clear that the 'faction' is led by, if not solely comprised of that company."

ILWU official and rank-and-file have consistently accused the SSA of holding a hard line against the union.

Meanwhile the union has also filed a Freedom of Information Act request with the Bush administration for documents detailing meetings between management of shippers and members of the West Coast Waterfront Coalition, an organization representing shippers, global traders and retailers. The ILWU has accused the government of collusion with industry leaders in an effort to break the union.

Grain workers struggle against elevator operators

Around 80 workers who have been picketing a grain elevator in Prince Rupert, British Columbia were ordered back to work on November 9 after a hearing of the Grain Workers Union (GWU) with the Canadian Labor Relations Board (CLRB). The workers initially went on strike in August when some of the 700 fellow unionists locked out by the BC Terminal Elevator Operators Association in Vancouver set up an informational picket at the Prince Rupert facility. The secondary strike was initially declared illegal and the workers were ordered back to work, but the workers returned to the picket line after that decision was reversed by courts in early November with a determination that the unionists work for the same employer. Despite the court victory, just days later, GWU leadership ordered workers back to the job in exchange for an expedited hearing with employers in front of the CLRB. The GWU is seeking a hearing before the end of the peak grain harvesting season, but many rank-and-file workers expressed through on-line forums that they hold little faith in the CLRB and prefer to make their demands directly to the employer through strike action. They have been fighting for seniority rights and against mandatory overtime and the threatened loss of over 200 jobs if the company goes ahead with a plan to introduce nonunion hiring practices. Some unionists have suggested that the workers decertify the GWU and join the more militant ILWU, which represents other workers at the elevator terminals.

Unions make concessions to United Airlines

The Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) offered \$2.2 billion in concessions, including an 18% pay cut, to UAL Corporation, which owns United Airlines, on behalf of its 8,800 pilots. United Airlines, the second largest US airline, calls itself an employee-owned company because most of its employees own stock through its Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs). The company is seeking a total of \$5.8 billion in concessions from its three unions—ALPA, Association of Flight Attendants (AFA) and International Association of Machinists (IAM)—in order to gain approval from the Bush Administration's Airline Transportation Stabilization Board (ATSB) for \$2 billion in federally-backed loans. The company needs the money to avoid bankruptcy.

ALPA's union members will need to ratify the deal this week for it to go through.

The AFA also offered a tentative settlement of \$412 million in concessions, the details of which have not been released.

A settlement from the IAM is the wild card. The union withdrew from joint negotiations with the other two unions, deciding to settle on its own.

IAM members own 20% of UAL stock and ALPA members own 25%. AFA never accepted the employee buy-out plan of 1994. Ten percent of the company's stock is owned by non-union salaried workers in the firm. If UAL declares bankruptcy, the unions would lose their equity in the company, as well as their two seats on the UAL board of directors.

In the face of possible bankruptcy, the workers are already losing some of their equity. State Street Bank & Trust Company, which was hired by the unions to manage their ESOPs, has begun selling off as many as eleven million of the 58 million shares held by workers. The investment management company claimed to be protecting the workers' pension plans, to the protest of ALPA and IAM officials and rank-and-file.



FHAR MIES/The Alarm! Newspaper

Medea Benjamin of Global Exchange, Barbara Lubin of the Middle East Childrens' Alliance and Stephen Zunes, author of *Tinderbox: US Middle East Policy and the Roots of Terrorism*, addressed US foreign policy, the struggle for Palestinian autonomy and the impending war against Iraq at a November 6 event organized by the Santa Cruz Peacemakers of the Resource Center for Nonviolence.



War Notes

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

By **SASHA K**
The Alarm! Newspaper Columnist

The Resolution

On Friday November 8, after weeks of haggling, the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution calling for a tough weapons inspection regime in Iraq with a fifteen to zero vote. In the end, the United States, France and Russia compromised. The resolution does not give automatic approval to war with Iraq if they do not comply with the resolution, but it also does not specifically state that military action needs Security Council approval. It is the vagueness of the resolution that allowed its passage.

According to resolution 1441, if Iraq does not fully cooperate with implementation, Iraq shall be considered in “material breach” and Hans Blix, the head of Unmovic, the UN weapons inspection team, and Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) team, are to report Iraq to the Council for “assessment.” No specific consequences for noncompliance are named, although it is “recalled” in the resolution that Iraq has already been warned “that it will face serious consequences as a result of its continued violations of its obligations.”

The resolution gives Blix and ElBaradei wide latitude to judge Iraqi compliance. “We will be guided by the definition of material breach, which is really a major violation of the very purpose of the process,” ElBaradei told the *New York Times*. Many of the arguments during the drafting of the resolution have been over the meaning of the phrase “material breach.” The Bush administration has been arguing that even the slightest misstep on the part of the Iraqi government would be cause for war.

In addition, the US administration has indicated that it will make its own judgement on whether Iraq is in compliance or not, holding it to tougher standards than Unmovic and the IAEA team. It is the ambiguity of the resolution—in not stating that any response to Iraqi noncompliance must be approved by the Security Council—that keeps us firmly on the path to war. The US policy towards Saddam Hussein is still essentially “to commit suicide or be liquidated,” as Ayman El-Amir of *Al-Ahram* has said.

The Arab League was quick to offer its own interpretation of 1441. After approving the resolution, they stated that only the Security Council should evaluate the reports of weapons inspectors and that the inspection team must include more Arabs than in the past. Farouk al-Sharaa, foreign minister of Syria, which voted for the resolution as a member of the Security Council, said, “this resolution stopped an immediate strike against Iraq, but only an immediate strike. Now America cannot strike Iraq under UN auspices, although of course the United States can strike Iraq unilaterally outside international law. If this happens, the world will not be with the Americans. It will have to deal with all those demonstrators from Los Angeles to the Far East and the Arab countries.”

Iraqi response: On Wednesday, two days before the Friday deadline, the



Iraqi government stated that it would comply with the resolution. Earlier in the week, seemingly as a way to express Iraqi distaste for 1441, the Iraqi parliament recommended that the government reject the resolution, leaving the final decision up to Saddam Hussein. With France, Russia and the Arab world backing the resolution, Iraq had no option to reject compliance.

The first opportunity for the Bush administration to again push for war will be thirty days after the adoption of the resolution. By that date the Iraqi government must clearly outline to Unmovic and the IAEA all chemical, biological and nuclear weapons and weapons development projects that it has. If it fails to do so, it would be considered in material breach of the resolution and would be reported to the Security Council. On Wednesday, the Iraqi ambassador to the UN announced that Iraq had no such programs. Britain and the US maintain that it does. Thus the stage for conflict is set.

Newest war plans

The Pentagon has again leaked a new war plan—ostensibly in an attempt to frighten the Iraqi military and government. This “rolling war” would not aim to immediately occupy Baghdad, but would instead take three regions of Iraq—the northern Kurdish region from Turkey, the south from Kuwait and the west possibly from Israel or Jordan—and hold them as bases for further attacks on the Iraqi government and military. These bases would allow for attacks aimed at the “pillars of the regime”—its missiles, air defenses, presidential sites and military targets.

The hope would be that the Iraqi government would crumble and the military would end its support for Hussein without needing a possibly costly ground assault on Baghdad itself. By taking the southern city of Basra as a major base, US forces would not need to use Saudi territory. Four British minesweeper ships are already on their way to the region to clear the Shatt al-Arab waterway that runs up to Basra.

According to the BBC, the plan includes a psychological campaign—including encouraging uprisings and a coup—which would begin before the actual conflict. This campaign is probably already underway.

The war, of course, has been underway for some time. US and British fighters have been bombing Iraqi targets since the first Gulf War, despite the fact that no US or British plane has been shot down since then. But since the summer, they have expanded the type of installations targeted. Instead of only hitting anti-aircraft and missile batteries in “self-defense,” planes are now taking out command bunkers, communication stations and radar systems, weakening Iraqi defenses before the start of full-scale war.

Meanwhile, the British organization Medical Action for Global Security estimates that around half a million people would die in a war with Iraq, 200,000 of whom would die from starvation and disease.

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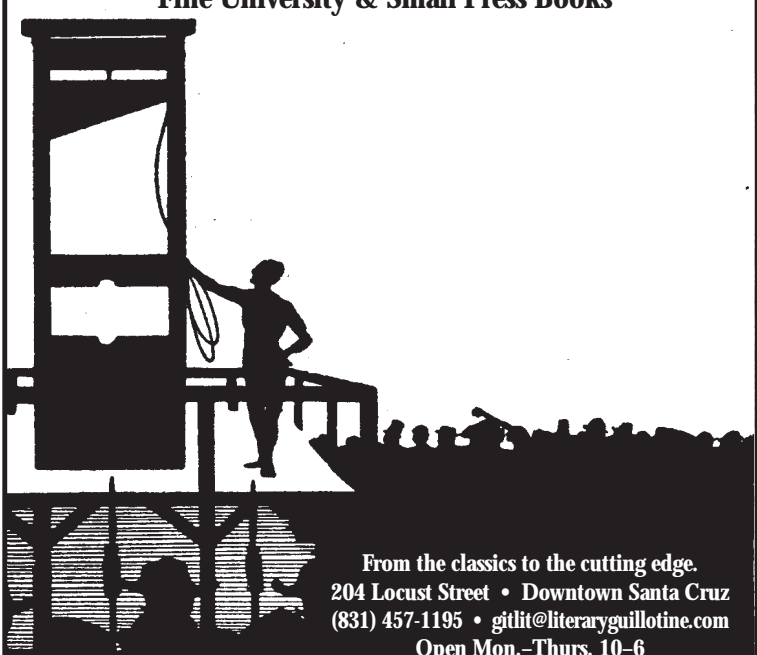
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Yemen

On November 3, the CIA used a Predator drone—a remote controlled plane with no pilot—to kill what it claimed were al-Qaida operatives in Yemen. This the first time such planes have been used outside of Afghanistan to target people. They have been used in southern Iraq for the last month and have attacked radar dishes. The CIA and senior intelligence officials seem to have been given the right to decide for themselves when to use the tactic; President Bush did not make the decision himself. Perhaps even more

worrying, the Yemen killings closely resemble the Israeli tactic of “targeted killings” (assassinations) of its opponents. The US has maintained that it opposes the Israeli tactic, but the Yemen assassinations confirm that the US and Israel are increasingly converging on military tactics. The Israelification of US military tactics and strategy—pre-emption and assassination—coincides with a shift in US strategy that now more than ever promotes Israel as the regional hegemonic power and looks to redraw the Mideast map.

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 5 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 (último de una serie de cinco) analizará el quinto mito dentro del contexto de la inmigración en los Estados Unidos.

Quinto mito sobre la inmigración: “La inmigración ‘amenaza’ con alterar la identidad de los Estados Unidos”

Primero que nada, nunca ha existido, ni existirá, una identidad nacional totalmente cerrada. La identidad nacional de los EEUU se ha visto transformada, desde el principio de la formación de la nación estadounidense, por la aportación cultural de millones de inmigrantes de diversos orígenes nacionales. La sociedad estadounidense siempre se ha jactado de ser un “melting pot,” es decir, un crisol en el que se funden diversos elementos culturales que le dan a la nación un carácter multicultural.

Aunque dicha teoría del “melting pot” haya sido despojada de legitimidad por innumerables y cuidadosos análisis académicos, muchos de los cuales han optado por el modelo del “frying pan” (sartén para freír), en el cual los que se encuentran al fondo del orden social (o sea, la sartén) se queman, mientras los que se encuentran arriba se cocinan perfectamente, es indudable que la identidad estadounidense le debe su formación a la aportación de los inmigrantes.

Además de los beneficios económicos que aportan los inmigrantes a la nación estadounidense, los cuales ya han sido analizados en los cuatro anteriores capítulos de esta serie, dichos inmigrantes han dotado a los EEUU, y lo siguen haciendo, de un interminable número de aportaciones culturales. Basta citar el ejemplo de California, estado que, desde su incorporación a la unión americana, ha gozado de una riqueza y diversidad cultural gracias a la influencia de sus residentes de diversos orígenes nacionales, étnicos y culturales.

¿Quién puede argumentar, por ejemplo, que la inmigración proveniente de México o América Central “amenaza” con alterar la identidad californiana, cuando al recorrer dicho estado de sur a norte uno se encuentra con poblaciones que llevan los nombres de San Diego, Los Angeles, Sacramento, Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, Los Baños, etc.? ¿Cómo se puede entender tal argumento si en cada pueblo o ciudad existen establecimientos que ofrecen, por ejemplo, platillos deliciosos de origen mexicano como los tacos, burritos, enchiladas, tostadas, tamales; o salvadoreños, como las pupusas? ¿Cuál sería la suerte de la agricultura californiana y de su sector de servicios, solo por citar algunos ejemplos, si el campo y las cocinas de California se vieran privadas del trabajo y los conocimientos culturales de los inmigrantes (legales e indocumentados por igual) que laboran en ellos?

Cada cocina, sin importar que tipo de comida se prepara en ellas, cada campo agrícola o cada hotel en donde se contrate a personal de limpieza es un lugar en donde ya se habla el español, el chino, el tagalo, así como una infinidad de lenguas indígenas de Centro y Sudamérica.

Inclusive los hijos de muchos de las familias más privilegiadas, no solo de California, sino de toda la nación, se encuentran bajo el cuidado de nanas y personal de servicio doméstico indocumentados que provienen de lugares de habla hispana o de lenguas indígenas. California es un estado en el que la mayoría de sus habitantes son originarios o descendientes directos de personas de otros países, los cuales le han dado y le siguen dando a California una riqueza cultural y una identidad por demás original.

La historia nos ha demostrado, una y otra vez, que las sociedades más saludables son aquellas que disfrutan de flexibilidad, diversidad y movilidad. No hay que olvidar las horrendas consecuencias que han acarreado, como en el caso de la Alemania Nazi o Sudáfrica bajo el Apartheid, el querer conservar la “pureza” de una raza o de una sociedad. Llámesele como se le quiera llamar: alteración, transformación o evolución, la existencia de dicho proceso en el que una identidad cambia y se transforma no representa una amenaza, sino un signo de salud social.

Para finalizar esta serie, se deben tomar en cuenta las observaciones hachas por el eurodiputado Nair, el cual subraya que los cinco mitos sobre la inmigración analizados en esta serie “alimentan un círculo perverso, ya que se justifica la marginalización de la víctima propiciatoria mediante la creación continua del chivo expiatorio. Es grave, porque rebajar demagógicamente el debate sobre el control de flujos migratorios conduce siempre a un debilitamiento de la democracia.”

New Vietnamese Exodus—Out Of Silicon Valley

BY **ANDREW LAM**
Pacific News Service

EDITOR’S NOTE: Made resilient by a history of warfare and the need to move to survive, many Vietnamese in California’s cash-strapped Silicon Valley are leaving and setting up shop in the state’s capital. PNS editor Andrew Lam reports. Lam {lam@pacificnews.org} is a short story writer and journalist.

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—“Husband a technician, wife in the assembly line, working the same shift, what could be better?” This adage, one of a few coined abroad by Vietnamese, refers to Silicon Valley, 90 miles southeast in the San Francisco Bay Area. For two decades the phrase was a formula for survival, one that, over time, led to prosperity for the second-largest Vietnamese community in the United States.

But that was before 9/11, an economic downturn, mass Silicon Valley layoffs and an exodus of many Vietnamese to the state capital.

Different communities have responded differently to the high-tech bust. For Vietnamese, many of whom have experienced war, tough times are met with togetherness and a readiness to pick up and move.

Standing in the middle of a Vietnamese-owned strip mall in the southern part of the city, Nam Nguyen, publisher of *Dan Viet* and *Calitoday*, wonders what the new survival adage might be. “Find cheap housing and start your own business?” he muses.

In a poor economy, where mainstream newspapers suffer from a lack of ads, Nguyen’s two Vietnamese-language newspapers for Northern California are thriving.

“Ads revenues are up,” he says. “I wouldn’t have expected it.” *Dan Viet*, Nguyen’s eight-month-old Sacramento newspaper, appears twice a week carrying ads from jewelry stores, law firms, insurance and telephone companies, restaurants and real estate businesses.

“Vietnamese in Silicon Valley are re-arranging their survival strategies,” Nguyen says. “As more are losing their high-tech jobs, they are opening small businesses. And many are moving en masse to Sacramento to do it.”

Houses are relatively cheap and plentiful here, and the cost of living is

a fraction of what it is in San Jose, in the heart of Silicon Valley. There aren’t many jobs in Sacramento, but this detail is not deterring the migration.

