

# FREE THE ALARM!

VOL. 2, Nº22

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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## Do you feel more secure?

As the jumble of federal bureaucracies becomes consolidated and rationalized under the new Homeland Security Department, as the US government steps up its information-gathering effort and as hawks in the Bush Administration continue their build-up of weapons of mass-destruction while defying the scrutiny of inspectors, we re-focus the attention on America's own "infrastructure of terror." See inside for more.

## A course in citizenship

□ The Citizenship Project's Esquela de Libertad

By EMILY RUPP

*The Alarm! Newspaper Contributor*

In a building once used to store old documents, a school has sprung to life. La Esquela de Libertad (The Freedom School) is a place where members of the Latino community teach one another how to become active, informed citizens. The school—a non-profit agency and a Community Based Organization (CBO)—helps undocumented residents obtain legal US citizenship. The program is part of the Salinas-based Citizenship Project, a grassroots organization started by Teamsters Local 890 that works to empower and inform local residents, whether they are citizens of the US, Mexico or elsewhere.

Five years ago, Ricarda Rodríguez was living in the US illegally and working at a packaging factory. Then she heard about a school in Salinas that could assist her in obtaining US citizenship. With the help of bilingual volunteer high school students, Rodríguez learned "how to write, how to pronounce [words], how to read, everything."

Rodríguez obtained her citizenship in a year, and now teaches other Latino immigrants how to speak and write English at La Esquela de Libertad.

The volunteer teaching assistants at La Esquela are themselves students from various high schools in Salinas. These young people are members of the Teaching Academy, a division of the activist youth group Jóvenes en Acción (Youth in Action). There are about 25 members of Jóvenes en Acción, and most of them go to Alisal High School, North Salinas and Salinas High Schools,



Photo by Emily Rupp

**Volunteer Maria Morales, with (left to right) Antonio Rodríguez and Rigo-berto Rodríguez**

or Alvarez High School in Salinas.

Rodríguez said that the volunteers are very helpful. "They have [correct] pronunciation [of English] and knowledge from school," she said. "And they learn from us too."

Maria Echavarria, the Senior Project Organizer for La Esquela de Libertad and Jóvenes en Acción, is the founder of the Teaching Academy. Echavarria created Jóvenes en Acción in order to give young people a safe place to learn and participate in the community. "Then we saw that these kids already had English and writing skills," Echavarria said. "So [I thought] 'Why not match them up with somebody who needs help in those areas?' And from that was born the Teaching Academy."

"In our community, these kids are looked at as high risk, but we turned that around. These are the kids that a lot of the schools single out as bad kids, as problem makers," Echavarria said. "But here, they're just the opposite. They're kids that are very smart, have

a lot to give, and right now, they're giving back to the community."

Students attending La Esquela de Libertad range in age from 19 to 80. The volunteer teaching assistants, who often teach class themselves with supervision, are much younger. Despite age differences, students are very respectful towards their instructors, often calling them Maestro/a (teacher). Tina Montellano, Coordinator of La Esquela de Libertad said, "[The age difference] really doesn't bother the adults at all. They're grateful that the young kids share their knowledge and teach them."

Montellano said participating in La Esquela de Libertad through the Teaching Academy is good for the members of Jóvenes en Acción. "The adults receive [the volunteers] and call them teacher. It's very good for their self-esteem," Montellano said.

Marie Morales is a student at Alisal

**Go see ESQUELA on PAGE 4**

# Letter from an Editor

Attentive readers of *The Alarm!* will notice a couple gaps in this issue. For one, our local coverage has flagged somewhat. There are a few reasons for this. This odd phenomenon we call the “holiday season” has a lot to do with it. At various points over the past three weeks since the last issue, all of us have gone out of town for some amount of time, as have a number of people we had hoped to get in touch with for a more local focus. Meanwhile, changes at the federal level are occurring at break-neck speed. A war criminal, Henry Kissinger, has been tapped by the Bush Administration to head an “independent” (gimme a break!) investigation into the September 11 attacks. Kissinger’s support for brutal dictatorial regimes from Pol Pot to Pinochet earned him the distinction of being the only upper-level US statesman to be subpoenaed by France in the course of investigations into human-rights abuses in Latin America. Argentina also sought Kissinger to testify.

And, Admiral John Poindexter has been named the head of the Defense Department’s new Total Information Awareness program. One needs only look at the name of the program and the seal of its office (Information Awareness Office, seen in the bottom right on our front cover) to become supremely spooked out by this development. Of course, it doesn’t help that Poindexter is a man who was convicted on five counts of lying to Congress during Iran-Contra hearings. This conviction was later reversed because he had earlier been granted immunity for his testimony, but he is widely understood to be the primary decision-maker and mastermind of what eventually became a national scandal. For more on these subjects, check out the centerfold of this issue.