Some 100,000 Vietnamese live in Silicon Valley, but Census 2000 counted about 18,000 Vietnamese in and around Sacramento, an increase of 84% since 1990. Nguyen estimates 10,000 more had moved to the area since the census was taken.

“Vietnamese are survivors,” Nguyen says. “We know where to go next. It’s from the experience of living with so many wars. Got to move fast if you want to survive and do well.”

Take Anh Dao, for instance. For the last two years, Dao’s San Jose restaurant, which carries her name, was suffering. She left the restaurant for her brother to run and moved here to start a second Anh Dao.

“There’s no heavy traffic like in San Jose,” Dao says. “Rent is a lot cheaper. Business is good.” Already she’s planning a third restaurant in Stockton, some 40 miles south.

Thinh Tran and his family moved to Sacramento two years ago. Laid off after ten years as a Silicon Valley technician, Tran bought a home for less than a third of the price of his house in San Jose.

“Having survived the war and re-education camp, surviving the economic downturn in America is not a big problem,” Tran says.

Tran’s two sons live at home and help their parents make ends meet. Family togetherness, according to Minh Ta, who teaches Asian American studies at San Francisco State University, is key to how Vietnamese Americans survive during rough economic times.

“One of the best strategies for immigrants is still sharing resources,” Ta says. Brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts pool their financial resources.

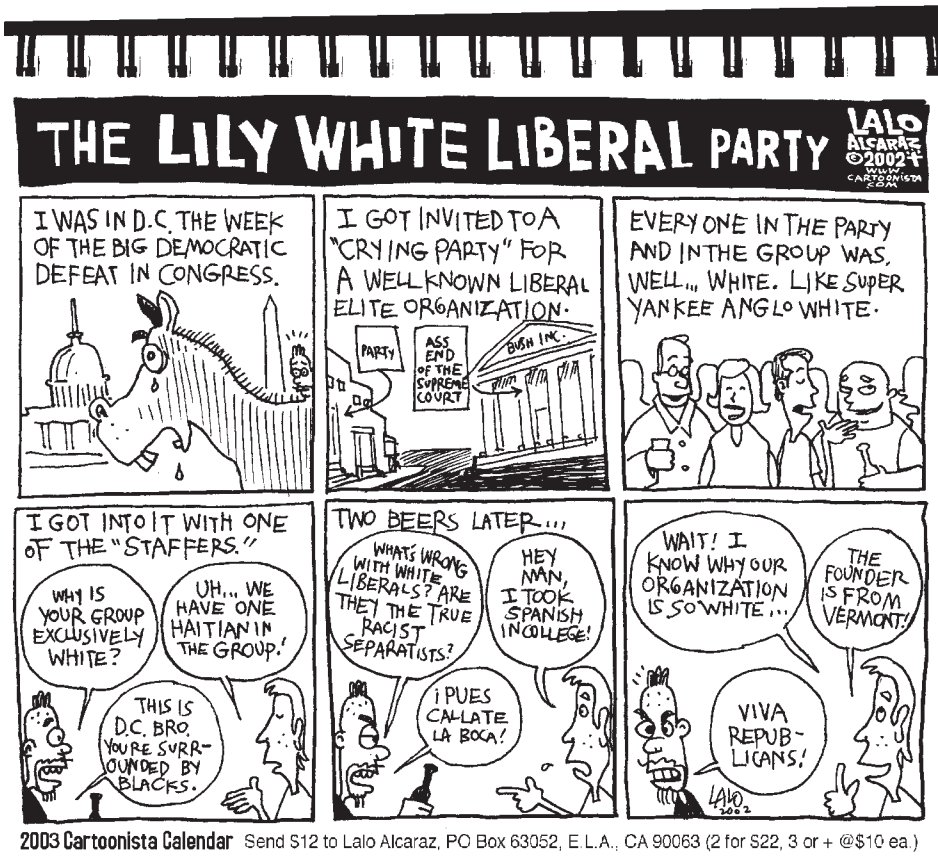
“I myself would feel extremely guilty to see any one of my family members suffer,” says Ta, who is Vietnamese.

Chi To has lived here since the late 1980s. She says that the Vietnamese community in Sacramento was mostly quiet until a few years ago. “Those who moved here earlier were poorer and had little skills and capital,” says To, who teaches business classes at a community center. Those who come now, she says, are business-savvy and aggressive. “Plus, they have collateral, which they can use to create new businesses for themselves.”

Shops and services catering to Vietnamese are appearing everywhere. For Chi Le, owner of Lee’s Sandwiches, which has stores elsewhere in California, Sacramento is the next “logical choice.”

Chi To, the business course teacher, says she loves Lee’s sandwiches, but warns, “There may not be enough consumers to support all these businesses.” Plus, houses here are getting very expensive very fast.

Perhaps, then, some Vietnamese will find yet another livable valley to build a new Little Saigon. “Vietnamese are moving to Las Vegas as well,” observes Nguyen with a smile. “Who knows, in a few years maybe I’ll start a paper there, too.”



Eye on the INS

A forum addressing the INS and immigration policy

Snapshots from the War on Terror

By MICHELLE STEWART
The Alarm! Newspaper Collective

“Anonymous mailer sends us photos taken inside a military C-130 transporting POWs,” reads the headline on the website of radio host Art Bell. For those unfamiliar with Mr. Bell, on this website you will also find many stories and/or photos that are “evidence” of alien life on earth. However, in the case of these photos, there has been an authorized voice that verified their authenticity, as well as a firestorm of response—both from the Federal government.

“We have very very tight restrictions on any images of the detainees for security purposes and because we have no interest in potentially holding detainees up for any kind of public ridicule,” said Victoria Clark at a Pentagon press conference the morning after the photos first appeared. Clark announced that the Pentagon was mounting an investigation to determine who in the plane took the photos, because the release was unauthorized and perhaps the photos themselves were unauthorized.

Does the Pentagon want to keep these photos from the public to insure the detainees are not subjected to “public ridicule,” or rather to insure that the Pentagon itself is not subject to public scrutiny? The answer seems obvious. In looking back over the past few months, perhaps the chain of events has forced the Pentagon to try and avoid this type of scrutiny.

Early in the summer, a certain photo of John Walker Lindh surfaced. In the photo, Lindh was heavily restrained, blindfolded and appeared to be strapped to a carrying board, naked. The Pentagon was challenged about the way Lindh was being handled. The Pentagon responded to the criticisms by stating that Lindh’s restraints and lack of clothing were part of their security measures. It later surfaced—according to Lindh’s defense attorneys—that he’d been ridiculed by officers, and that his body had both pro-America and homopho-

expecting a reaction of adulation from a fearful public, was surprised when the photos were greeted with horror and questions were raised about the treatment of US-held prisoners in the “War on Terrorism.” The chief concern surrounded the ways in which the prisoners were uniformly transported with eye goggles and ear muffs as well as shackles and often surgical masks. The government responded that these were security measures taken to insure the safety of all involved in the transport (even the safety of the prisoner). Over time, this outcry, too, was silenced. People seemed to “accept” that the US had the right to snatch up whomever it wished (no trial, no public proof offered) and schlep them off to an island (Guantanamo Bay) in another country (Cuba), bound, gagged and goggled for an indeterminate amount of time (the joys of being labeled a material witness, not a Prisoner of War)—in the name of security, of course.

With the photos on Bell’s website, here we are again. The only difference this time is that the US didn’t officially release the photos—probably sick and tired of defending itself, it is keeping the photo album closed to the public. So, aside from the occasionally leaked photo, what will the public do now? We have proven ourselves to be rather accepting of these disturbing pictures. Over time we seem to silence our complaints and outcry. Without the photos as reminders, are we simply going to become absolutely compliant with the way in which events play out in this endless and ambiguous “War on Terrorism?”

I fear we are. Lost in this latest round of discussions about the photographs of detainees is the fact that they are being treated as human cargo. And consider for a moment the timing.

What have we been hearing about Guantanamo Bay lately? Well, in October, the government prided itself on releasing prisoners; it was expelling those prisoners who were not deemed adequate material witnesses. For all intents and purposes, the government has not talked about bringing in more detainees; rather it has only spoken of releases. Of course this was coming up on the elections where, perhaps, it did not want to be seen as “collecting”

detainees and thereby spending American tax dollars on a program that is not precisely collecting terrorists. Material witnesses are not very exciting, and cost a lot of money to house and feed.

But whether we have photos—officially released or not—I am left with the sneaking suspicion that people are largely undisturbed by these pictures or the general landscape of this “War on Terrorism.” That the mantra of homeland security has finally taken hold, and the treatment of anyone

who is suspected of terrorism is inconsequential. Do we care that the CIA is sending out unmanned drone missiles to kill people “believed to be” members of al-Qaeda, that the attack in Yemen did kill an American, that we are killing suspects? And those we don’t kill we strap into cargo planes, bound and gagged?

Is this what we are agreeing to? Whether it is the nearly 600 detainees at Guantanamo Bay, or the hundreds still held in INS detention, the War on Terrorism is very tangible, and yet we don’t seem to respond. The War on Terrorism is not just about bin Laden (or nowadays Hussein), it is about treating people as cargo, about assuming the guilt of all suspects, about treating Arabs or Muslims as guilty and about the pretense that in the name of “security” we must accept these violations of decency.

So, do we respond or do we just shake our heads at these photos? Do we dismiss the photos—when they surface—and ignore the INS’s detainees; just sit back, and turn our collective attention to the upcoming “holiday season?”

Your comments are encouraged and welcomed at michelle@the-alarm.com



Are we embarrassed or asleep soldier? Photo illustrates detainees strapped to the sides of the cargo plane, shackled with hoods over their heads.

Other Troubles at Guantanamo Bay

On November 1, 2002, the Pentagon officially declared Sgt. Ryan D. Foraker of Logan, Ohio dead. Foraker had been missing from the Guantanamo Bay army base since September 24.

According to the Pentagon, Foraker climbed down the island’s rocky cliffs to go swimming and drowned. Feeling there was no evidence of foul play, the military closed the case.

However, according to the family, Foraker had a horrid fear of heights and would not climb down the rocky cliffs. The Pentagon cited that the man’s clothing and identification were found nicely folded near his barracks, leading to the conclusion that he went for a swim and drowned. However, with lingering questions—and no body recovered—Logan’s family is trying to compel the Pentagon to re-open the investigation.

Logan was responsible for transporting detainees at Guantanamo Bay.
—M.S.



Photographer’s 1st Mate Class (AW) Shane T. McCoy/US Navy

One of the photos released by the Pentagon earlier this summer caused quite a stir. The Pentagon seemed unprepared for the national and international criticism it received regarding prisoner treatment.



In the name of security, detainees are transported under these conditions

bic language scrawled on it in marker. Despite initial concerns, the public soon forgot these issues, along with concerns about the initial photo and the way Lindh was treated. Lindh eventually took a plea bargain and was sentenced to 20 years in prison.

Earlier in the year, the US government released photos to the press of some of the first detainees arriving at Guantanamo Bay. The government,

US on tour for Arab students

By JALAL GHAZI
Asharq Al-Awsat

U.S. dignitaries and university representatives are touring Arab countries to convince Arab students to come back to study in the United States, reports the Asharq Al-Awsat.

The United States has been a top destination for Arab students. After the September 11 attacks, however, many of them left reporting intense harassment on campus. Many are also discouraged with the greater restrictions on student visas.

Vincent Battle, US ambassador in Lebanon, emphasized that the process of obtaining visas has not been changed. It just takes longer.

Battle announced that representatives from American universities will visit 11 Arabic countries to help bring Arab students back. The tour is being sponsored by the U.S. State Department and American embassies in the region. — Source: Pacific News Service

Prospecting for black gold

By IMC STAFF
NYC Independent Media Center

U.S. policy towards the Middle East is based on the age-old human lust for gold. In this case, black gold. Just five countries in the Middle East sit atop nearly two-thirds of the proven oil reserves in the world. And of these five, only Iran and Iraq remain outside of the US sphere of influence, possibly the real reason why President Bush designated them, along with North Korea, as the “axis of evil.”

The United States is increasingly dependent on foreign oil, having imported 56% of its supplies in 2000 (though most of that comes from its hemispheric neighbors, chiefly Canada, Mexico and Venezuela).

The petro-cabinet assembled by Bush has hopped the world—from Central Asia and equatorial Africa to the Andean region and Alaska—to secure more sources to feed the West’s addiction. Yet, oil discoveries peaked in the 1960s. Today, newly discovered reserves amount to only one-quarter of annual global consumption.

Since the first oil well began pumping in Titusville, Pa., on Aug. 27, 1859, some 900 billion barrels of oil have been sucked out of the earth. More than one trillion barrels in proven reserves exist around the world. Forecasting future discoveries is tricky at best, but perhaps another half-trillion barrels of oil remain hidden in undiscovered conventional reserves.

It is estimated that world production will peak between 2010 and 2020. Disciples of M. King Hubbert, who accurately predicted in 1956 that oil production would peak in the lower 48 states around 1970, contend that prices will rise sharply after 2010 as production peaks and reaches a point of diminishing returns.

Others dispute this, noting that contrary to expectations, two new

“supergiant” fields have been discovered in Kazakhstan and Iran in the last decade. And as prices rise, it makes deep-ocean, marginal fields and Arctic exploration more economical. Ironically, as fossil fuel-induced climate change warms the globe, oil companies are anticipating an oil rush in the largely unexplored and environmentally fragile polar regions.

Unconventional sources—tar sands in Western Canada, the heavy oil belt in Venezuela and oil shale in the United States, Brazil, Zaire, India and many other countries—may become major producers of oil by the mid-21st century. According to a 1993 survey by the US Geological Service, worldwide recoverable reserves of conventional oil amount to 2.1 to 2.8 trillion barrels. In the case of unconventional sources, it is thought that another three trillion barrels can be extracted. Yet it will still take decades, if not longer, to develop the technology to efficiently extract petroleum from tar sands or oil shale.

Other analysts note that Third World regions are at the beginning of the discovery curve, likely resulting in increasing output in future decades.

This hasn’t escaped the notice of the Bush administration. After being heckled for defending America’s gluttonous lifestyle at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in September, Colin Powell embarked on his real business: currying favor with oil-rich African nations like Gabon and Angola. Sub-Saharan Africa already provides the US with 15% of its daily supply, which is expected to rise to 25% by 2015.

Walter Kansteiner, assistant secretary of state for Africa, is blunt about U.S. policy toward the forgotten continent. “African oil is of national strategic interest to us, and it will increase and become more important as we go forward...that’s really the primary focus of what our policy is.”

One of America’s newest friends is the tiny island nation of Sao Tome and Principe. Located off the West coast of Africa near the equator, it sits on some 4 billion barrels of oil. One reporter profiling the country asked, “Who needs Saudi Arabia when you’ve got Sao Tome?” Well, we do. Four billion barrels is about what the United States imports in one year and is a mere puddle compared to the oceanic reserves in the Middle East.

The newly created African Oil Policy Initiative Group (AOPIG) is recommending oil-driven foreign policy objectives for Africa to the Bush administration. One objective is reported to be the construction of a US naval base within the Sao Tome and Principe region. The base would provide a harbor for aircraft carriers, patrol boats and Marines.

The biggest undiscovered reserves are thought to exist in Iraq, which has been shut off from exploration since 1990. US, British, French and Russian oil companies are jockeying to be first in line when the prospecting begins. The looming invasion of Iraq is part of the White House’s plans to ensure cheap oil for consumers, as outlined in its national energy strategy last year.

That is also why the White House has displayed extreme prejudice toward alternative and renewable fuels. Cheap, relatively clean, abundant wind and tidal power are already within reach. But to the oil industry (and the Bush administration), they’re a danger to the status quo. The only alternative energy the administration has shown enthusiasm for—hydrogen fuel cells—is also one that is decades away from being feasible and which would still probably rely on fossil fuels for generating the hydrogen.

From today’s vantage point, it appears that oil dependence—and bitter, destructive oil wars—will dominate the landscape of the 21st century.

Will free thought survive?



Padre Felix Varela founded the first Spanish-language newspaper in the U.S.

This publication is fighting for fairness in postage rates. What’s at stake?

Whether you’ll be able to find independent publications that serve their subscribers, not just commercial advertisers.

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Don’t let the Postal Service stamp out freedom.

POWER MEANS PUMPING THE NUMBERS

The estimation of reserves is fraught with politics and guesswork. The two annual industry benchmarks are compiled by *World Oil* and *Oil and Gas Journal* largely from data provided by individual countries. Both outfits have placed “proven” global reserves at about 1 trillion barrels for most of the last decade. In contrast, in 1995 PetroConsultants estimated “assessed” reserves at 746 billion barrels.

It’s suspected that many OPEC countries pump up their estimates because their production quotas are based on

the size of the reserves. Indeed, in 1988 and 1990, many Middle Eastern countries revised their reserves dramatically upward despite no new major discoveries. From 1986 to 1990, according to data from *World Oil* and *Oil and Gas Journal*, global reserves increased a staggering 39 percent from 708 billion barrels to 983 billion barrels.

Source: Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi, www.eni.it/english

TOP 10 COUNTRIES

RESERVES (millions of barrels as of Jan. 1, 2002):
Saudi Arabia: 261,750
Iraq: 112,500
United Arab Emirates: 97,800
Kuwait: 96,500
Iran: 89,700
Venezuela: 77,685
Russia: 48,573
Libya: 29,500
Mexico: 26,941
Nigeria: 24,000
Total: 864,949
Rest of the World: 167,182
World Total: 1,032,131

PRODUCTION (millions of barrels per day):
Saudi Arabia: 8.528
United States: 8.091
Russia: 7.014
Iran: 3.775
Mexico: 3.560
Norway: 3.408
China: 3.297
Venezuela: 3.137
Canada: 2.749
United Arab Emirates: 2.550
Total: 46.159
Rest of the World: 29.067
World Total: 75.226
World Annual Total: 28,180

CONSUMPTION (millions of barrels per day):
United States: 19.993
Japan: 5.423
China: 4.854
Germany: 2.814
Russia: 2.531
South Korea: 2.126
Brazil: 2.123
Canada: 2.048
France: 2.040
India: 2.011
Top 10 Countries: 45.964
Rest of the World: 30.024
World Total: 75.988
World Annual Total: 28,460

¿Qué tan justo es el llamado “Comercio Justo/Fair Trade”?

Lo que el consumidor debe saber acerca de los beneficios del “Fair Trade” para los productores cafetaleros de Nicaragua.

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

Las frescas y verdes montañas del norte nicaragüense ofrecen una amigable bienvenida a todo el que las visita. El verdor y la frescura de dicha región, en donde se encuentra enclavado el poblado de Matagalpa, le dan al visitante la impresión de encontrarse en un lugar dotado de una fertilidad y riqueza excepcionales. Sin embargo, y muy contrariamente a lo que pudiera pensarse, esta región se caracteriza por ser una de las que sufre la más generalizada pobreza de todo Nicaragua, el cual, dicho sea de paso, es uno de los países más pobres del hemisferio occidental.

La razón del marcado contraste entre la riqueza potencial de una tierra tan fértil y la extrema pobreza en que viven la mayoría de sus habitantes es la estrepitosa caída de los precios de sus principal producto: el “grano de oro,” nombre que recibe el grano de café cuando se encuentra listo para ser tostado, y que es el estado en que dicho grano abandona los países en donde se produce con destino a las tostadoras instaladas en los países en donde se consume el café de mejor calidad.

En el marco de la quinta asamblea anual de CECOCAFEN (Central de Cooperativas Cafetaleras del Norte), organismo que comercializa el café que producen las cooperativas que lo conforman, varios productores cafetaleros de la zona de Matagalpa, Nicaragua nos ofrecieron sus impresiones sobre la difícil situación de los productores cafetaleros nicaragüenses en general y sobre los verdaderos beneficios que reciben los que, como ellos, se ven en la posibilidad de comercializar su café—gracias a que se encuentran bien organizados—dentro del marco del “Fair Trade.”

La opinión generalizada de los productores miembros de CECOCAFEN fue la de que el “Comercio Justo” (nombre con el que ellos conocen al “Fair Trade”) no es tan justo. Según José Cornejo y Victorino Peralta, ambos miembros de la cooperativa “La Providencia” de Wiwili, Nicaragua, el precio máximo que se paga por un quintal (100 libras) de café grano de oro es de \$141.

“Los importadores nos pagan a nosotros US \$1.40 por libra—en el mejor de los casos—y el consumidor final paga US \$1.50 por _taza_ de café,” subrayo Peralta, resaltando que una libra de café alcanza para veinte o cuarenta tazas. Mas aun, el productor solo recibe solo \$96 por quintal después de que CECOCAFEN deduce gastos de comercialización y cinco dólares que van a un fondo de aportación social, el cual se utiliza para obras sociales en las comunidades cafetaleras. Además, según Peralta, si se calculan los gastos de producción, que en el caso del café organico son de aproximadamente \$0.45 por libra, el productor acaba ganando solamente alrededor de medio dólar por libra.

Aún cuando se compara el precio de venta al público por libra del café nicaragüense orgánico de “Fair Trade” en Santa Cruz, el cual se vende a US \$8.95 por libra en Santa Cruz Coffee Roasting Company, con los US \$1.40 que los importadores (en muchos casos las tostadoras lo compran al productor directamente) pagan a cooperativas bien organizadas como las de CECOCAFEN, nos damos cuenta de porqué los productores hacen el comentario de que “el comercio justo no es tan justo.”

“Y eso si comerciamos dentro del ‘Comercio Justo,’ el cual exige que nuestro café sea ciento por ciento orgánico y de mejor

calidad,” dice Peralta. Cornejo, en tono sarcástico se refiere a los productores que comercian dentro del Comercio Justo como los más privilegiados. “Hay gente, inclusive dentro de nuestras cooperativas, que sufren de una situación todavía peor,” dice Cornejo, presentándonos con Fabiana López Arauz, miembro de una cooperativa en La Pozolera, municipio de Waslala.

López Arauz, madre viuda de siete hijos, nos explica que su esposo murió durante la guerra civil, cuando los “contras,” apoyados por el gobierno de los EEUU, trataban de tomar el poder de los Sandinistas por la vía de la lucha armada. La señora López Arauz nos cuenta que ella es dueña de un lote de una “manzana y media” (poco menos de una hectárea), de la cual saca a veces 65 quintales de café por temporada, pero a veces apenas saca 3 quintales. Aunque la señora López Arauz nunca ha utilizado productos químicos para producir su café—siempre ha utilizado fertilizantes y anti-plagas orgánicos porque ser más baratos—todavía no certifican su café como orgá nico y lo tiene que vender como convencional. “A mi me pagan \$0.60 por libra (sin contar los costos de producción) y eso me alcanza para medio sobrevivir. Tengo la esperanza de que el año próximo me certifiquen como orgánico para poder vender mi café a mejor precio...pero también me dicen que el precio puede bajar aún más.”

En efecto, el precio internacional del café que se cotiza en la Bolsa de Valores de Nueva York se encuentra ahora en un mínimo histórico, y las expectativas no auguran ninguna mejoría en el corto plazo. Los pequeños productores cafetaleros no organizados de Nicaragua solo reciben, en promedio, US \$0.45 por libra de café convencional, cuando los costos de producción de este tipo de café andan por los US \$0.60 por libra.

Tal y como lo apunta el señor Cornejo, “el hecho de que nosotros estamos organizados, de que CECOCAFEN cuenta con la infraestructura necesaria para ofrecer un café seleccionado y limpio, orgánico, de la mejor calidad, y de que contamos además con laboratorios de catación [donde se determina la calidad y el sabor del café], nos da la posibilidad de poder obtener una mínima ganancia que nos permite sobrevivir. Sin embargo, hay todavía muchos pequeños productores que no tienen las mismas posibilidades porque no están organizados.”

Para Peralta, la realidad del mercado es triste. “El precio que nos pagan a nosotros sigue bajando mientras que el precio que pagan los consumidores en los países ricos sigue subiendo. Yo solo tengo la posibilidad de vender, aún siendo miembro de CECOCAFEN, una pequeña parte de mi café dentro del ‘Comercio Justo,’ que aunque no sea tan justo, cuando menos me ayuda a mal pasarla,” dice Peralta.

El consenso entre los productores es de que el “Comercio Justo” debe continuar, pero tanto los que comercian su café como los consumidores en los países desarrollados deben de tomar conciencia de que el “Fair Trade” debe ser todavía más justo para poder justificar tanto su nombre como su sobreprecio.

Es decir, y tal y como lo explica el señor Cornejo, “la justicia del ‘Fair Trade’ solo se dará cuando al productor le quede cuando menos un 40% de la ganancia de la comercialización de su café, lo cual, al analizar cifras, se da uno cuenta de que está muy lejos de ser una realidad.”

How Fair Is Fair Trade?

By **CARLOS ARMENTA**
Translated By **ARMANDO ALCARAZ**
The Alarm! Newspaper contributor



The green mountains in the north of Nicaragua offer a friendly welcome to visitors. The greenery and lushness of the region, where one finds the town of Matagalpa, gives the visitor an impression of exceptional richness and fertility. However, contrary to what one might think, this region is one of the poorest in all Nicaragua, a country that has the distinction of being one of the poorest in the western hemisphere.

The reason behind the deep contrast between the potential wealth in such a fertile land and the extreme poverty which most of its inhabitants suffer, is the sharp fall of the price of the main product of the area: the *grano de oro* or “the grain of gold,” the name given to the coffee bean when it is ready to be roasted. The golden coffee beans are sent to the roasters in the countries that consume the best quality coffee.

During the fifth annual assembly of CECOCAFEN (Center of Cooperative Coffee Growers of the North), an organization that commercializes the coffee produced by the cooperatives that belong to it, many coffee growers of Matagalpa offered their impressions on the difficult situation of the Nicaraguan coffee growers and on the real benefits received by those who, like them, can market their coffee as Fair Trade.

The generalized opinion of the CECOCAFEN members was that Fair Trade is not that fair. According to José Cornejo and Victorino Peralta, members of the La Providencia Cooperative of Wiwili, the maximum price that they receive for a “quintal” (1 quintal=100 lbs.) of unroasted coffee is \$141.

“The buyers pay us \$1.40 per pound—in the best of cases—and the final consumer pays \$1.50 per _cup_ of coffee,” said Peralta, pointing out that a pound of coffee can make from twenty to forty cups of coffee. Also, the individual grower only receives \$96 per quintal after the CECOCAFEN subtracts market expenses and five additional dollars that go to a social fund, used for public social works in the coffee growers’ communities. In addition, according to Peralta, if one factors in the production expenses, which with organic coffee are approximately \$0.45 per pound, the grower ends up making only about half a dollar per pound of coffee.

Even comparing the price per pound of Nicaraguan Organic Fair Trade Coffee in Santa Cruz, which sells for \$8.95 per pound at the Santa Cruz Coffee Roasting Company, with the \$1.40 that the buyers (in many cases the roasters buy the coffee directly from the grower) pay to well-organized cooperatives such as CECOCAFEN, it is possible to understand why the growers often say “Fair Trade is not that fair.”

“And that is only if we do it inside the Fair Trade, which requires our coffee to be 100% organic and of better quality,” said Per-

alta. Cornejo, in a sarcastic tone of voice, refers to the coffee growers who sell through Fair Trade as the privileged. “There are people, even inside our cooperatives, who have an even worse situation,” said Cornejo, as he introduced us to Fabiana López Arauz, a member of the cooperative in La Pozolera, a municipality of Waslala.

López Arauz, a widow and a mother of seven, explains that her husband died during the civil war, when the “contras,” supported by the US government, tried to take the power from the Sandinistas by means of force. López Arauz told us that she is the owner of a small piece of land of about two acres, on which she sometimes grows 65 quintales of coffee per season, but sometimes she can barely grow three quintales. Even though López Arauz has never used chemical products to produce her coffee—she has always used cheaper organic fertilizers and insecticides—they still don’t certify her coffee as organic. “They pay me \$0.60 per pound (without production costs) and that is barely enough to survive. I have the hope of being certified organic next year so that I can sell my coffee at a better price...but they are also saying that the price could go even lower.”

The international price of coffee in the stock market of New York is at a historical low, and it is not expected to climb in the short term. If not part of an organization, a small coffee grower in Nicaragua only gets, on average, \$0.45 per pound for non-organic coffee, when the production costs for this type of coffee are about \$0.60 per pound.

As Cornejo says, “the fact that we are organized, that CECOCAFEN has the necessary infrastructure to offer select coffee, clean, organic, and of the best quality, and that we have sampling laboratories (where they determine the quality and flavor of the coffee), gives us the possibility of making the minimum income that allows us to survive. However, there are many small growers who don’t have the same possibilities because they are not organized.”

Peralta is saddened by the reality of the market. “The price we get paid keeps going down and the price that consumers pay in rich countries keeps going up. Even being a member of CECOCAFEN, I can only sell a small part of my coffee as Free Trade. Even though it is not that fair, at least I can, if badly, make ends meet,” said Peralta.

The consensus amongst the producers is that Free Trade should continue, but that both the coffee marketers and the consumers in developed countries should become aware that Fair Trade should be fairer to be able to justify its name and its price.

As Cornejo explains, “Fair Trade will be fair only when the growers gets to keep at least 40% of the earnings from their own coffee, which is very far from happening when one looks at the numbers.”

Are we buying in?

Shopping our way to a Gimme a Break, USA

better world?

Can “green consumerism” save the planet while ensuring social justice?

By FHAR MIESS

The Alarm! Newspaper Collective

As Kevin Danaher and Medea Benjamin, founders of Global Exchange, are quick to point out, it's not often that you'll find multinational automobile manufacturer Toyota Motor Corporation sharing an exhibition hall with the radical environmental group Earth First!, but this is precisely the scenario produced by the organizers of the Green Festival in San Francisco this last weekend (November 9–10).

The festival was meant to highlight the movement for sustainable economies, ecological balance and social justice and was jointly organized by Global Exchange, Co-op America and Bioneers, mainstays of that movement establishment in the US. Organizers brought together an eclectic mix of purveyors of fair trade coffee, fair trade and “eco-friendly” textiles and crafts, solar panels, “sustainable” lumber and building materials, “clean” transportation solutions and health foods, along with environmental foundations, “sustainable” investment advocates, consumer and worker co-operatives, social justice groups, body workers and spiritual healers.

While the majority of the exhibition hall was devoted to the buying and selling of merchandise—with the typical trade fair noisy ambiance of industry folk talking shop, PA system interruptions and offers of free samples—the festival also featured a line-up of speakers, including such vehement anti-corporate voices as Amy Goodman of “Democracy Now,” and Alexander Cockburn, co-editor of *CounterPunch*.

Several of the featured “partners” of the event were large multinational corporations, Toyota of San Francisco being the most obvious with two hybrid cars on the exhibition hall floor. Across the aisle from Toyota's exhibit was that of Stonyfield Farms, the nation's fourth largest yogurt company, which uses organic milk. Stonyfield's CEO, Gary Hirschberg, recently followed the lead of Ben Cohen (who also attended the festival) and Jerry Greenfield of Ben &

Jerry's Ice Cream in selling a chunk of his company to a large corporation. Unlike Cohen & Greenfield, who sold their entire operation to Unilever, the largest packaged foods company in the world (which incidentally acquired Slimfast diet products on the same day), Hirschberg agreed only to sell a minority 40% stake in his company to Group Danone, the largest dairy company in the world, so he could remain in control.

Still, Hirschberg is unapologetic about joining forces with the corporate bigwigs. In a recent article he writes, “I must admit that becoming part of the mainstream, while aesthetically unappealing, has nevertheless been THE goal.” Hirschberg's goal, like that of many of his business colleagues represented at the Green Festival, is first and foremost to capture market share. If it can be done with a “sustainable” food source, then so much the better.

Chris Pomfret, Brands Director of Birds Eye Walls, Unilever's Frozen Food products company in the UK, went further to state that sustainability is not important simply because eco-friendly and healthy products can be marketed at a premium, but because the very survival of the company depends upon sustainability. In a March 2002 speech, he declared, “if our business is to continue, then we need to sustain our sources of supply and the only way to do that is to make them sustainable.”

But that self-preservation is not just an abstract corporate response, it is also the personal response of individual business people. Jeffery Hollender, CEO of Seventh Generation, spoke at the Green Festival on the subject of “capitalism at a crossroads.” Near the beginning of his presentation, he posed the question, “is capitalism itself the problem? Should we be looking for some other structure? My answer is no,” he said. “I mean, I'm a business person, and I benefit from the system that in some ways I don't like, but I'm not ready to throw it away.”

To be fair, Hollender, like most well-off green business people, does exhibit a sincere concern for some ecological and social justice values; otherwise, they never would have made it through the screening process that potential Green Festival vendors had to pass through. But the personal and institutional investment of Hollender and his colleagues in a capitalist economy puts him at odds with many of the anti-corporate and anti-globalization activists at the festival.

So, why were these eco-friendly, pro-business firms willing to share the event with people who consider their consumer capitalist practices antithetical to lasting social justice and ecological diversity? According to Medea Benjamin of Global Exchange, organizers of the event “never hid the politics of the event and...many of the businesses that participated felt that that was OK. Many of them are in total agreement and those who aren't I still think felt it was an important demographic group for them to reach.”