Somehow, in the midst of all this, it became difficult to take seriously the

“doctrine creep” (thanks to columnist sasha k—page 14—for exposing me to this term) of Santa Cruz City bureaucrats who have been considering the idea of forcing street performers to carry identification cards that mark them as legitimate and sanctioned artists. Nor has the “scrooge” who cut a majority of the Christmas lights wrapping the trees on Pacific Avenue in downtown Santa Cruz made a particularly compelling story. While there is plenty to talk about in terms of the tradition of perverting winter-light holidays into consumer gluttony (that was last issue’s focus), the exploits of this particular “scrooge” (who, it turns out, was mostly just a drunken yahoo with no meaningful statement to make on the act at all) seem to pale in comparison to the mammoth scrooges in Washington, DC.

Which is not at all to say that there is nothing worth talking about locally. The problem is that this whole “holiday season” phenomenon makes talking—not to mention acting—locally very difficult, especially in Santa Cruz. Thousands of students, who suddenly have some free time, spend it in their home towns. With so many transplants, much of Santa Cruz, student and otherwise, goes “home” for the holidays. Many of those who stay will be absorbed with hosting gatherings of their own, and wherever Santa Cruzans and Americans go during the holidays, they will be distracted by stressful family drama and obligatory gift-buying. Mainstream media will goad us into enjoying ourselves by perpetuating myths about holiday suicide rates (suicide rates are actually highest in May, June and July).

Of course, many of us will sincerely enjoy the holidays and the company of friends and family. Unfortunately, few of us will continue the work that desperately needs to be done to confront the US government’s burgeoning war

machine. The relative paucity of political and anti-war events in this issue’s calendar (page 20–21) speaks more to this than my words here can. A good portion of major US military actions, especially bombings, occur during the holiday season. The “Christmas Bombings” against Hanoi during Operation Linebacker II in 1972 immediately springs to mind. The UN issued its ultimatum to Saddam Hussein on November 29, 1990, the day after Thanksgiving and the biggest shopping day in the United States. As a 16-year-old at the time, I remember marvelling at the ability of my relatives to turn off the television in the middle of the announcement in order to head for the mall. The US initiated a major new bombing campaign against Iraq on December 16, 1998, a few days before the new moon, during Ramadan. The next new moon falls on January 2 of next year. Should the US military initiate its Iraq offensive at that time (a not altogether unlikely scenario) or appoint Herbert Hoover’s ghost to a special Labor Surveillance Task Force, the US populace will likely be more concerned with hangovers and breaking New Year’s resolutions than the niceties of Federal foreign and domestic policy. If only Iraqi residents and the most immediate targets of domestic repression had the same luxury. If only we could recognize the ultimate poverty and destructiveness of our own luxury.

So, think on this when you’re with family and friends this holiday season. The commentary piece below should give you some more food for thought.

The other missing element in this issue is articles in Spanish, a problem for which I have no such poignant excuse, nor do I intend to make one up. I mention it simply to acknowledge it as a problem rather than simply ignoring it.

Despite it all, may you all enjoy the holidays!

—Fhar Miess

## Op/Ed

### ‘Jews shushing Jews’—we’re not at Grandma’s table anymore

By **HILARY ABRAMSON**  
*Pacific News Service*

*EDITOR’S NOTE: Ever more frequently, writes PNS contributor Hilary Abramson, Jewish voices for peace are being silenced—by other Jews. Returning to “grandma’s table,” where passionate, open argument ruled the day, could reveal important pathways to peace, such as the need for Jews to confront the extremism of Jewish settlers in the West Bank. Abramson (hilary@pacificnews.org) is an editor at Pacific News Service.*

Upon landing in Jerusalem a decade ago, a friend’s daughter called home. “This is my kind of country,” she gushed. “Everybody’s arguing.”

Today, that great Jewish tradition of passionate disagreement is under siege—by Jews. Criticize the Israeli government or religious Jewish extremists flooding the occupied territories and expect to be called a “self-hating Jew.” The ultimate fear—loss of Israel as the Jewish refuge amid revival of widespread anti-Semitism—is tamping down discourse.

At the family table, in synagogues and even in the media, you can hear the sound of Jews shushing Jews.

With each day delivering more suicide bombers, it’s easy to understand the reluctance of even liberal Jews to criticize the policy of retaliation. Indeed, many rabbis who once supported the peace movement in Israel now cheer Ariel Sharon’s policies. These days, they are preaching that “Jews have a right to defend themselves.”

Just recently, a reform rabbi who fre-

quently travels to Israel told me of his turnabout. “They hate us and want to destroy us,” he insisted. I asked whether he really believes that all Arabs would rather forfeit the future of their children to pursue wiping out Jews. Do Palestinian mothers want anything different for their families than Israeli mothers hope for theirs?

“Yes,” he said. “We must remember that they want to destroy us.”

This rabbi and others like him are willing to turn their heads when young, Israeli religious militants in illegal settlement outposts drive Palestinians from their hamlets, as recently happened at Khirbat Yanun in the West Bank. To him, it’s acceptable that Israeli soldiers stood by without enforcing the law and arresting fellow Jews as the Palestinians fled. According to this rabbi, our only recourse when the next suicidal attack comes is more boiling blood retaliation.