And this marketing potential cuts both ways. Patrick Reinsborough, an ecology activist, explored the flip side: “it's an

By MICHELLE STEWART

The Alarm! Newspaper Collective

Biggs, CA, November 4, 2002—Don't ask if they got milk in Biggs. You may get eight ounces of the white stuff spilled over your head.

It was a controversial few weeks in the small town just north of Sacramento, filled with overexposure in the media and tension between citizens. So the City Council held a meeting at the local high school to bring the matter up for discussion and decision.

In end—and to the relief of many locals—Biggs turned down the proposal from the California Milk Processors Board. A firm statement was made that Biggs, CA would not become Got Milk?, CA.

Earlier this year, Jeff Manning, executive director of the California Milk Processors Board sent out letters to 20 small towns in California asking them to officially change their name to “Got Milk?” The Milk Board is preparing for a media and advertising frenzy surrounding the tenth anniversary of the ad campaign. As part of the festivities, Manning was hoping to get a town to rename itself.

According to Manning, the Board isn't making any explicit financial offers as part of the proposal. Instead, he believes the town that accepts the offer will experience increased tourism, and the Milk Board might assist in building a museum.

Apparently that offer isn't sweet enough to sell. To date, Biggs is the only town to publicly respond to the

letter. Other towns that received the letter include San Juan Bautista and Maricopa. Indications are that most of the towns are not considering the proposal.

But Manning holds out hope. The Milk Board cites statistics that indicate a 21% drop in milk consumption over the past 30 years. Will a town name change help a struggling industry? The vote is out on that matter also.

It is not the first time that businesses and industry have turned to town naming as a gimmick. In the 1950s, a small New Mexico town renamed itself Truth or Consequences after an offer came in from the popular radio game show. And most recently, Halfway, Oregon picked up a check for over \$70,000 in exchange for changing its name to Half.com, Oregon. In Halfway, they only

had to do a half-effort, since the name change was only for a year—and the startup company was absorbed by eBay before that year was up.

It is not a new idea. But it is an idea that is indicative of the times; on eBay you can pay to name someone else's child, and when you take a roadtrip you may soon find yourself in town named after a cow campaign.

Imagine if Budweiser had picked up this idea and named a town “Was-suppp?” If you remember that ad campaign, you know what I am talking about. I guess its just too bad its not the 80s, then we could look forward to visiting Where's the Beef?, Florida.



interesting model to create events that really appeal to a mainstream niche, to have a trade show and even the crass ‘come do your Christmas shopping and buy environmentally-friendly products’ and bring in a wide group of people with that and then hit them with a much deeper message.”

As he points out, however, “it's possible to achieve an ecologically sane world that's not necessarily democratic or just....I'm trying not to be dismissive of the kind of organizing that happens around green consumerism but to figure out how we can bridge this entry point for a lot of middle-class American people and make sure that we're actually exposing them to a deeper analysis.” He suggests that examples such as the movements of landless peasants, small farmers and indigenous people might lead to such an analysis: one that points to the need for alternative economic arrangements that honor human and ecological value over that of capital.

While the environmental movement takes a great deal of flak for levying plenty of criticisms without suggesting any solutions, Reinsborough notes that “corporations are largely appropriating the sort of solution-oriented end of the environmental movement,” for instance, the solutions of smaller ecological design vendors present at the festival. This appropriation puts activists even more on the defensive.

The jumbled mix of politics and commerce made this festival no exception. Reinsborough told of how he had forgotten his wallet on his way to the festival,

so he had no option of buying anything. “It made me acutely aware,” he says, “of how little interaction there actually was aside from buying and selling.”

Chris Carlsson, who was one of the people to first popularize the Critical Mass bicycle ride in San Francisco ten years ago, was also at the festival, and he shared some of his own thoughts on the event: “There's no critique that there might be something wrong with the buying and selling of the products of human labor or of human time itself. There's no critique of wage labor or anything else.... On the other hand,” he says, for people who are new to green consumerism, “I would argue that this [event] probably has a radicalizing impact, where people can see how many alternatives there really are, already present, technologically and socially, that represent themselves here through the strange veil of capitalist greenage.”

However, he counters, “I'm quite sure we won't shop our way to a better world.”

“The reproduction of ‘fair’ business practices, as opposed to NON-business practices seems to me to speak more to the problem than the solution,” says Carlsson. “I like things where people are able to engage in direct connections and make alternatives in a way that escapes the logic of buying and selling. It's not always easy to do because you're always stuck paying the bills, as I am, too. But when people can break out of that logic, they get a taste of something different and it leads in a more radical direction, psychologically, much more quickly.”

There are great alternatives available right here in Santa Cruz.

See page 19 for an alternative economy guide, including contact info for:

- Financial Resources
- Tool Cooperatives
- Producers Cooperatives
- Community Supported Agriculture
- Worker Cooperatives
- Housing Cooperatives
- Consumer Cooperatives

Beyond scarcity

□ An interview with Santa Cruz LETS

By FHAR MIESS
The Alarm! Collective

“This planet has—or rather had—a problem, which was this: most of the people living on it were unhappy for pretty much of the time. Many solutions were suggested for this problem, but most of these were largely concerned with the movements of small green pieces of paper, which is odd because on the whole it wasn’t the small green pieces of paper that were unhappy.”—Douglas Adams, The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy.

Many of our worst consumer habits arise from a perceived scarcity of resources in our communities. In fact, what is usually scarce is not resources, but money, or at least money issued by the national treasury. Every community has a wealth of resources: the knowledge, skills, experience and imagination of the people and the natural resources of the land they live on. Scarcity is not created by a lack of resources, but by the concentration of material resources in the hands of landowners and the concentration of money resources in the hands of the wealthy. Ordinary people can at least bypass the concentration of money by creating their own monetary value systems.

Such a local currency system is being formed in Santa Cruz. It is based on LET-System, a Local Exchange and Trading System initially developed in Courtenay, B.C., Canada. With local currencies, participants create value in their communities by issuing their own currency, whether it is printed as paper money or only exists in accounting tables. There is no interest on accounts and no one starts out in debt, as so often happens in capitalist economies, particularly in the “Global South,” where the general population is collectively indebted to North American, European and Asian investors. I interviewed two of the people working on establishing a local currency system. Robin recently returned from Scotland and Argentina where she studied existing LETSystems. Luis came to Santa Cruz from Argentina, where he was involved with a local “social money” system called Solidarity Barter Network.

Fhar Miess: *Why is an alternative currency important in a place like Santa Cruz?*

Robin: For me it’s an important tool to relearn that in order to consume, we have to produce. It’s learning that we have to have a sense of fairness and it means that we’re putting out as much energy as we’re taking back, and learning that our consumption is because others are producing. It’s breaking through alienation. So, if you go to a barter club or a local currency trade fair, and you want to have what somebody else is offering, you’ve got to figure out what you have to offer them. It has to be a just exchange. It’s a way of bringing the consumers face to face with the producers, making them one and the same so that we can relearn what producing is all about.

It’s also a way to figure out what we can produce locally so that we’re not consuming things that are coming from all over the world. What can we do here? What can we do for ourselves? How can we be more self-sufficient and circulate our energy more locally?

I think it’s important here in Santa Cruz for a lot of reasons. One is that

while it’s a fairly wealthy community, there’s also a lot of scarcity. We’re paying so much for rent and so much for everything we need to buy that even if you’re working full time, it can be really hard to make ends meet. That’s because we’re paying so much collective debt. The banks are controlling how money gets issued, how much money there is. There’s never enough for ordinary people to really get their needs met without selling their time, selling their hours in some enterprise—it’s so much time. So, it’s a way of kind of breaking away from that. We get to say, “well, how much money do we need to support ourselves?” It’s kind of breaking through the scarcity paradigm.

It’s also a way of getting to know each other and getting to rebuild the community. Some people feel that Santa Cruz has such a great community, but while for some people there’s a really strong social fabric, it’s also a really transient community. There are a lot of people coming in and out and they don’t have that. So it’s a way for people to get to know each other in a real way, really build reciprocal relationships. It’s not just the sort of relationship you get when you go out to the bar together, but building relationships that are based on giving each other real value and really being able to offer something to one another. It’s much stronger.

And it’s a way for people that have abilities that aren’t acknowledged in the formal market to be able to share their talents, people that are producing things that you’re never going to make a big enterprise out of.

Luis: One important issue with this kind of project is that everyone is a leader. This is different because, people, I can see it regularly here, they are waiting for some organization to give them something. There is in this project the possibility to build your own project. Everybody is a protagonist. Everybody can be a leader—*must* be a leader, because if not, the project will not be successful. So, there is a big difference. It is building community within the community from the community. That’s a strong point.

Robin: One of her things that is inspiring to me is that—I traveled last year to the UK and Argentina to see how people were implementing this type of system, and what I came out of it with was how incredible it was seeing people really getting how money works. It’s an amazing tool to realize that we can create our own money. You see people get this look in their eyes when they really get that, seeing people get involved in designing how the money is going to look and how the system is going to work.

Luis: And it’s just ordinary people, you don’t have to be an economist.

Robin: You get it! You really get it! It’s a way of realizing, “Whoa! We’ve been really misled for a long time! They’ve been lying to us! We can create our own system.” We don’t need banks, we don’t need governments to give us energy

If you are interested in joining the system or helping to get it started, sign up on the group’s e-mailing list by emailing SantaCruzLETS-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

You’ve Got Junkmail!

BY MICHELLE STEWART
The Alarm! Newspaper Collective

It takes just two guys in Northern California to raise a stink. Sick and tired of getting America Online disc everywhere they went, two friends decided to launch a recall campaign. Their goal: gather 1,000,000 AOL discs, return them to the rightful owner, and demand an end to all of the unsolicited junkmail.

To date they have approximately 81,000 and they need your help to reach their goal.

Aside from the fact that AOL assumes a right to bombard everyone’s lives with these pesky discs, the founders of the recall campaign point out the adverse environmental effects. Citing that there is at least a two-to-one packaging to disc ratio for each piece of junkmail sent out, the organizers say enough is enough. Unbelievably, this two-to-one ratio only relates to some of AOL’s more subtle advertising techniques.

More recently, AOL has transitioned away from the cardboard mailers to the tin holders that offer a colossal eight-to-one packaging-to-disc ratio.

On the website devoted to this AOL recall, there are visuals and discussions ranging from AOL disc art and experiments to ongoing debates surrounding the ratio of waste-to-disc mailers sent out by the company.

Whether you are annoyed about the wasteful disc industry, the overpackaging of the mailers or you are just plain tired of finding your mailbox loaded with AOL

Their Mission:

- To make it clear to AOL a lot of people do not want and have never asked for their CDs.
- To stop the needless pollution of the environment due to distribution of unwanted materials.
- To preserve our personal privacy.

propaganda, you are in luck. You have a place to find solace and companionship, an arena of shared frustration...and somewhere to send those !@#*\$)- discs! As many opponents point out, if the discs were at least re-writable it would be just a little less annoying to find the discs everywhere you go!

So, the next time you find an AOL disc you will never use, remember this: www.NoMoreAOLcds.com.

Visit the site, and see if you want to join this campaign to return a million discs. If not, grin and bear it when you hear the clank of another disc hitting the bottom of your mailbox.



Get what you need, no cash required

□ An interview with one of the founders of the new Santa Cruz Barter

Joe and Jan Berman are two Santa Cruz residents who recently got the idea to start an online barter system for Santa Cruz County and surrounding areas. Jan Berman explained to me some of the motives behind starting a barter system and how she and her partner John are doing a service to the community and the environment. You may have already seen flyers, ads or pins announcing Santa Cruz Barter, but here Jan explores the reasoning behind barter versus the common monetary exchange for goods and services.

Halie Johnson: *What exactly is barter? Why is it different from an online catalog, for example?*

Jan Berman: Barter is simply an exchange—a trade—a swap of goods for goods, or for services. An on-line catalogue would have a finite selection of items for sale; barter is unlimited—furniture, gardening, exchange of vacation homes, whatever you have or want—just go onto our site and see all of the categories there and you’ll know what I’m talking about. And, *on-line catalogs charge for their goods!* That’s the big difference.

HJ: *What made you want to start an online barter system?*

JB: A couple of reasons: First of all, barter is something that’s available to almost everyone, no matter their income. Barter is fun for bargain hunters, folks who are in a financial bind, people who are home-bound and anyone who likes to

go to flea markets, swap meets, etc. Secondly, we’re very interested in recycling, and certainly barter can be considered to be the oldest form of recycling on our planet, pre-dating currency. We’d like to be in some small way responsible for helping to save the resources of this planet.

HJ: *What role does bartering serve in this community? Do you think that role is being filled by anyone else?*

JB: Barter definitely can serve this, or any community. Exchanging goods and services allows people to have a much broader range of products and services in their lives than they might be able to afford for cash. A good barter service also opens up communication between folks; since in our barter business people communicate with each other directly, you just will naturally meet more people. In Santa Cruz County there is no longer any barter service available. On-line, there are of course some other personal barter sites; however, the majority of the on-line sites are business to business barter.

HJ: *What has the response to the website been from your current members?*

JB: Excellent! They love it, and have often articulated to us that it is a clear, concise site, easy to understand and to navigate.

The website for Santa Cruz Barter is www.santacruzbarter.com

We can opt out

Consuming the Revolution

By AARONIUS

The Alarm! Newspaper Contributor

Ché Guevara T-shirts. Gandhi posing for Apple, The Gap spray-painting its own storefronts. The revolution will not be televised—but it will be commercialized. And at this rate it won't be long until we have Michael Moore's head on a Pez dispenser.

It is frustrating that the creative models used to guide and inspire our cultural movements so often lend themselves to commodification. It's bad enough that our messages generally face total media blackouts (think of recent anti-war activity).

But the situation concerns far more than just exposure, and though I'm not trying to deconstruct the culture industry in all its complexity, I can point to a few elements that may not seem obvious at first glance:

What strikes me as a characteristic attribute of being politically radical these days is that we have to resist the temptation to vicariously live out our political tendencies through the purchase of cheap, mass-marketed consumables designed to appeal to those soft-spots in our hearts reserved for snapshot memories of a time more subversive.

We need to end the commodification of subversion. Creating dissonance in mass culture is absolutely necessary—do it now or lead a long and boring life. If we lose the critical ability to separate our real lives from the lives we watch on TV or the characters we play in video games, we might as well go full throttle and replace our brains with silicon.

But wait, we are those people on TV and in the video games. Those characters are reflections of us, right? What the f**k is going on here?

I'll tell you: It's like being under surveillance and knowing it.

We know that no matter what happens, we will continue to see images of ourselves on television screens and in magazines. So we pretend not to notice or not to care or both, but in the end accept it as how the machine works and go about our daily lives.

Simply put, that needs to change, and there are two main ways I see that happening. One is to start reducing the number of hours we spend directly experiencing mass media (which is obviously demanding a hell of a lot); we're totally addicted to computers and television, so it will be hard to break away.

The flipside of the addiction, though, and my second point is that



we do tend to have a very keen sense of how to use technology, and thus can create our own media independently.

This is happening in Santa Cruz all over the place. *The Alarm!*, Santa Cruz Indymedia, Free Radio Santa Cruz (96.3), and even Santa Cruz Community Television all operate independently of the corporate status quo, and similar examples can be found in cities across the country. So the dissolution of corporate media is already occurring before our eyes—we just need to pause and recognize it for what it is.

Actually, we need to go a step beyond recognizing that alternatives to conformity exist—we need to make

the practice of creating alternative media a habit of our daily lives. The more of us that do it, the more difficult it will be for our revolutions to be sold back to us as a mass commodity. We'll be paying less attention to the television and more attention to what's really going on in the world so that we can report it to our commu-

nities.

And taking back media doesn't end with news, either. News is just the beginning of the coup. It continues with the takeover of every other sector of the culture industry—merchandizing, marketing, distributing, you name it. The challenge is to remain independent every step of the way and to never sell out.

There was once a time when selling out was the only option and to think otherwise was naive. Now the inverse is true. Culture no longer exists within a vacuum of power. Once you can produce your own media, the power is all yours.

Aaronius is founder of the Santa Cruz Independent Media Center (<http://santacruz.indymedia.org/>) and is an independent videographer. Email him at aaron@cats.ucsc.edu.

Buy Nothing Day

By MICHELLE STEWART

The Alarm! Newspaper Collective

Every year, Americans are known to drown a turkey in lots of gravy, watch football and then flip through the newspaper looking for the great deals. Ahhhh, Thanksgiving season, the time to get together with family, eat too much and the following day spend money in a fever pitch that retailers rely on annually.

But what if you don't want to shop 'til you drop the day after Turkey Day?

Well, there is an alternative. And it is growing each year. It is Buy Nothing Day, and the theme is likely self-evident.

Those who truly embrace Buy Nothing Day do not only reject consumerism (if only for the day), they take their message to the streets and shopping centers around the world.

Buy Nothing Day owes its roots to the lefty magazine *Adbusters* which has been a part of promoting the campaign for the past eleven years. This year, organizers expect approximately one million people to take part and reject over-the-top consumerism from NYC to the UK.

Celebrated in the US on November 29, and in the UK on November 30, the event asks individuals to reimagine their lives without such a desperate relationship to consumerism. Previous years' events have included flyering shopping areas, holding teach-ins and engaging in street theatre.

Join others, don't shop, feel better

Here are some things you can do that'll keep you out of stores on November 29, Buy Nothing Day:

- Write letters to everyone you've been neglecting.
- Sew sock monkeys out of those sad loner socks whose partners have been lost in the black hole of laundry. All you need are two socks, some buttons, a needle and thread.
- Go for a walk and gather neat looking seed pods, dried leaves, pine cones, acorns, spark plugs, street sweeper blades, buttons, messed up coins and anything rusty. Clean out a nice looking quart jar. Arrange the items in the jar leaving room for the recipient to add their own findings. Hide a note inside (if you want to be super-sneaky). Put a lid on it. INSTA-PRESENT!
- Find one of those tin boxes from those pesky AOL CDs (you can also use old Altoids canisters, etc). Decoupage the outside with cool images from all those magazines you've got laying around. Coat with clear nail polish for a glossy finish. On the inside, paste photos. Voila! A picture frame.
- November 16 is free appliance pick-up day all around the city. Go scavenging for an old TV. In preparation find a fish tank/bowl (try thrift stores), a light socket, a pump, rocks, a plastic castle and some fish (living). Then on Buy Nothing Day, gut the TV, put the fish tank inside and light it from behind. (P.S. maybe some of the insides of the TV would look good in a glass quart jar.)
- Go to the beach (make sure it's not a state beach). Look for polished stones, sea glass and shells. Dig some



In the US, the day after Thanksgiving is the largest consumer day of the year—a statistic that retailers rely heavily upon.

Activists and participants point to the effects of US consumerism on other economies and ask for a "curb" on consumption.

Considering the current recession and the instability of the job market, it might be in everyone's interest to put down the credit card and just go out and enjoy the day. Talk to your neighbors, go to the park, partake in some Buy Nothing Day street theatre. Connecting to your community through human interaction vs. visa card transaction might be just the therapy everyone could use.

For info on local Buy Nothing events contact Sarah at 462-0360.



bottles out of your recycling bin. Remove the labels and clean them. Put your treasures inside.

- Organize a marching band or theater troupe. Dress up. Get creative. Make flyers about Buy Nothing Day and bring them to shopping areas to pass out. Play music. Have fun.
- Visit old people in nursing homes. Bring gifts you've made (like sock monkeys and decorative jars).
- Volunteer at a soup kitchen. Just because it's the day after Thanksgiving doesn't mean people aren't hungry.
- Make a care package for someone you miss.
- Go through your closets and figure out all the stuff you can donate to a local shelter, the Drop-In Center or the Walnut Avenue Women's Center.

• Go to the public library before Thanksgiving (they are closed on Thanksgiving and the day after) and check out videos or DVDs for free. Host a movie day.—H.J. and B.W.

Check out adbusters.org for stickers etc.

Become the media. -Jello Biafra

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No space to mourn—remembering JMJ in the midst of chaos

BY DAVEY D
Pacific News Service

EDITOR'S NOTE: A popular Black disc jockey reflects on Jam Master Jay and tries to find space to mourn in the midst of a community wracked by violence and a country that devalues Black life. PNS contributor Davey D (misterdaveyd@aol.com) is a radio DJ, Hip-Hop scholar and youth advocate.

It's hard to believe Jam Master Jay (Jason Mizell)—one-third of the legendary hip-hop crew Run-DMC—is dead. Dude was 37 years old and had a wife and three kids.

I don't wanna hold a candle, pour liquor on a curb or go on my radio show and play all my Run-DMC records and rebroadcast all my Run-DMC interviews. I don't want Jay's death to be reduced to yet another tribute. It seems we've been doing a hell of a lot of tributes in the past few years.

If you ever met Jay, you would know he was a cool cat. He didn't bring a gangsta persona to the table.

Yet, almost all the newscasts and stories I've seen end with reporters trying to make that connection.

"Jam Master Jay, like 2Pac and the Notorious B.I.G., is in a long line of rap stars who have died violently in a violent rap world," go the commentaries.

CNN has a poll on its website right now asking who had more musical influence: 2Pac, Biggie or JMJ. There's something about that poll that don't sit well with me.



Photo courtesy of Youth Outlook

I've been fielding a lot of calls from local reporters who seem bent on connecting JMJ's death with the deaths of 2Pac, East-West Coast feuds and ongoing beefs in rap like Ja Rule vs. DMX and Nas vs. Jay-Z.

That's not the Jam Master Jay I know.

I don't wanna see him reduced to another violent casualty in a "violent rap world."

I don't wanna do what we always seem to do when we encounter violent death—simply "keep it moving" and act like it's no big deal. It is a big deal.

I don't wanna put a good face forward and stick the emotions of yet another violent death of another brotha in the back of my mind. I no longer have room in the back of my mind.

I'm not going to give into this unwritten code among Black men

and not be phased by violent deaths because they happen so often.

I'm still recovering from the emotional upheaval of the sniper killings and asking, Why? Why are there 94 murders this year in Oakland, a mid-sized California city with a large Black population? Damn near everyone I know knows someone who has been killed in the past few years. What happened to the promises and commitments we all made when we came together in '95 during the Million Man March?

Why is Black life so cheap?

I keep thinking about a song that poet D-Knowledge did a couple of years ago where he asked, "Does Anyone Still Die of Old Age?"

It seems like as soon as we start to process the loss we're hit with another sudden death. We wind up shoving a lot of feelings and emotions in the back of our minds, doing

another tribute and moving on.

There is never enough time to mourn. I still never really got over the deaths of Pac and Biggie. Jay's death is making me realize that.

There's really been no closure despite all the VH-1 documentaries, the articles, the movies. This morning I was talking to my boy Pharrel, an executive over at Roc-A-Fella records. He told me, "I hope they catch the guy who did this...I hope they catch him because there have been way too many unsolved murders in Hip Hop." There are a lot of unsolved murders in our community in general.

The fact is, we never seem to solve the murders of some of these artists the same way we don't seem to be able to solve the murders of "Pookie" or "Ray Ray" from up the block. That underscores the notion that to many, the loss of Black life is no big deal.

There have been just too many tributes. It's becoming routine, and that bothers me. Jay's death—anyone's death—should never be routine.

Davey D can be heard on KPFA (94.1) on Friday nights from midnight to 2AM. © Copyright Pacific News Service

When killing comes home—can a video country grasp real violence?

By FARAI CHIDEYA
Pacific News Service

EDITOR'S NOTE: Two killers and one killing suspect—Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh, University of Arizona shooter Robert S. Flores and sniper suspect John Allen Muhammad—were veterans of the Gulf War, a connection that has yet to be explored. PNS contributor Farai Chideya asks if a country deadened by video game and film simulations of violence can truly understand the carnage of war, even when it comes home for real. Chideya (faraic@yahoo.com) is a journalist, columnist and author of The Color of Our Future (William Morrow, 1999).

This is what terror feels like. A year ago, after 9/11 we asked why they hate us. Today we ask why we hate ourselves.

On October 28, a student at the University of Arizona shot and killed three professors and then killed himself. Robert S. Flores happens to be a Gulf War veteran, like John Allen Muhammad, the alleged Beltway sniper, and like executed Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh.

In interviews shortly before his death, McVeigh, speaking of Iraq, said, "What right did I have to come over to this person's country and kill him? How did he ever transgress against me?" He also said he became personally disillusioned with the opportunities he received after failing a test to join the Special Forces. By the

age of 24, McVeigh was honorably discharged, disgruntled and dangerous.

Why did they do it? Flores is dead, and Muhammad isn't talking. At least one columnist has tried to blame Muhammad's spree on Hip-Hop. And while I'd hesitate to blame the military for producing these three killers, we should at least ask if their anger had any commonality. This whole country seems to be on the verge of a nervous breakdown, tracking terror-sprees on television and watching friends and family lose jobs. But few people with free-floating anxiety turn towards murderous rage, or have the skills and weapons to act it out.

For Gulf War veterans, today's talk of war must seem like an unwanted flashback. Anna Quindlen's compilation of columns from the *New York Times* contains articles about the war buildup in 1990 that could have been written today. Military recruiters visit housing projects and farm-town high schools, not college-prep academies. Nineteen-year-olds who thought they'd entered something akin to a military jobs program ended up being sent, to their surprise, to combat.

In a theatre recently, I saw an advertisement showing recruits climbing a virtual mountain of good deeds—helping feed poor people in other countries, planting the flag,



doing everything but killing.

Packing up to leave your country is like cutting your umbilical cord. Yet even as they left to fight, some Gulf War soldiers questioned why they were going to war. And then it was over, so very quickly.

Did Flores, Muhammad and McVeigh bring the war home with them?

We can't stomach what our veterans have seen. At the start of the "war on terror" last year, some newspapers refused to put pictures of dead Afghan civilians in their pages to avoid upsetting readers. Indeed. And how did the images upset the soldiers who saw the carnage? Whether veterans participated in actual combat or not, they surely knew what was

going on at the front, on the burning roads. Even in our violence-saturated culture, we gloss over the true face of death. Unlike some European networks, our television media show extended, almost reverent shots of bombs dropping, but not the dead bodies that bombing produces.

It's a soldier's job to kill without feeling. These rogue veterans, did they feel when they killed? Can we who sit and watch at home even feel anymore? On CNN, a witness to one of the Beltway shootings said, "It was like a video game."

A Japanese child psychologist once told me, "I feel sorry for children today. All they have is virtual emotions." Life equals video game. Death equals game over. Restart. Press play.

We wish.

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In Retrospect will be back next issue.

The Troubles Are Back

By CONN HALLINAN

The Alarm! Newspaper Contributor

The “Troubles” in Northern Ireland are back, courtesy of an unholy Trinity of British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Protestant loyalists who refuse to share power with Ulster’s Catholics, and the Bush Administration.

The current crisis, which has seen the British suspend the 1998 Good Friday Agreement and reassert direct control over the province, was sparked by a recent raid on Sinn Fein headquarters. Sinn Fein represents Catholics, and is associated with the Irish Republican Army (IRA). The police foray allegedly uncovered information that the republican organization was spying on the British military and the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC).

In the raid’s after-

math, Blair accused the IRA of threatening “violence,” and a “senior Bush Administration official” (according to *The New York Times*) joined Northern Ireland Secretary John Reid in blaming Sinn Fein for not reining in the IRA.

What is this all about? What did the police find that was so terrible it required derailing the peace process? Police say they discovered that Sinn Fein had names and addresses of police and military officials in Northern Ireland. So what? Has Sinn Fein or the IRA targeted such people or engaged in any terrorism for the past eight years? No. Has the Independent Commission verified that the IRA put stores of guns, rocket launchers and explosives “beyond use”? Yes.

Have Protestant paramilitaries done the same? No. Indeed, the Ulster Defense Association (UDA), the Loyalist Volunteer Force (LVF) and the Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF) ended their cease-fire last October. Do Protestant organizations keep the same files? Yes. Do they engage in terrorism and target

the people on those lists? They sure do.

When Loyalist leader John Pilling was arrested in September with information on Sinn Fein National Chair Michael McLaughlin, along with the names, addresses and car registrations of seven other Republican leaders, there were no threats from London. Pilling is a member of the Ulster Political Research group, an arm of the UDA, and its hit squad, the Red Hand Defenders.

When Northern Ireland police warned Sinn Fein Member of Parliament Michelle Gildernew that the Loyalists had taken out a contract on her life, did Blair accuse Protestants of fomenting “violence”? When the Red Hand Defenders gunned down journalist Marty O’Hagan last year, did the Bush Administration denounce the Loyalists for not controlling their paramilitaries? No to both.

Where were the threats to toss the loyalists out of the government when the UFF and LVF were throwing pipe bombs at four-year-old girls on

their way to attend Holy Cross School, while crowds chanted, “No school today, ya wee whores”?

Maybe Sinn Fein has reason to mistrust the intentions of the Protestant police and the British authorities. It was these same authorities who could never seem to find out who gunned down republican solicitor Pat Finucane in 1989 in front of his wife and three children. Maybe they couldn’t find the murderers because the police arranged it. At least that is what UFF gunman, Ken Barrett (now living in England under police protection) told the BBC in June. Barret claims the RUC told him Finucane was an IRA member (he wasn’t) and had to be eliminated. Then he said a British Army undercover agent gave him a photo of Finucane and his address.

Barret says he wouldn’t have killed Finucane without pressure from the police. “Solicitors were kind of taboo, you know what I mean?” he told the BBC. “We used a lot of Roman Catholic solicitors ourselves.”

The one person finally charged with Finucane’s murder, William Stobie, was

acquitted, only to be assassinated by the Defenders last December. Needless to say, no one has been arrested.

The fiction here is that while Sinn Fein is held responsible for the IRA, Protestant parties like Ian Paisley’s Democratic Unionist Party and David Trimble’s Ulster Unionist Party get a pass on the violence of the loyalist paramilitaries.

The whole raid business is damned suspicious. As Roy Greenslade of the British Guardian points out, how did Protestant politicians know the content of the seized documents just minutes after the raid? The answer is that the police gave them the information, just like they have been doing for years. Suspending the Northern Ireland government also gives convenient cover for the Protestants to withdraw from the peace process.

The only parties celebrating this recent move are the madmen on both sides who would plunge Northern Ireland back into civil war. And this time around they have an ally in the White House.

Missile strike—Yemeni immigrants fear backlash in US, trouble in homeland

By MARCELO BALLVE

Pacific News Service

EDITOR’S NOTE: The US drone missile strike in Yemen has many Yemenis in America on edge, fearing increased tribal divisions in their home country and more discrimination in America. PNS contributor Marcelo Ballve (ballve@hotmail.com) is a former Associated Press reporter in Brazil and the Caribbean.

With Yemen’s rugged mountains and deserts emerging as key fronts in the US anti-terror campaign, Yemenis living in the United States expressed unease about the pressure on their homeland, which is divided by tribe, religion and politics.

Many also said discrimination they have faced since September 11, 2001, is souring their lives in the United States.

Abdulwahab Alkebsi, director of the Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy in Washington, DC, said he was returning from a democracy conference in Yemen’s capital Sanaa this week when news broke of a US missile strike in Yemen’s remote Marib Province. An unmanned aircraft killed six alleged al-Qaeda operatives, one of whom is believed to be American.

Although all major political players in Yemen publicly denounce terrorism and advocate rounding up any al-Qaeda operatives there, the US shift to striking within Yemen will likely provide a boost to groups hostile to America, Alkebsi said.

“This plays right into the hands of the radical Islamists,” said Alkebsi, who immigrated from Yemen 22 years ago.

Up to 80,000 Yemenis live in the United States, with the largest

groups concentrated in Michigan’s industrial belt, upstate New York and California, where some 20,000 live.

Dr. Tarek Al-Wazir, a Yemeni engineer and community leader in Virginia, said the US strike lacked any semblance of legitimacy. “There was no trial,” he said. “How do we know who (those killed) are? Why didn’t they just catch them? They may have gained more information if they had.”

Al-Wazir said he worried the missile strike and the presence of US special forces troops may set back efforts to extend the rule of law to the tribes. Yemeni government incursions into tribal strongholds like the Marib province may now be interpreted as part of US efforts to exert control in the country.

Yemen, about twice the size of Wyoming, borders the Gulf of Aden on the Arabian peninsula’s southwestern tip. Among the poorest countries in the Arab world, Yemen relies on oil production for export earnings. Most of the nation’s 18 million people are fishermen, herders or farmers.

Yemen’s government, which faces an opposition mixing tribal and Islamic elements, is in a dangerous bind. The ruling party still has two-thirds of the parliament seats, but backlash against perceived Yemeni cooperation with US terror fighting could affect parliamentary elections next April.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh’s General People’s Congress faces the formation of an unlikely opposition alliance composed of Islah—a mainstream Islamic party with tribal support—and socialists and nationalists who also seek a place in the

legislature.