A more constructive recommendation comes from Milton Viorst, former longtime Middle East correspondent for *The New Yorker*, who says he is as “scared to death” over the goings-on in Israel as any other Jew. Viorst is the author of *What Shall I Do With This People? Jews and the Fractious Politics of Judaism*. He believes that either Jews master the art of living with each other—and rein in extremist settlers who cite an edict from God as justification for holding on to West Bank land—or the future of Israel and even the Jewish people is in jeopardy.

The 1995 assassination of Israeli

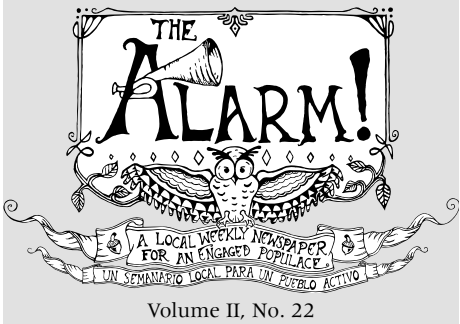
Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by a religious-messianic Jew spurred Viorst to take a lifetime study of Jewish history further. Conclusion: Religious extremism is at the root of most Jewish dissension—from the beginning of the Bible to today, where “political extremism (in Israel) has been dressed up as religion.”

Like Viorst, I wonder if “the lacerations left on our collective psyche by 2,000 years of anti-Semitism have impaired our political reasoning about matters crucial to the well-being and survival of the Jewish community.”

If Jews are determined to believe the mantra that the conservatives are promoting—that all Arabs want to destroy all Jews and will refuse to live in peace—then the chance for peace is hopeless. As Viorst reminds us, God called Jews “a stiff-necked people” and strong Jewish states have risen—and fallen—before.

Most of us learned to argue at our grandparents’ table. They spoke Yiddish; we spoke English. They tried to silence us with a “Shah!” (shush!). But there was always permission to be heard. Inside the safety zone of family and friends, we found fault with each other in high decibels, but kept quiet about our differences in the Gentile world.

It is time for Jews to return to Grandma’s table, figure out how to be together, and speak out publicly for peace before it’s too late.



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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# Raise your voice against selective enforcement of the law

By SHERRY CONABLE  
*The Alarm! Newspaper Contributor*

On Monday, December 9 at 5:30 p.m., the Citizen’s Police Review Board (CPRB) of the City of Santa Cruz will consider a resolution opposing selective enforcement of the law, and reaffirming the city’s commitment to non-discrimination in any form, against any class of people. The meeting takes place at City Hall, in City Council Chambers, at 809 Center Street. You, too, can come and raise your voice!

Selective enforcement of the law is a practice in which certain groups of people are targeted for violating laws, while other folks are left alone for violating the very same laws. It is also called profiling, which is illegal under state statutes. It is typically used against oppressed or disenfranchised groups of people, like people of color, youth, gays and lesbians, the homeless, the visibly poor, the mentally challenged and folks who chose non-mainstream lives.

On October 14, 2002, the CPRB held a special hearing to listen to citizen concerns about selective enforcement and police harassment. The resolution below was presented on behalf of

People for a Free and Equal Downtown (PFED), a group that coalesced around the struggle over the passage of the revised Downtown Ordinances in the city of Santa Cruz this summer. These ordinances created a structure that allows and in fact encourages selective enforcement of the law, and the ordinances are frequently used in that manner. While folks living outside are typically the victims of these ordinances, the targeting of people of color and youth has been a concern in the city and county of Santa Cruz for a long time. The new resolution begins to address and stop this practice.

The resolution begins to bring into the body of nondiscrimination language categories and phrases that would protect groups that have previously gone unprotected—the homeless, the visibly poor, the mentally challenged and people of non-mainstream lifestyles.

This resolution is a step we have needed to take for many years. Listen to the language that people use to talk about the homeless and visibly poor, and you will hear almost the same words, phrases and justifications that were used against black people. This language and its accompanying social inequalities sparked the civil rights movement in the 1960s.

Selective enforcement of the law can have highly destructive consequences. People targeted by selective enforcement face fines they cannot pay, long hours of community service, jail time and constant pressure from law enforcement personnel. They need, and deserve, relief and protection.

Decisions to enforce the law are very often based not on behavior but on appearance. As a female in this culture, I know how very destructive and insidious social bias can be. Bias has been

obvious in downtown Santa Cruz. Sometimes it reflects the beliefs and prejudices of individual officers, but it is often also a result of an expectation being passed along from farther up the “chain of command” in the police hierarchy. Institutionalized support of selective enforcement is wrong and should not be tolerated by any government agency that believes in civil liberties and constitutional rights.

The CPRB is considering this resolution for adoption, with a recommendation that it be sent to City Council for discussion and adoption as well. Please join us that evening, or express your opinion by email to markhalfmoon@yahoo.com

Local Opinion

## Excerpt from the Draft Resolution presented to the CPRB on 10/14/02

The City of Santa Cruz reaffirms its commitment to non-discrimination, in any form, against any group of people, based on race, color, national origin, religion, creed, sexual orientation, age, economic status, disability, appearance, lifestyle choice or any other class-based category; and that therefore The City of Santa Cruz resolves that selective enforcement of the law (whether local, state or federal) against any such group of people will not be tolerated, nor will any city funds be spent to support such enforcement; and furthermore The City of Santa Cruz resolves to fully honor, in all ways possible, the inviolable principle of non-discrimination, with “fair and equal treatment under the law” and “liberty and justice for all.”

Dear Editor,

I picked up your paper for the first time today and enjoyed it very much.

I have always been mystified why people, even “lefties,” “progressives,” “Greens,” etc., always refer to the US Government as “we” when referring to things like the wars being carried out at various times. I would like to propose that we stop using the word “we” when referring to actions taken against people here and abroad by the US government. I think that we should start saying “the criminals in the US Government” when talking about invasions, neo-liberal policies, tax cuts for the rich, etc. This way we can free ourselves from the brainwashing that we have succumbed to all these years and focus on the real problem.

In regards to your recent issue “Alternatives to Consumer Culture” I would like to propose some meager changes in our lifestyles that can have profound effects and significant benefits to us all. (1) Cut up all your credit cards except your Santa Cruz Community Credit Union Visa. (2) Tell all your friends and relatives that in an effort to save the world and your sanity (and bank account) you will from now on stop giving and receiving presents during the holidays. Only poems and art made by the giver will be accepted. (3) Get rid of your TV and start reading and listening to alternative news and information sources. (4) Pick a project or issue and volunteer some time that will help make the world a better place to live.

Love and Peace,  
DUDLEY LEWIS.

Dear Alarm,

We’d like to thank Chris Kortright for his thoughtful piece in the Nov. 15 issue regarding the current antiwar movement in Santa Cruz. Kortright states that “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.” He’s right. We’ve been trying for years and have yet to think of a good way to fit an analysis of capitalism or the nation-state on a sign readable to motorists in the middle of rush hour. If he ever did come to this

event, however, he would find that the issues he raises in his editorial are exactly the issues being discussed. While Peace Friday is a demonstration, it is also a community event with networking between activists, debating of issues and discussion and planning for other types of events and activities. Each of us does many things, not just demonstrate on the corner of Ocean and Water every Friday night. We appreciate the *Alarm!*, the *Green Press*, Pirate Radio, Community Television and others for creating forums that are able to delve more deeply into topics for those of us inspired to seek them out, but our actions on Friday are targeting those members of our community (the vast majority) who don’t read the *Alarm!* but still have nagging doubts about the wisdom of creating a new empire based upon American greed. If Kortright thinks that the best way to engage the masses is waving a sign saying “End Capitalism” or burning an American flag, he will be welcomed at our weekly protest. But if he wants to sow seeds of dissent and awaken citizens to the fact that we’re all on the same page here—all of us being human beings who abhor mass murder—he’ll smile and wave with the rest of us instead of knocking the small groups of folks out on the streets trying to build a movement.

SUSAN ZEMAN & BOB DOWNING,  
Santa Cruz

To the Editors:

Recently I traveled from Virginia to visit my daughter in Santa Cruz, leaving behind local papers filled with reports of the World Bank protest in nearby Washington, DC.

Despite the tremendous local media coverage prior to, during and immediately following the event, I could not appreciate the purpose of the protest—exactly what was wrong at the World Bank—until I picked up an issue of the *Alarm!* in Santa Cruz. The commentary in the October 4 issue provided an excellent, historical review of the purpose of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, the changing economic policies since 1946 and specific incidents that have given rise to organized opposition. The accompanying article on

the IMF “showdown” with Brazil was also edifying. While I have not finalized my own opinion on the usefulness of the Bank, I do have a much clearer understanding of the opponents’ cause for alarm. Your paper provides a great service—and is a far cry from being “commie, radical, dreamy or anarchist.”

MARY R. CORBIN  
Corbin, Virginia

Dear Editors,

I am writing to protest the conversion of Lift Line to slaveship vans driven by bonded servants who must obey every whim of Slavemaster Metro Transit, who keeps the drivers in a state of abject suffering by paying them chickenfeed, feeding them an insipid union mandatory membership, and making them drink the bitter waters of dead-end jobs which daily, hourly, minutely humiliate them, in a ruthless callous, indifferent and calculated method which their leaders reinforce daily with their allies, the larger county-wide employers, i.e. UCSC, Cabrillo College, Santa Cruz County, etc.

Look at Lift Line’s pay: driver 40 hours/week, night shift—no extra pay, \$11/hour to go in circles all day, times 172 hours/month gives them \$1,892/month, minus mandatory deductions for a Social Security threatened by our President and in itself worthless as life support for 65 and over.

Say, 20% deductions, \$378, leaves

our driver \$1,514 take home.

Landlord waits for \$1,000/month for a dinky little chickencoop. That leaves \$514. PG&E takes, Ma Bell takes. Cable TV takes. Our driver now gets \$314 for 30 days of food, clothing, shoes, prescriptions, dentist, doctor.