In Yemen, militant currents have some influence in Islah, the military and among the country’s tribes, said Robert Burrowes, expert in Yemeni politics at the University of Washington in Seattle. Yemen’s government is also vulnerable to pressure from opposition forces because it is democratic by Arab standards. Parliamentary elections are considered fair, even if presidential elections are not.

There are historical reasons underpinning Yemeni resentment of the United States. In 1990, North Yemen and South Yemen united. The next year, the United States imposed economic penalties on Yemen because it voted against the 1991 Gulf War in the United Nations Security Council. Saudi Arabia, a US ally, expelled hundreds of thousands of Yemeni migrants.

These retaliations ravaged the country’s economy. In 1994, civil war erupted as a secessionist movement broke out in the former South Yemen, which had been Marxist.

For many US-based Yemenis, terror fears roiling the United States are of far more concern than anti-terror efforts conducted in remote parts of their home country.

In Fresno, a Yemeni convenience store owner, Abdo Ali Ahmed, was shot to death in October 2001, an incident investigated as a post-9/11 hate crime. In San Francisco this year, Yemeni Consul Mansoor Ismael testified to a municipal Human Rights Commission about harassment of Yemenis he witnessed at the international airport.

Yemenis’ sense of vulnerability was heightened by the high-profile arrests of the so-called Buffalo Six.

Days after the first anniversary of the September 11 attacks, five US citizens of Yemeni descent were arrested in Lackawanna, NY, a former steel-producing town outside Buffalo. The five, along with another Yemeni-American arrested in Bahrain, allegedly trained in Afghanistan’s terror camps and are charged with being an al-Qaeda sleeper cell.

Miami resident Abdulla Alkhawlani believes he lost his job as a computer programmer because of his ethnicity.

“I think I was laid off because of my name, because I was Arab American,” said Alkhawlani, who was forced to leave his job less than two months after September 11. Alkhawlani, a US citizen, is suing for discrimination, since others with less expertise were not dismissed.

“I’m proud to be an American and I’m proud of my roots,” he said. “Unfortunately, the media in this country have shaped people’s mentality.”

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Bechtel vs. Bolivia—time to open up secret trade courts

By JIM SHULTZ
Pacific News Service

EDITOR’S NOTE: Two years ago, rioters protesting increased water rates forced a US company in Bolivia to pack its bags and leave. Now, in a harbinger of the loss of local control through globalization, the corporation is striking back in secret proceedings. PNS contributor Jim Shultz, executive director of The Democracy Center (www.democracyctr.org), lives in Cochabamba, Bolivia, and is the author of The Democracy Owners’ Manual (Rutgers University Press).

COCHABAMBA, Bolivia—Some-time in the next few weeks, behind closed doors at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, DC, panelists in a secret trade court will decide if the people of South America’s poorest country will have to pay \$25 million to one of the world’s most wealthy corporations.

The stakes in this case—Bechtel Corporation vs. Bolivia—are high, and not just for the poor families who may ultimately pay the bill. The principle of local control in an era of unchecked economic globalization is at risk.

The Bechtel vs. Bolivia case is round two of a fight over something basic: water. Two years ago Bechtel took over the public water system of Bolivia’s third-largest city, Cochabamba, and within weeks raised rates by as much as 200%, far beyond what families there could afford. When the company refused to lower rates, the public revolted. Widespread protests eventually forced Bechtel to leave.

In November 2001, Bechtel filed a demand of \$25 million against Bolivia, seeking to recover the money it says it invested, as well as a portion of the profits the corporation expected to make.

“We’re not looking for a windfall from Bolivia. We’re looking to recover our costs,” explains Michael Curtin, the head of Bechtel’s Bolivian water company.

But the company didn’t invest anything close to \$25 million in Bolivia in the few months it operated there. Furthermore, the \$25 million prize Bechtel now seeks is equal to what the corporation earns in half a day. For the people of Bolivia, that sum is the annual cost for hiring 3,000 rural doctors, or 12,000 public school teachers, or hooking up 125,000 families who don’t have access to the public water system.

More importantly, Bechtel vs. Bolivia could portend future global battles. Trade officials from 34 countries are currently working to draft a “Free Trade Act of the Americas” (FTAA), a new economic constitution that would rule from Alaska to Argentina. President Bush and other supporters hope to see the pact put in place by 2006. One of the FTAA’s most controversial provisions is the establishment of a system of secret trade courts, in which multinational corporations can sue local, state and national governments—behind closed

doors—to overturn laws or extract payment for actions that block their access to local markets.

The prototype for these secret courts is the very one where Bechtel has brought its case against Bolivia: the World Bank’s International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

Under the FTAA, secret courts like these could force the repeal of environmental laws in California, health regulations in New Hampshire and worker protections in Venezuela—all in the name of knocking down barriers to trade. For these reasons, the Bechtel vs. Bolivia case has become an international symbol and rallying point.

Last August more than 300 citizen groups from 41 different countries—environmentalists, peasants, labor leaders, women’s groups, indigenous leaders and others—joined to file an International Citizens Petition with the World Bank, demanding that the doors of its secret trade court be opened to public scrutiny and participation.

“The actions of Bechtel in Bolivia left a city of more than 600,000 people in turmoil for four months,” the groups wrote. A young boy died, hundreds were injured, and public access to water was threatened. The international group protested that the case was about more than the calm transfer of assets from one economic institution to another. “It is a matter of deep importance to far more than the two parties who now have formal access to the process,” they wrote.

Under World Bank rules the process is so secret that Bank officials won’t say when the tribunal in the case will meet, won’t reveal who testifies before it or what they say, and won’t let any members of the media or public in the room. Bechtel has already lied on the public record about its Bolivian water rate increases. It isn’t likely to be any more honest behind closed doors.

The World Bank’s role is also suspect. Though it represents itself as a neutral judge, World Bank officials directly appointed the president of the tribunal hearing the case. And it was the Bank that forced Cochabamba’s water into Bechtel’s hands to begin with. Two years prior to the water deal, Bank officials directly threatened to withhold \$600 million in international debt relief if Bolivia didn’t privatize Cochabamba’s public water system.

Secrecy serves privilege and lies. Public participation and public scrutiny are instruments of democracy and truth. In choosing closed doors, Bechtel and the World Bank have made clear which method they prefer. Now the public must demand that the rules of globalization be debated and implemented in the light of day. Bechtel vs. Bolivia is exactly where that battle should begin.

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In Brief

Sikhs target
““Hitman”video game

By ASHFAQUE SWAPAN

India-West

Sixty-five Sikh organizations in the US, Canada and the United Kingdom have mounted a protest against “Hitman 2: Silent Assassin,” a new video game that the groups charge is racist and “shows a deliberate lack of decency and sensitivity to Sikhs,” reports India-West.

A petition demands an apology from UK-based video game maker Eidos, which makes many popular video games, including the best-selling “Lara Croft: Tomb Raider.” Hitman 2 features India as one of the locations for the violence. The Sikh groups say one scene is obviously based on the Golden Temple (Harmander Sahib) in Amritsar, a sacred site for Sikhs.

“Such a graphical portrayal of violence within the sacred grounds of any religious place—whether a temple, a church or a mosque, is completely unacceptable,” the petition says. The petition also takes issue with the mention of Dalits as “untouchables,” which it calls an offensive term. One of the villains in the game is Zip Master, a man with a shaven head wearing a long saffron tunic. He has his hands clasped in the traditional Indian greeting, “namaste.”

Reparations scams

OAKLAND BUREAU
The Sun-Reporter


As the movement to give reparations to ancestors of black slaves gains steam, so do the number of reparations scams, reports the Sun-Reporter.

Phony fliers that read “Apply for Newly Approved Slave Reparations! Claim \$5,000 in Social Security Reimbursements” are appearing in senior centers and some churches in Oakland. Other scams have charged blacks \$50 to earn tax breaks.

According to the IRS, these crimes are being perpetuated primarily by other blacks focused on stealing the identities of victims. They can use social security and other identification to gain access to credit cards. Often, consumers are told not to contact the IRS or government because they do not want blacks to learn about this money. There’s also a new hotline to report reparations scams.

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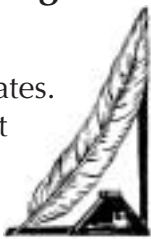
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Three Kings: Reflections of the Gulf War before the Sequel

By MICHELLE STEWART

The Alarm! Newspaper Collective

"For many critics of the war, however, the problem of representation of Desert Storm went well beyond questions of censorship or adequate reporting. The dynamic of saturation live coverage led to a discussion, especially in academic circles, of the Gulf War as the first post-modern war. This was the first time, it was sometimes said, in which representation of the event was the event."—Melani McAllister, *Epic Encounters*.

On Friday, November 8, a 15–0 vote at the UN resolved that weapons inspectors would go back to Iraq on a mission to ensure that Hussein doesn't have weapons of mass destruction (or any of the fixings thereof). Here we go again—back to Iraq. With the scars of the last invasion not yet healed we enter once again. Whether it is under the aegis of weapons inspections or outright military aggression, one thing is certain: it is Desert Storm, the Sequel.

I say sequel, because in a sequel, you are often introduced to many of the same characters and themes. Whereas we entered with Bush, Sr., we are recommitting under Bush, Jr. Colin Powell was then the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; today he speaks of policy and tactics as the Secretary of State. In the first war, Ariel Sharon was a prominent military official in the Israeli government and advocated for a non-passive response to Iraq's aggressions. Today, Prime Minister Sharon says he will not allow Tel Aviv to be attacked without response. Twelve years ago, Bush, Sr. and other prominent individuals in the US government tried to create a rallying call, stating, "the Iraqi people need to rise up against Saddam Hussein," words that are being muttered once again, on the cusp of the new war. But twelve years ago when the "Iraqi people" rose up against Hussein, the US responded by abandoning them as it pulled out of Operation Desert Storm.

The Gulf War was only the first example of media saturation. Could we have imagined the way 9/11 was handled had we not experienced the media event that was the Gulf War?

"War is only possible when we allow a fictionalized other or enemy to be constructed for us out of all of the lies that make certain we realize how different other lives are from ours, and how threatening that difference is. If we think of our lives as constituted in opposition to what we are not, then we find ourselves threatened by all difference" (Jill Stauffer, *War and Peace Small Time*). Taking this into account, and adding to it the historical relationship between the Middle East and the US, the ripple effects of Orientalism and the post-9/11 mindset, we begin to see that the sequel may indeed be more vicious than Desert Storm.

But what does this have to do with a movie released three years ago?

Director David O. Russell came across the script for *Three Kings* in 1996, and decided to do an 18-month rewrite of John Ridley's work. Through his research, Russell was able to integrate into the script his reactions to the media coverage, the fall-out of US withdrawal during the "democratic" uprising, US military policies on racist lan-

guage and the personal narratives of Arab participants living through the war. In his attempt to "unpack" the Gulf War, Russell generated a different approach to the action/war film both through his writing and experimental film techniques. In doing so, he allowed his film to be in dialogue with much of the Gulf War discourse.

In his research, Russell spent considerable time reviewing media coverage and decided to appropriate some techniques that would be easily identifiable to his viewing audience. Russell mixed contemporary studio techniques and angles associated with CNN's coverage of the Gulf War to create an intentionally, fragmented viewing experience. He further pushed this feeling of fragmentation by experimenting with the filming style to create a grainy, surreal look. From the opening of the film,

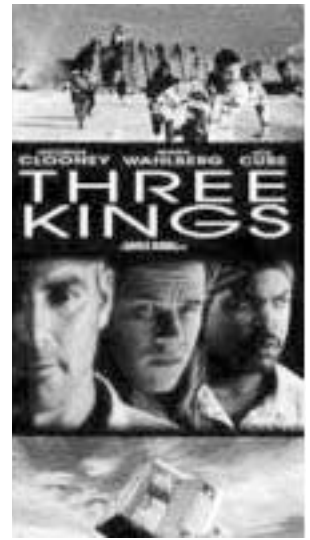
wholly—undiscussed. Assisting in this dialogue is the supporting cast. In scouting to cast the film Russell went to Deerpourne, Michigan and San Diego, California (areas with high Iraqi immigrant concentrations) and cast from the community those who bore witness to the event he was retelling. The supporting cast became informal advisors alongside the military advisors and the Arab Anti-Defamation League.

A discussion of *Three Kings* cannot be complete without a brief moment spent on the issue of violence and gunshots. The director of the film spent some of his research time looking at medical writings that explore the effects of violence on the body. When doing this research, he happened upon a picture and explanation of the trauma a body goes through in the wake of a gunshot wound (*Three Kings*, "Com-

“ Most people themselves didn't follow what happened, so the character's themselves are confused...it's Iraqi Insurrection 101...we didn't know about this here in American so it gets played to us via Mark Walberg, Spike, Cube and George ”

the viewer is challenged with these various production experiments. The dialogue and subject matter of the film's central investigations are also challenging, and concern the democratic uprising that was not supported by the US. Russell makes it his chief priority to question US policy that allowed for the withdrawal during this critical moment: "Most people themselves didn't follow what happened, so the characters themselves are confused...it's Iraqi Insurrection 101...we didn't know about this here in American so it gets played to us via Mark Walberg, Spike, Cube and George" (*Three Kings*, "Commentary"). Using his characters in subtle ways he instigates dialogues and conflicts to illustrate critical aspects of the war that were left largely—or

mentary"). This part of his research became another key aspect in the film. Throughout the course of the film, Russell approaches each scene involving violence with a variety of techniques. In some scenes, Russell slows the entire film down to show each shot fired and where the bullet hits; in other scenes, he makes specific use of graphic close-ups shots to illustrate the effects of the bullet inside the body. And often if violence is a probability in the scene, the camera begins to use close-up shots of all of the guns that would be involved if violence erupts. In the editing room, Russell maintained his attention to the gun, by demanding that the sound mixers not amplify or alter the sound of the gunshots. It is common in Hollywood studios to



use a generic, loud gunshot sound. Russell insisted that the sounds of the guns be left as "natural" as possible. He believed that the lack of amplification leads to the eeriness of the sound—to which I would agree.

So, the next time you are at the video store and happen to be in the Action section, take a moment and locate this film. It is a departure from the genre and a film that serves to open up discussions about a war fought twelve years ago that is being rehashed today. Many of the themes of Desert Storm are beginning to re-emerge. And so, in the case of this film, it is interesting to view Desert Storm through Hollywood's eyes.

I have heard it argued that *Three Kings* is an anti-war testimony. *Three Kings* must be identified for what it is: it is a compelling Hollywood film that addresses a contemporary event. With that in mind, the film can be seen as a participant in the discourse surrounding the Gulf War. After viewing the movie, you decide if this is an anti-war film, or simply a film that raises compelling questions about Desert Storm.

Three Kings was an interesting Hollywood moment in which the action/war genre was manipulated to allow for a compelling script to thrive on the big screen. This was a fleeting moment that should not be over-idealized but rather consciously recognized.

Three Kings stars George Clooney, Mark Walberg, Ice Cube and Spike Jonze. David O. Russell is both the director and screenplay writer. The film is available at your local video store.

Can you believe it?

Lotsa Guns—No Roses

But the fans of Guns 'N' Roses in Vancouver, Canada weren't laughing when they arrived at GM Place to find the show cancelled. With guardrails and other implements at their disposal, angered fans attempted entrance to the venue by many different means. An estimated 8,000 individuals tore up the exterior of the arena as local police scrambled to contain the crowd. Responding to the incident, riot police used pepperspray and truncheons to disperse the crowd, but not before it had torn up a good portion of the local landscape.

When all was said and done the police had twelve people in custody.

The engagement was to be the kickoff for the band's first North American tour in nearly ten years. Fans were told that Axl Rose was not able to attend, however. According to the lead singer the show was cancelled without full explanation.

Either way, it seems that Guns 'N' Roses more typically brings riots to Canada than music tours. The last show, in 1993 was cancelled in Vancouver after a riot broke out at the previous show in Montreal.—M.S.