Our driver is enslaved, headed for a lifetime of domination by the Good Old Boys (GOBs), who now demand, and receive as their due, urine from their victims to guarantee that they are not drunkards (while all media try our minds to daily become drunkards), not marijuaners, not cocaineers, not hopheads, not this, not that. Next, drivers will deposit feed containers into Old Master’s hands.

Master has no opposition. As proof, look at his upcoming World War III, to destroy 5,000,000 decent, hardworking Bhagdadians—because they honor Islam, because they own a huge oil deposit we can steal for our ruthless oil corporations, because he wants to. It’s as though Mr. Slaveholder wants to copy slavemaking ants, who capture and force work until death of body, or spirit, whichever comes first. Villains, scoundrels, unprincipled, wicked ones, great criminals, uncaught, unrecognized, accepted in this, our American nightmare, slaveocracy.

HARRY RESONER

Your Letters

### 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.



# Educational priorities under the glass

By GARY SCHOFIELD  
*The Alarm! Newspaper Contributor*

Instead of closing schools and building controversial administrative buildings, I think the Santa Cruz school system should concentrate on providing a quality and meaningful education to our children.

As the controversy continues, I have been involved with my eighth-grade son as he struggles to make sense of his homework and the class subject matter. I see “Standardized Testing” on the tops of his preprinted homework and outlines. Everything he brings home is prepared and preprinted by some anonymous publishing house. Often times, he does not have a book to provide a background for the subject material (“We don’t have enough to take home”). I have asked him what this educational information means to him and what it is that he is supposed to be learning. He tells me, quite honestly, that he is not sure.

I have expressed my concerns to local school administrators—asking where is the teacher input and innovation, where is the curriculum? I am told that “there is no need to reinvent the wheel, because the system is working.”

Welcome to the world of California’s standardized testing, a.k.a. the Star Tests and the California High School Exit Examination (CHSEE), to name but a few. The Star Test scores (known as API scores), which we see once a year in our local newspapers, serve as the criteria-of-performance for each school district. Everything that your child is supposed to have learned has been neatly boiled down to these primary numbers. It is important to note that schools are monetarily penalized if their API scores should fall short, on a statewide comparative basis. Our Education President has upped the ante with his federal “No Child Left Behind” program, which ties the allocation of federal funds to student test scores.

One could assume that the tests were originally designed as a measure of overall school performance, across the state. But, as is often the case with statewide standardized testing academic and otherwise (GMAT, LSAT, State Contractors, Brokers, etc.), the most expedient way to study is to review test-specific questions, which tend to be very similar to ones on the actual tests. And so, in an effort to meet state and federal expectations—and in a very difficult vocation with little public support and recognition—some of our teachers may be opting to use the test as the structure for their classes. The educational process moves from one of cognitive reasoning and relationship analysis to a disconnected process of rote memory.

There are consequences to this educational approach. There has to be a significant level of fallout for both students and teachers, as they are forced into this dumbed-down process. We create a growing pool of at-risk students, who have lost interest and are no longer attending school [see the Cities and Schools countywide analysis, dated 10/21/93]. We are also driving students out of the traditional public schools as their parents seek alternatives to this reductionist approach.

The county now has eight alternative charter schools with a student population of approximately 2000 pupils. The

charter schools fall under the domain of the public school system and receive the district-specific Average Daily Attendance (ADA) allotments to fund their individual educational programs—in effect, diverting the funds away from the existing educational infrastructure. The charter schools are increasing in popularity, and some are forced to use a lottery system to control the demand. One of the primary educational differences is that the charter schools do not structure their programs around the subject tests. In these schools, parents can and do chose to waive the standardized testing requirements. Unofficially, this option against such testing requirements is a major reason the alternative programs are chosen by parents.

The county also has some 95 private schools with an enrollment of approximately 5300 students, representing 13% of the total public school enrollment of 40,418. Enrollment for the public schools is up eleven percent since the 1993 study, while enrollment in the private schools is up 22%. The private schools are not required to submit their pupils to the standardized testing—again, one of the reasons such schools are chosen as alternatives.

With a Santa Cruz County average ADA per student per annum of \$7150 (an increase of 90% per student ADA funding since 1993), the private school enrollments represent a runoff in public school funds of some \$38,000,000—with charter students representing another \$15,500,000 in redirected/lost funding. The projected countywide school budget deficits for next year may exceed \$3,750,000. One might conclude that if the public schools were able to draw a portion of this alternative student base back into the mainstream public school system, we as a community could easily overcome the budget deficit issues.

While it may make sense to make changes to our school infrastructure, the much bigger issues are: quality of service and knowing your business. We need to change the way in which we use standardized tests as a measure of relative performance and encourage our teachers to reach out and engage our children in a meaningful and integrated educational program. Also, administrators should have a handle on student migration trends, numbers and types of alternative programs and the underlying reasons for student population declines. (They were going to do a study, but decided it was to complex and expensive.) In my view, the qualitative changes are necessary to ensure the survival of the public school system. As with the business world, it’s innovate or die. For those who are interested, the Cities and Schools report (referred to above) presented an excellent model for both traditional and alternative K–12 community-directed educational programs.

It is essential that we understand the needs of our children and continue to advocate on their behalf. We have to give them the educational tools and the capacity to think in what may be a very difficult future. In 2001, a bill called The Universal Military Training and Service Act of 2001 [HR 3598] was introduced by our House of Representatives to re-enact the military draft. Under Section 8 [Deferments], the bill states that while high school students will be allowed to finish high school, there is no deferment for college. If this bill should pass, a high school education may be the only education that many of our kids receive. We had better make it work.

**ESQUELA from PAGE 1**  
High School, and a volunteer for La Esquila de Libertad. Morales said she enjoys teaching at the school, and has no difficulty teaching her elders. “They’re nice and they listen to me,” she said. “I want to become a kindergarten teacher, so [volunteering here] prepares me.”

Morales said the Teaching Academy and Jóvenes en Acción provide a positive alternative to other, less productive pastimes. “Instead of being in a gang and doing bad things on the street, I can be here, helping other people,” she said.

La Esquila de Libertad was formed in 1995, shortly after California Proposition 187 passed. That proposition, couched by its supporters as an initiative to “Save Our State,” was intended to “prevent illegal aliens in the United States from receiving benefits or public services in the State of California.” The proposition would deny illegal residents access to social services, health care and education. While lawsuits brought by the ACLU and other activist organizations prevented the full implementation of the proposition, many immigrants in California were nonetheless scared into wanting to gain legal status, and quickly. The question was where these immigrants could turn for the help they would need to study for and pass their INS examination.

Graciela Morales worked in the Older Brothers’ flower fields and tried to attend an adult school in order to pass her INS interview. But her long working hours and seasonal schedules conflicted with school hours. Graciela’s supervisor, Lupe Saldivar, helped her study during lunch breaks at work. Paul Johnston, Director of the Citizenship Project, said, “Women helping women, that’s a lot of what this is about.” Soon their study group grew from two to about 30.

When Graciela passed her INS interview and became a citizen, she decided to help others do the same. “People began holding class in their garages,” said Echavarria. As the number of students grew, the school founders turned to the Citizenship Project for help. La Esquila de Libertad is now held in the spacious Teamsters Hall.

The Teamsters Local 890 created the Citizenship Project to help thier union members become US citizens. As the biggest union on the Central Coast, the Teamsters membership was approximately 95% Latino when Prop. 187 passed. Johnston said, “Ideas of racial justice became a force inside the union. This union does more for im-

migrants than any other institution in the region.”

Once a location for the school was established, the students began to pour in. Montellano and Echavarria were soon faced with issues of funding. Montellano said, “We had plenty of students and the 100 basic INS questions, but no paper.” Montellano and Echavarria called several local businesses, asking for recycled paper.

One company agreed to donate all its recycled paper to the school. But by the time Montellano and Echavarria arrived, the paper had been thrown in the trash. “Before you know it, we were inside the darn trash bin pulling out recycled paper,” Montellano said. “Hey, you got to do what you got to do to help people.”

In 1997, Paul Johnston alerted the Citizenship Project to the possibility of state funding for La Esquila de Libertad. He wrote a proposal to the California State Board of Education and soon La Esquila de Libertad became a state-certified school.

As a state-certified school, La Esquila de Libertad received funding per hour for each student, which averaged about \$20,000 per year. However, funding policies have changed, and the school now receives funding through benchmarks, or tests given to students to prove they are learning. Montellano said that the new system is quite an adjustment. “It was very hard at first,” she said. “They cut us down from about \$17,000 [per year] to \$5,000 [per year].”

Despite its unsteady budget, La Esquila de Libertad has been very successful. “Since 1997 to present we’ve had about 1,100 students pass through,” Montellano said. “About 85% have passed their INS interviews and have become citizens already.”

As more students become citizens, La Esquila de Libertad becomes more aware of what the INS is looking for. “When students come back from the INS interviews we ask them what they asked them and we compile all that information,” Montellano said.

When Ricarda Rodríguez was granted citizenship, she also returned to La Esquila de Libertad to help others succeed. “I like helping my people to have a better life. After they [The Citizenship Project] helped me, I can give back the favor,” Rodríguez said. “This community needs a lot of help.”

*For more information about volunteering for The Citizenship Project, call 424-2713. Or visit their website at [www.newcitizen.org](http://www.newcitizen.org). The Citizenship Project is also in need of computer donations.*

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# Activists mobilize for Supreme Court affirmative action hearing

By MICHELLE STEWART  
*The Alarm! Newspaper Collective*

The Supreme Court has decided to reinsert itself into the affirmative action debate, stating it will hear two cases stemming from the University of Michigan’s Law School and Undergraduate programs early next year. The court will release an exact date in the coming weeks, but expects to hear the cases together some time between March 24 and April 2, 2003. At stake is whether or not affirmative action is legal in any context.

Students from UC Berkeley are involved in this case as interveners—parties who have a tangible interest in the case but weren’t in

Felarca. Felarca is one of the BAMN student defendants listed as an intervener in the Grutter v. Bollinger case stemming from the University of Michigan’s Law School.