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Video Review: Three Kings

Alternative economy resources:

Identifying resources for alternative economic models is not an easy process. First, you have to determine what you're trying to find an alternative to. Is it peddlers of empty consumptive habits? Is it traditional wage labor arrangements? Is it profit at the expense of the consumer? Is it profit at the expense of the producer? Is it profit, period? Is it money economies? Is it private property? Is it ecologically destructive practices? The list could go on and on. And we can't rely on simple categories like "cooperative," which could mean anything from three housemates sharing food expenses to employee-owned firms like United Airlines or federations of enormous agribusiness cooperatives like GROWMARK. The resources listed here are not perfect, but each of them does something to support a local economy that brings producers, consumers and, in some cases, even those living largely outside the logic of the economy, into contact with one another in more or less cooperative and egalitarian ways.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES:

Santa Cruz Barter

Santa Cruz Barter is an on-line directory for people interested in bartering one good or service for another. See interview, page 13 <http://www.santacruzbarter.com/>

Santa Cruz Community Credit Union

The Santa Cruz Community Credit Union is one of the country's most well known community-development lending institutions. From their website: "Credit unions are not-for-profit financial cooperatives owned and controlled by their members. All members of the Santa Cruz Community Credit Union (SCCCU) are equal owners with an equal voice and vote, regardless of the size of their accounts." 512 Front Street Santa Cruz, CA 95060 (831) 425-7708 1428 Freedom Boulevard Watsonville, CA (831) 786-1971 <http://www.scrucuccu.org/>

Santa Cruz LETS

A local currency system that enables participants to engage in economic activity without using, or in addition to using, US Treasury dollars. See interview, page 13 SantaCruzLETS-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

PRODUCERS COOPERATIVES:

In producer cooperatives, producers (often farmers) form organizations to process, market and distribute their commodities. These are some of the largest cooperatives in the US.

Santa Cruz Community Farmers' Market

The Farmers' Market is one way in which local agricultural producers can meet face-to-face with their consumers and cut out the retail middle-people. Lincoln & Cedar every Wed 2:30pm–6:30pm Phone: (831) 454-0566

COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE (CSA):

CSAs are farms that sell crop shares directly to members of the community. They deliver the produce directly to the consumer's door, or to centralized pick-up locations. Like farmers' markets, they help put producers and consumers in direct connection with one-another. See http://www.caff.org/farms/final/santa_cruz.html for full listings.

Corralitos Connection

Contact: Stephen Pedersen 521 Harkins Slough Road Watsonville, CA 95076 Phone: (831) 786-0286 Fax: (831) 796-0266 cccsa@cruzio.com

Harkins View Farm

Contact: Jeanne Byrne 521 Harkins Slough Road Watsonville, CA 95076 Phone: (831) 786-0286 Fax: call first (831) 786-0266 cccsa@cruzio.com

Homeless Garden Project

Contact: Darrie Ganzhorn, Patrick Williams, Chrissy Brewer, Rosie Demmin P.O. Box 617 Santa Cruz, CA 95061 Phone: (831) 426-3609 Fax: same number <http://www.infopoint.com/se/orgs/garden>

Live Earth Farm

Contact: Tom and Constance Broz 172 Litchfield Lane Watsonville, CA 95076 Phone: (831) 763-2448 farmers@cruzio.com <http://www.webroots.com/live:earth>

Mariquita Farms

Contact: Julia Wiley or Debbie P.O. Box 2065 Watsonville, CA 95077 Phone: (831) 761 3226 Fax: (831) 761-8380 csa@mariquita.com <http://www.mariquita.com/>

Rural Development Center

Contact: Valdemar Alonso (Spanish only) or Luis Sierra P.O. Box 5415 Salinas, CA 93915 Phone: (831) 758-1469

Swanton Pacific Ranch

Contact: LaDonna Seeley 125 Swanton Road Davenport, CA 95017 Phone: (831) 427-1718 Fax: (831) 459-6956 lseeley@spranch.org <http://www.swantonpacificranch.org/>

UCSC Farm & Garden

Contact: Jim Leap or Nanci Vail 1156 High Street Santa Cruz, CA 95064 Phone: (831) 459-4661 Fax: (831) 459-2799 navail@cats.ucsc.edu <http://www.zzyx.ucsc.edu/casfs>

High Ground Organics

Contact: Stephen Pedersen 521 Harkins Slough Road Watsonville, CA 95076 Phone: (831) 786-0286 <http://www.highgroundorganics.com/>

Old School Organics

Contact: Roger Waddell 330 Dusty Trail Watsonville, CA 95076 Phone: (831) 761-8553

CONSUMER COOPERATIVES:

In consumer cooperatives, members of the community buy shares of the cooperative to pool their resources to buy food or other goods from distributors and wholesalers. At one point, Santa Cruz had a thriving food cooperative that eventually became a store, Community Foods. Community Foods failed and eventually morphed into New Leaf Community Markets, which is not a cooperative. There are a number of smaller food-buying clubs around Santa Cruz that can also be considered consumer cooperatives, although there is seldom an incorporated cooperative in which to own shares.

UCSC Bike Co-op

This on-campus bicycle repair shop is at once a consumer cooperative, tool cooperative and worker collective. Student Union Redwood Building 1156 High Street Santa Cruz, CA 95064 Phone: (831) 457-8281

Kresge Community Natural Foods

The student-run Kresge Co-op remains a bastion of cooperative principles where so many other cooperatives have dissolved or transformed into more traditional businesses. The Co-op recently expanded their selection and hours. It is also a worker-owned, worker-self-managed collective.

600 Kresge Court Kresge College, UCSC Santa Cruz, CA 95064 Phone: (831) 426-1506

TOOL COOPERATIVES:

In a tool cooperative, members pool their resources to pay for the purchase and maintenance of tools and sometimes shop facilities they can all use.

The Bike Church

224 Walnut Avenue., Suite C (Entrance adjacent to Civic Auditorium parking lot), Santa Cruz, CA 95060

UCSC Bike Co-op

See above

WORKER COOPERATIVES:

In a worker cooperative, all of the people working together in a business or other enterprise own part or all of the operation. This can include anything from a small unincorporated political group to a company such as United Airlines or Avis in which employees own the business (the latter are called Employee Stock Ownership Plans or ESOPs). Worker self-managed collectives are worker cooperatives in which the workers not only own the operation, but also democratically manage it on a day-to-day basis. Only worker self-managed collectives are listed here.

The Alarm! Newspaper

Yes, this very newspaper is published by a worker self-managed collective. Find contact info on page 2.

UCSC Bike Co-op

See above listing

Community Printers

Community Printers has been going strong since the heyday of cooperatives in Santa Cruz in the 70s. High quality offset printing with discounts for nonprofits. 1827 Soquel Ave. Santa Cruz, CA 95062 Phone: (831) 426-4682 info@comprinters.com <http://www.comprinters.com/>

Free Radio Santa Cruz

A low-power FM radio station broadcasting at 96.3 FM. They have been functioning as a collective for seven years. P.O. Box 7507 Santa Cruz, CA 95061 studio: (831) 427-3772 voice-mail: (831) 427-4523 frsc@cruzio.com; <http://members.cruzio.com/~frsc>

Kresge Community Natural Foods

see above

Pedalers' Express

A bicycle delivery collective, helping to reformulate commercial transportation paradigms while promoting economic justice on the job since 1994. They deliver, among other things, this newspaper to locations throughout Santa Cruz County. Other independent PedXs operate in cities throughout the US. 224 Walnut Avenue, Suite C Santa Cruz, CA 95060 Phone: (831) 426-BIKE santacruz@pedalexpress.com <http://www.pedalexpress.com/>

Sacred Grove

A magick shop that formed when the workers decided to fire their boss and start their own store. They are, according to themselves, "a

highly disorganized magickal organization dedicated to the continued and purposeful evolution of the universe, humanity and ourselves." 924 Soquel Avenue Santa Cruz, CA 95062 Phone: (831) 423-1949 sacredgrove@onebox.com <http://www.the-sacredgrove.com/>

Santa Cruz Biodiesel Cooperative

Produces and markets biodiesel and educates the public on the benefits of the fuel (produced from reclaimed vegetable oil) and how to convert diesel vehicles to biodiesel. Phone: (831) 566-0608 biodiesel@doityourself.com

Seven Bridges Cooperative

Homebrew supplies (including certified organic ingredients) and brewing classes. "Better beer for a better world." 325 A River Street Santa Cruz, CA 95060 (831) 454-9665 or (800) 768-4409 7bridges@breworganic.com <http://www.breworganic.com/>

Slug Books Co-op

A textbook cooperative devoted to providing students with textbooks and readers at discounted prices. Most of the workers are themselves students. 224 Cardiff Place (next to 7-11) Santa Cruz, CA 95060 Phone: (831) 469-SLUG info@slugbooks.com <http://www.slugbooks.com>

HOUSING COOPERATIVES:

In a housing cooperative, residents collectively pay mortgage on a residential property with the aim of reducing costs of ownership and maintenance and of retaining control over what happens with and on the property. There are a number of informal housing cooperatives, but some of the more institutionalized cooperatives are listed here.

El Rio Mobile Homes Park

2120 N Pacific Avenue Santa Cruz, CA 95060-2734 Phone: (831) 423-9494

Santa Cruz Student Housing Cooperatives

Runs two housing cooperatives (Zami Co-op and Chavez Co-op) in Santa Cruz

Santa Cruz Community Housing Corporation

Helps establish limited-equity housing cooperatives for low-income communities. 609 Pacific Ave Suite 101 Santa Cruz, CA 95060-4406 Phone: (831) 423-1318

Other:

There are a number of other cooperative arrangements that don't fit easily into the above categories. For instance, there is an informal local of the Couch Surfers' Union, which seeks to take advantage of the collective bargaining and organizing potential of Santa Cruz's eternally transient, low-income population. There is also a Dumpster-diving Co-op that organizes the gathering of thrown-away and wasted food-stuffs and durable goods from dumpsters throughout Santa Cruz county and stores them in one or more central locations for distribution to participants and others. The number of such small-scale, informal, unincorporated organizations prohibits their reproduction here, but they are nevertheless important to Santa Cruz's alternative economy.

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 11/16

9 AM–5:30 PM “Miike Takashi Marathon,” free film marathon open to the public. *Fudoh, Dead or Alive, Visitor Q & Ichi the Killer*. Part of a series curated by Earl Jackson Jr. For more info visit www.anotherscene.com/asias or email talkingcure2000@aol.com. At Thimann 3, UCSC.

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.

10:30 AM Join Attorney Maria Luis Ocosta on El Salvador Human Rights. Call Bill Muhly at 426-9780 for info. At the United Methodist Church, 250 California, SC.

2:30–5:30 PM Noted author Florene Poyadue, PhD., will share her experience and hope for families of children with special needs as well as professionals. Call 722-2800 for info. At United Way of Santa Cruz County, 1220 41st Ave., SC.

SUNDAY 11/17

11 AM – 3 PM Free Self Defense Especially for Women With Disabilities. Co-sponsored by the Central Coast for Independent Living, & Choices. Call 420-5250 to pre-register (on-site childcare available, call 420-6298 to reserve childcare). At Louden Nelson Center, 301 Center St., SC.

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.

7 PM War in Space: Fighting Terrorism or Enforcing Corporate Globalization. Part 6 of the fall study series. Sponsored by the SC Peacemakers & led by Sharon Delgado & Kara Zugman. Call 423-1626 x 302 for info. At the Resource Center for Nonviolence, 515 Broadway Ave., SC.

7 PM Santa Cruz Indymedia meeting (SC-IMC). For more info go to santacruz.indymedia.org. At Cafe Pergolesi, 418 Cedar St., SC.

8–10 PM “Thinking Outside the Loop,” students of the UCSC Electronic Music Studios perform original works, joined by guest composer Ron Alford. Call 459-2787 for info. At the Music Center Recital Hall, UCSC.



MONDAY 11/18

7 PM 2009: *Lost Memories*, free screening of this provocative Korean film followed by discussion. Part of a series curated by Earl Jackson Jr. For more info visit www.anotherscene.com/fantasies or email talkingcure2000@aol.com. At Thimann 3, UCSC.

7:30 PM Professor and practicing psychotherapist Sandy Hotchkiss presents *Why Is It Always about You?* We all know people who behave as if they are the center of the universe, but somehow we are drawn into their orbit. This is a valuable resource for mental health professionals, anyone recovering from co-dependent relationships with a narcissist and those concerned with building healthy self-esteem while discouraging unhealthy arrogance. Call 462-4415 for more info. At the Capitola Book Café, 1475 41st Ave., Cap.

TUESDAY 11/19

4–6 PM Vicente Rafael: “The Cell Phone & the Crowd: Messianic Politics in the Contemporary Philippines.” Rafael writes on postcolonial theory, communications, race & ethnicity, translation studies & Philippine studies. Call 459-4899 for more info. At Oakes Mural Rm., Oakes College, UCSC.

7 PM Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom general meeting. Mike Rotkin will speak on local SC politics, the election & recent strike. Call 457-6796 for info. At the Cayuga Vault, 1100 Soquel Ave., SC.

7:30 PM In *Pink Think: Becoming a Woman and Many Uneasy Lessons*, Paula Kamen (author of *Her Way*) gathers the memorabilia of the era and reveals all that ladies need to attain “true feminine success.” Call 462-4415 for more info. At the Capitola Book Café, 1475 41st Ave., Cap.

WEDNESDAY 11/20

6 PM Joint meeting of Scotts Valley City Council & Redevelopment Agency Board of Directors. Call 420-5602 for more info. At City Council Chambers, One Civic Center Dr., SV.

UCSC Student Walk-Out for Peace TBA

THURSDAY 11/21

4–6 PM “Towards a Genealogy of Postcolonial Secularism,” lecture by Aamir Mufti. Call 459-4899 for info. At the Oakes Mural Rm., Oakes College, UCSC.

FRI-SUN 11/22-24

Santa Cruz Winter Craft Faire. More than 60 artists, gift merchants & craftspeople showcase a variety of items. Live choir, Santa Cruz and holiday food also. Call 423-2053 for info. At the Cocoanut Grove, 400 Beach St., SC.

FRIDAY 11/22

12 PM–1:30 PM A luncheon about “how banks can boost foreign policy.” Goers will be graced with Jonathan Chu of East-West Bank & Jim Lucchesi, San Francisco branch manager of the Export-Import Bank: EximBank. \$20 for members, \$25 for nonmembers, for reservations call 469-0148. At El Palomar Restaurant, 1336 Pacific Ave., SC.

7:30 PM “Not Turning Away,” with Claude AnShin Thomas, Vietnam War Veteran & Priest. At Parish Hall, Calvary Episcopal Church (Cedar & Lincoln St.), SC.

SATURDAY 11/23

9 AM–5:30 PM Jang Sun-Woo & Ritwik Ghatak, “Other Scenes: Asian Cinemas.” Asian film festival. **9 AM** *Bad Movie* (Jang Sun-Woo) in Korean with Japanese subtitles, **12:30 PM** *A River Named Titas* (Ritwik Ghatak) in Bengali with English subtitles, **3:45 PM** *The Cloud-covered Star* (Ritwik Ghatak) in Bengali with English subtitles. Call 459-2781 for more info. At the Thimann Building, Rm. 3, UCSC.

9 AM–5:30 PM “Unsung Auteurs,” a free film marathon open to the public featuring contemporary films from India, none of which have been released in the US. Part of a series curated by Earl Jackson Jr. For more info visit www.anotherscene.com/asias or email talkingcure2000@aol.com. At Thimann 3, UCSC.

SUNDAY 11/24

7 PM Big Time Sing Along with Peter Blood & Annie Patterson (producers of “Rise Up Singing”) as part of the RCNV Folk Concert Series. Suggested donation: \$5–8/child, \$10–15/adult. Call 423-1626 x 104 for info. At the Quaker Meetinghouse, 225 Rooney St. (hill side of HWY 1/ Morrissey exit), SC.

MONDAY 11/25

9 AM–12 PM Immunization Outreach Program. Free immunizations on a walk-in basis available every last Monday of the month. Call 423-5747 for info. At Familia Center, 711 East Cliff Dr., SC.

9 AM–12 PM Promoción de Vacunas Gratis. Vacunas gratis sin cita disponibles el último lunes del mes. Si tiene preguntas llamar al 423-5747. En el Centro de Familia, 711 East Cliff Dr., SC.

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.

TUESDAY 11/26

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

7 PM Santa Cruz City Council meeting. First meeting with newly elected councilmembers, election of mayor & vice mayor. Call 420-5020 to contact the council. At Council Chambers, 809 Center St., SC.

7:30 PM Poetry Santa Cruz presents poetry readings and workshops in the Santa Cruz area. This Tuesday’s reading welcomes Lola Haskins (author of six books of poetry, her latest being *The Rim Benders*) and Mary Lou Taylor (author of *The Fringes of Hollywood* a collection of poems about growing up in Hollywood). Call 462-4415 for more info. At the Capitola Book Café, 1475 41st Ave., Cap.

WEDNESDAY 11/27

7 PM “Halloweird,” a festival of sixteen gross, weird & frightening short independent films from around the world. \$5/ person. Call 423-8209 for info. At the Rio Theater, 1205 Soquel Ave., SC.