In anticipation of the significance of the case, student and civil rights activists are coming together to host a National Civil Rights Summit and Conference at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, from January 20–26, 2003. Organizers plan to treat this event as a kickoff for events leading up to the Supreme Court hearing. The conference will lead to a national march and rally on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day at the University of Michigan.

Perhaps even more ambitious is

“We call on every progressive force in this state who stands on the principles of equality and justice to help us build the New Civil Rights Movement”

the original filing. They state that their “arguments focus on the promise of Brown v. Board of Education, the re-segregation of higher education in California and Texas without affirmative action, and the current inequality and discrimination in K–12 education, in the LSAT and on undergraduate campuses.” As recognized interveners, these students and three organizations (United for Equality and Affirmative Action, the Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action By Any Means Necessary (BAMN), and Law Students for Affirmative Action) will join the University of Michigan to present their case to uphold the choice to employ affirmative action in college admissions. Of the 41 individuals listed on the case, nine are from California.

One of the groups out of UC Berkeley, BAMN is a central organizer of activism around the two cases. “Winning this case will advance the fight of black, Latino, Native American and other underrepresented minority students in this state to receive equal educational opportunity,” says BAMN student defendant and UC Berkeley student, Yvette

the plan to have a million person march on Washington, DC at the time of oral arguments in the case. But local activists seem up for the challenge. Remarks Felarca, “we will be mobilizing students from across California to attend the March on Washington. We call on every progressive force in this state who stands on the principles of equality and justice to help us build the New Civil Rights Movement and mobilize for this historic march.”

The UC Regents voted to end affirmative action in admission back in 1995; the following year, Proposition 209 effectively made it illegal to employ affirmative action in admissions choices. However, in May 2001, the Regents voted to overturn their decision in 1995 and have been working towards bolstering minority representation in the campuses.

For more information about affirmative action, the Supreme Court case, the Summit or the March please contact BAMN at (510) 684-7791 or visit their website at [www.bamn.com](http://www.bamn.com).

# America’s languages: beyond English only

By DOMENICO MACERI  
*The Alarm! Newspaper Contributor*

The letter to the editor of a Central Coast newspaper railed against bilingual ballots because “the language of this country has been English.” The writer lived in Paso Robles, and the newspaper is located in the city of San Luis Obispo. The very names of these two cities suggest that the writer missed something about the linguistic landscape of the US.

Although English has been the dominant language of the country for more than two centuries, the US has always been a multilingual nation. Even before the formal establishment of the US as an independent country, many Native American languages were spoken alongside English and Spanish. Spanish, in fact, has been a constant presence in significant sections of the US, particularly in the Southwest and Southeast. For several centuries, Spanish was the dominant language in these areas. The names of many states, rivers, cities, counties and lakes are obvious reminders of this linguistic presence.

In the early years of the United States, soon after the Declaration of Independence, a number of languages were being used in the 13 original states. Because there was such great animosity against the English, German was even considered as a possible language for the new country. Indeed, German was so widely used that in the 18th century Benjamin Franklin complained about German-English bilingual street signs in Philadelphia. Franklin was also concerned that the prevalence of the German language might end making interpreters necessary in the Pennsylvania Parliament.

Many other languages have been part of the American historical landscape. Even today 329 foreign languages are spoken in the US. Some languages have very small numbers of speakers. Americans have probably never heard of Zuni, Cushite, Amharic, or Hidatsa. Yet, America has speakers of all these languages and more. In spite of the presence of these languages, English remains the language of government, education, business and just about every endeavor. If you want to get ahead in the US, you need to learn English. It’s possible to live in the US without knowing English, but for the most part English is the key to the land of opportunity. That is not to say, however, that other languages are not useful in many parts of the country.

Spanish, in particular, is very beneficial because of the large number of speakers in the US. This linguistic

presence is due in part to geography and in part to the weak economic conditions of Spanish-speaking countries, especially Mexico. Poverty at home pushes people to come to the US. Yet, this bilingualism or indeed multilingualism is becoming a serious concern for some Americans. That’s the only way to explain the virtual elimination of bilingual education programs in California and Arizona and the declaration of English as the official language in twenty-seven states. Some people—looking at the French-English debate and possible secession of Quebec in Canada—fear that the presence of many languages might lead to a possible breakup of the US. History teaches, however, that languages do not generally cause countries to fall apart. If languages had that destructive ability then Switzerland, which had three official languages, must have been crazy for recently adding English as its fourth. If two languages are supposed to cause problems, then four should make a nation into a basket case.

The fact is that Switzerland—in spite of its languages, or maybe in part because of them—is a very prosperous nation with a very high standard of living. Problems in countries arise not because of languages but because of economic, political and social conflicts. Certainly, the problems of Northern Ireland cannot be attributed to language since both the Protestants and Catholics speak the same language. And in other hot spots around the world, such as Korea, the Middle East and Kashmir, it’s something other than language that causes the conflicts. In essence, monolingualism, even if it can be achieved, does not ensure peace and prosperity.