THURSDAY 11/28

7 PM Capitola City Council Meeting. Call 475-7300 for more info. At 420 Capitola Ave., Cap.

FRIDAY 11/29

Sunset Community Tree Lighting. Join the community in our annual tree lighting. Live music & Santa Claus. Call 429-8433 for more info. In Downtown SC.

11 AM–3 PM 18th Annual Mountain Man Rendezvous. Visit encampments of 1840s trappers & traders as they rendezvous, demonstrate wilderness skills & tell tall tales at one of longest-running mountain man rendezvous in the West. Call 335-4484 for more info. At Roaring Camp Railroads, Felt.

2:30–4:30 PM Art & Revolution will be out for Buy Nothing Day. They will be “ridiculing the rampant kneejerk consumerism that keeps capitalism alive” and keeps the US citizen a mere “5% of the world’s population consuming 40% of the world’s products.” Contact Sarah at 462-0360 for more info. Meet in the parking lot behing Toadal Fitness a& Logos on Cedar St., SC.

All Day Buy Nothing Day! See if you can buy nothing all day, we dare you.

CELEBRATE

BUY NOTHING DAY

NOVEMBER 29, 2002
A 24 hour moratorium on consumer spending
www.adbusters.org

SAT & SUN 11/30–12/1

12 PM Santa & his reindeer surf into Capitola Beach, towel off, take Christmas requests & hand out candy canes. Call 475-6522 for more info. At the Capitola Beach, Cap.

SATURDAY 11/30

10 AM (brunch) **7 PM** (program) Palestine General Federation of Trade Unions Delegation. Co-sponsored by the Resource Center for Nonviolence & SEIU-415. Call 423-1626 x107 for info. Brunch at the RCNV, 515 Broadway, Program at SEIU-415, 517 Mission St., SC.

11 AM–3 PM 18th Annual Mountain Man Rendezvous. Visit encampments of 1840s trappers & traders as they rendezvous, demonstrate wilderness skills & tell tall tales at one of longest-running mountain man rendezvous in the West. Call 335-4484 for more info. At Roaring Camp Railroads, Felt.

7 PM New Zealand, “Islands of Innocence.” Join photographer Franz Lanting for the first public presentation of work featured in *National Geographic*. \$12/gen. admission, \$10/student. Call 459-1812 for info. At the Rio Theater, 1205 Soquel Ave., SC.

SUNDAY 12/1

2:30–5 PM SAT Practice Exam and Strategy Session. Call 461-9300 for more info. At Best Western, 1435 41st Ave., Cap.

5:30 PM Lighted Boat Parade. Features 50 decorated boats parading throughout Santa Cruz Harbor. Call 425-0690 or 475-6161 for more info. At the Santa Cruz Harbor, SC.

WEEKLY EVENTS, SERVICES, SUPPORT GROUPS & MEETINGS

SATURDAYS SÁBADO

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. Hack-eyesackers, 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.

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 MIÉRCOLES

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 de 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.

7:30–9:00 PM Ongoing writing group. Call Mary at 462-0643 for more info. At Bookshop Santa Cruz, 1520 Pacific Ave., SC.

7:30 PM “Lets talk about the movies,” a free discusson 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.

7–10 PM El Nuevo Arcoiris serves as a safe place for queer Spanish speaking young adults 18 & over. Activities include discussion groups, dances & local community celebrations. Call 728-0222 for more info. At Salud Para la Gente, 204 E. Beach St., Wats.

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.

7:30–9:00 PM Ongoing writing group. Call Mary at 462-0643 for more info. At Bookshop Santa Cruz, 1520 Pacific 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 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.

for more...

For more local events check out the Peace & Justice News calendar at: members.cruzio.com/~lupa/pj/index.htm, and/or the Resource Center for Nonviolence’s calendar of events: www.rcnv.org/rcnv/calendar/index.htm. The Santa Cruz County’s events calendar also lists a number of events that are perfect for family outings, see: www.scccvc.org/things/evtsearch.cfm.

For an insightful guide to upcoming events in the Bay area, go to: www.bapd.org/notices.html.

Local Happenings



Wholly Cross-Words

By Oliver Brown

Across

- 1 Harvest

5 Geena Davis role in *Tootsie* (1982)

10 Approaching Cuba

14 Have his say

15 Neck and neck

16 *Pygmalion* playwright

17 Murderer of Agrippina (his mother) and Octavia (his wife)

18 Type of lily

19 Role call response

20 “Uncle Jumbo” (US President)

23 Shivering fit

24 Able was I ____ I saw Elba.

25 Doll born in 1959

28 “The Charge of the Light Brigade” author

33 Egg shapes

34 Tender

35 Support

36 Stare

37 Checkered

38 Sound loudly

39 Mattel card game

40 Discourteous

41 Edmund Gwenn role in *Miracle of 34th Street* (1947)

42 Game plan

45 Doc ____ (shoe)

46 Complete circuit

47 “Little strokes fell great ____.” —Poor Richard’s Almanac

48 “Idol of Ohio” (U.S. President)

56 Woodwind

57 Interstate

58 Smidgen

59 Tutankhamun

60 Hedge trimmer

61 Serve wine

62 Dividing line

63 Ends presentation of evidence

64 Slide
- 1 Chimed

2 At all times

3 Gas (comb. form)

4 Empirical laws

5 Grow by addition

6 Finish second

7 Take a turn in craps

8 ____ of Wight

9 Caused to rise

10 Olsen twin

11 Mets’ home

12 Garner

13 Inspired with respect

21 Protection

22 Sea eagle

25 “____!”—Bill and Ted, in *Bill & Ted’s Excellent Adventure* (1989)

26 Front of an army

27 “Entities should not be multiplied unnecessarily.”—Occam’s ____

28 Self-serving flatterer

29 Canal

30 Tired

31 Speak formally

32 *Memento* director (2000)

34 UCSC student

37 One who makes ready

38 Carrot-like foods

41 H.H. Munro (author)

43 Assert to be true

44 Southeast Asia language family

45 Manufacturers

47 Four oxen teams

48 Roused from sleep

49 In the same place (abbr.)

50 Vowel sound caused by silent e

51 Customary way

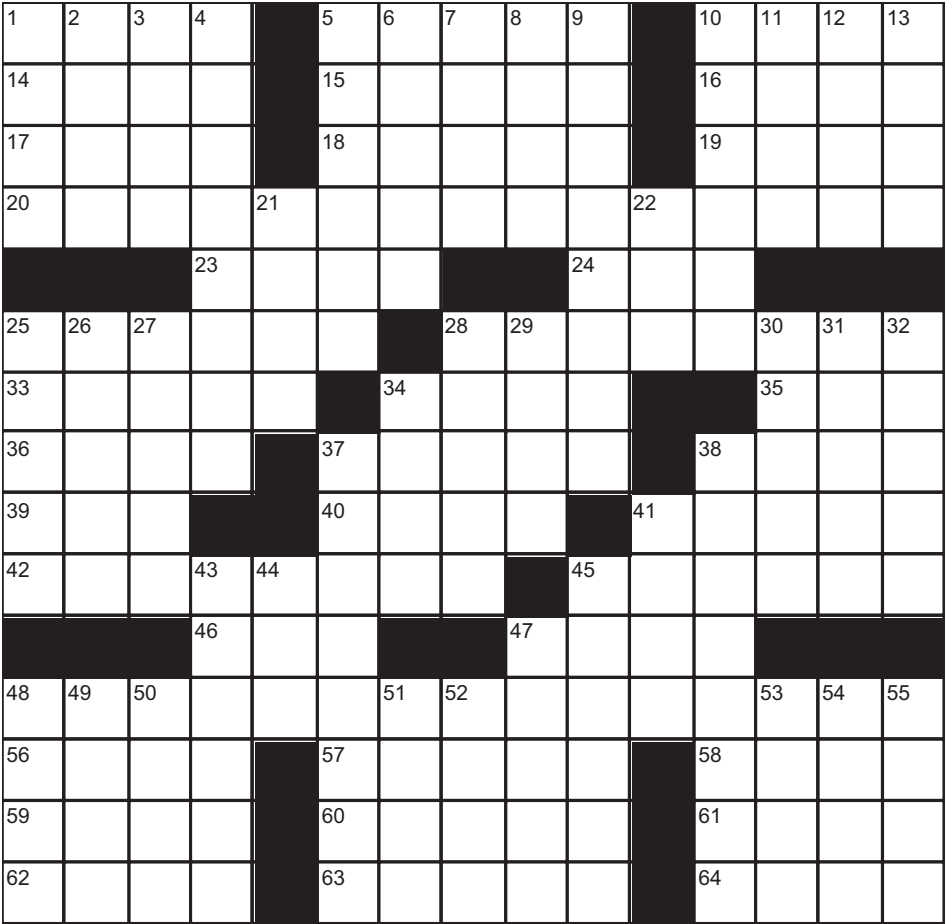
52 Ugly faces

53 Turn your attention

54 Case in Leipzig

55 Football field segment

Down

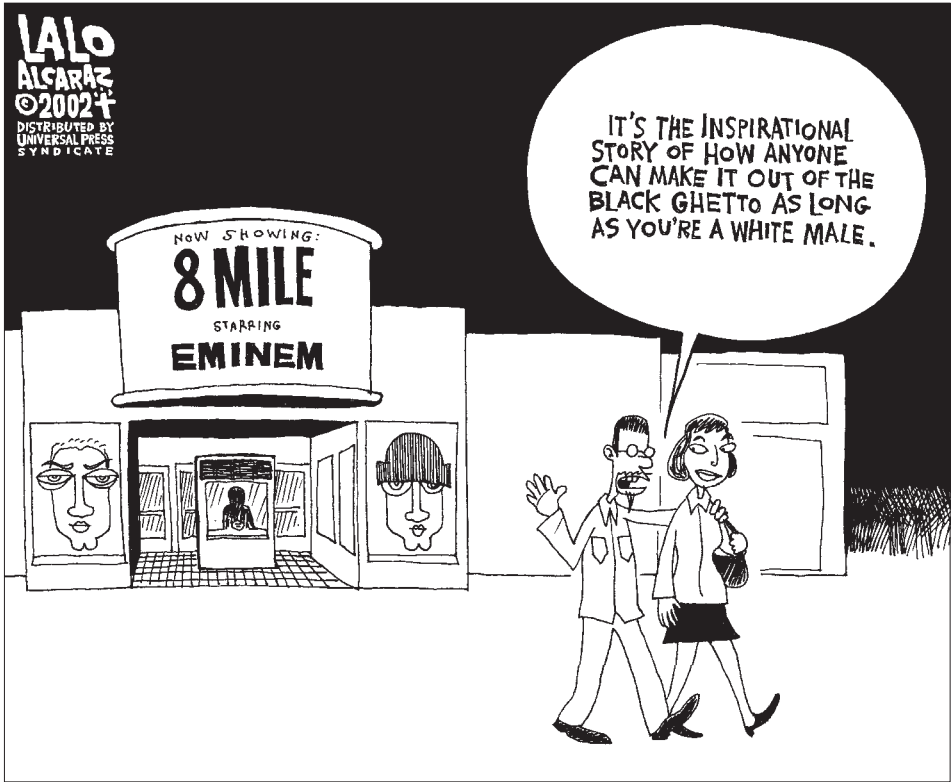


Puzzle #017

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

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

Answers from last puzzle (# 016)



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• COUNTY-WIDE DISTRIBUTION

Call 429-6397



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 -
a l a r m . c o m
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 -
a l a r m . c o m. 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!



For sale/grabs/trade

Black and Decker Panel saw.
\$75.00 obo. Call 425-2727
Sunny small room for rent De-
cember 1. \$350/month + \$350
dep. Live Oak, blocks to beach.
Near two bus routes. Share
with three humans & two cats.
Wood stove, washer and dryer
& garden. Paul, 464-0877

Work Opportunities

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.

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

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.

11150205 Seeking a rockhard
body to reinact hardrock videos
from the 80s. Videotape in-
volved, no pay just good times.

I SAW YOU...

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?

11150201 Walking on Pacific
Ave. window shopping. I was
in front of the theatre, you
bumped me as you passed—I
stood in a daze as you looked
at the music selection in the
window next door.

11150202 Me: Asking you to
stop writing the ticket. You:
"Once I start writing this I have
to issue it." I said it was my
birthday, you handed me the
ticket. I was short a nickel and
you cost me \$18.00.

11150203 Me: at the city coun-
cil meeting waiting patiently
to speak. You: anxious, with
friends muttering about the
downtown ordinances. Me:
concerned about Soquel bike
lanes. Want to get together and
talk about our gripes?

11150204 I was at Bowling for
Columbine, you were walking
out as I was walking in. You
nodded to me, I blushed. Want
to go see it again, together?

YOU'VE SEEN THE AD...DID
YOU KNOW THAT MATCHES
HAVE HAPPENED? STAY
TUNED FOR UPDATES ON
SOME OF THE MORE INFA-
MOUS PARTICIPANTS!

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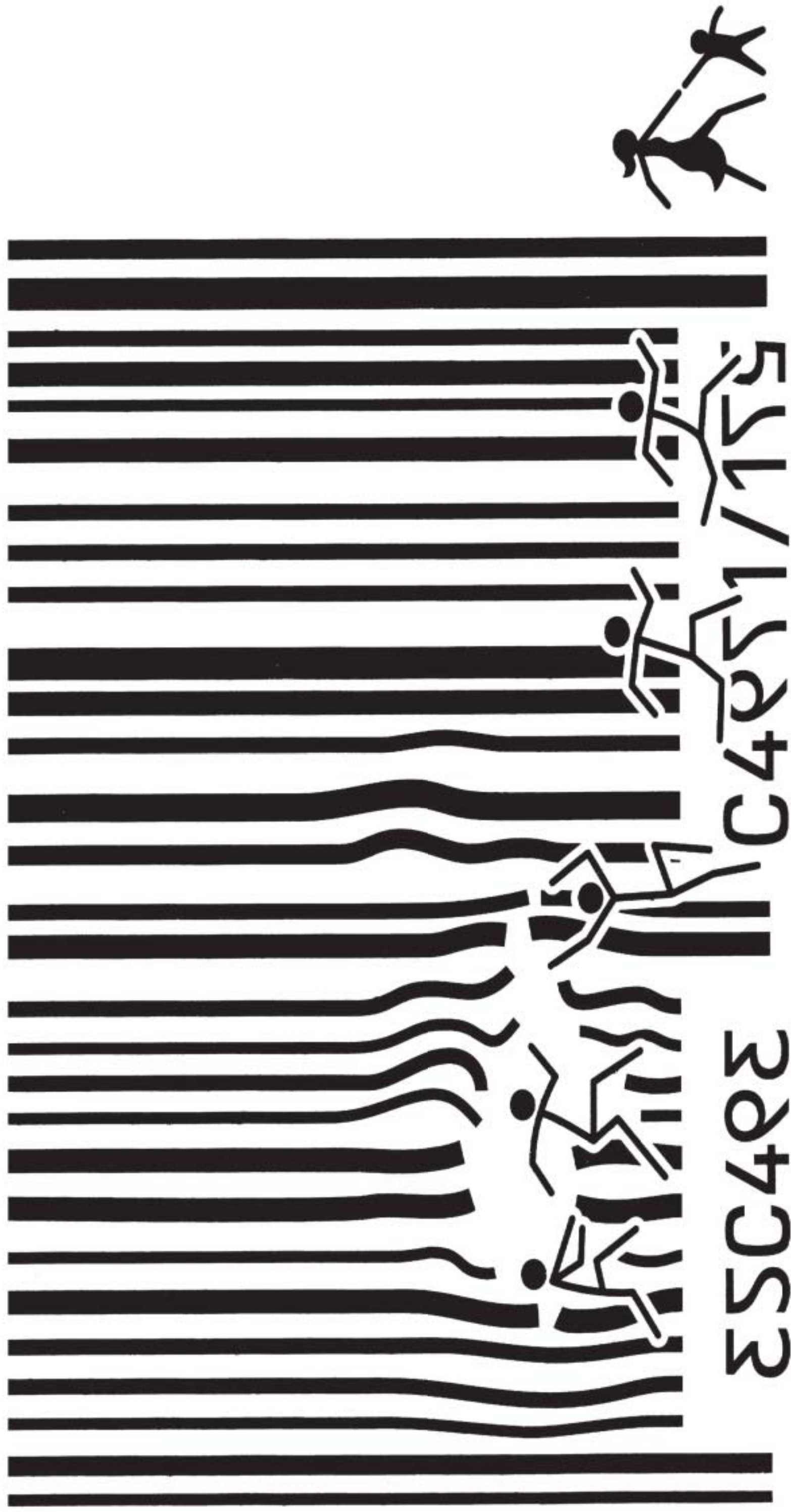
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