The strength of America has always been and will continue to be its people and our ability to integrate the energy brought in by immigrants. Regardless of what language people brought into this country, their contributions have built the nation. The presence of many languages in the US, a fundamentally English-speaking country, has not deterred it from prospering. On the contrary, the languages and the people who speak them have made that prosperity possible. As long as immigrants keep coming to the US, bringing their talents and their languages, it means that the US is a very desirable place to be. When immigration stops, it means that America’s decline has begun.

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## In Retrospect

# Enemy Aliens

By **BLAIZE WILKINSON**

*The Alarm! Newspaper Columnist*

We all are aware of the US internment of Japanese aliens and Japanese Americans during World War II. Fewer people know that Italian and German nationals living in the United States were also subject to restrictions, prohibitions, relocation and even internment.

Italians were the largest immigrant group in the US of the 1940s, with an estimated population of 600,000 foreign-born residents. The Italian community had representatives in all walks of life. When World War II started, the mayors of New York and San Francisco were both of Italian descent.

In June, 1940, the passage of the Smith Act required all foreign-born residents of the US to register with the government, and also to report any change of address or employment. Pearl Harbor accelerated the suspicion against nationals from Axis countries, with results that we are all too aware of in the case of the Japanese.

It is important to note that the designation of Italian nationals as "enemies" and a possible "fifth column" threat did not seem completely out of place. Many unnaturalized Italian immigrants and Italian Americans admired the fascist government of Mussolini, noting that, among other things, Il Duce "made the trains run on time." But it is also vital to report

that the admiration for Mussolini was not limited to those of Italian blood; the online version of *Una Storia Segreta* ([www.santacruzpl.org/history/ww2/storia.shtml](http://www.santacruzpl.org/history/ww2/storia.shtml)) noted that in the 1930s "President Roosevelt sent several new cabinet members to learn from Mussolini's social programs, including government support for the arts and social security." Mussolini-loyal Italian Americans were certainly not alone in their support of the Axis enemies; Henry Ford was a great admirer of Hitler, sending him money and, allegedly, keeping a picture of the Führer on his desk.

Here in Santa Cruz, restrictions on Italian fishermen grounded a large portion of the wharf fleet for several months in 1942. It is estimated that almost 80 % of California sea fishermen were Italian. The *Santa Cruz Sentinel* of February 12, 1942, says in a headline that "'Fishless' Days Are Predicted," noting the "two trip hammer blows" to the Santa Cruz fishing industry caused by "evacuation of enemy aliens and by enlistment of almost 30 young men in armed services." This article shows the ironic juxtaposition of the Italian Americans as "enemies" and as loyal patriots willing to risk their lives in the war.

Italian-born aliens had to relinquish their guns, cameras, flashlights and shortwave radios. On the coast there was a curfew from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., a limit on travel beyond five



miles from home and a complete ban on travel within the prohibited area near the coast. In Santa Cruz, about 1500 Italians living near the coast were forced to move inland of Highway 1-Mission Street. A February 22, 1942 *Sentinel* article, titled "Clean-up of Aliens Demanded," said few aliens remained "in homes which they must surrender, some after residing in the same places for as long as 40 and 50 years." Two days later, in his waterfront report, Ernest Otto notes that "With numbers of aliens unable to visit the wharf, which is in the prohibited district, the wharf was unusually quiet yesterday. Italian fishermen, picturesque figures, will be greatly missed."

Even citizen fishermen had a hard time of it. Many of their boats were commandeered by the Coast Guard so they could be used to help spot submarines. The irony is that the effectual grounding of the West Coast fishermen came at a time when all Americans were being urged to produce more food to support the war effort.

On Columbus Day, October 12, 1942, US Attorney General Francis Biddle revoked the restrictions against Italian aliens, saying "This does not mean that dangerous or disloyal persons are no longer subject to apprehension or internment. We still

will take no chances. It does mean that the regulations applying, up to now, to alien enemies, no longer apply to Italian aliens. They will be free to participate in the war effort without the handicaps that have hampered them up to now."

Biddle said that his office had investigated all Italians in the US, and continued, "We find that out of a total of 600,000 persons, there has been cause to intern only 228, or fewer than one-twentieth of one percent!" Interned Italians were not released until the fall of Mussolini's government in 1943. Japanese aliens and Japanese Americans were to remain in internment until the end of the war.

In his book *The Unknown Internment: An Oral History of the Relocation of Italian Americans during World War II*, Stephen Fox, gave this incisive analysis of the Italian relocation: "What gives this story its poignance, its irony, and elevated it beyond its locale is its theme: betrayal. It is not about aliens who betrayed their adopted country, nor simply about nativists who betrayed the aliens' trust. It is rather that native-born Americans also betrayed themselves and their professed values. They turned their backs on perhaps the most central of their country's democratic faiths: faith in the idea of America itself. It is one of the sad ironies of World War II, and of American history, that the sunshine patriots who touted the nation's values most vociferously as they championed the country's entry into the war had so little confidence in the promise of America, which they were prepared to defend to the last drop of young American blood in every corner of the globe."

*Endnote: The Unknown Internment and the book version of Una Storia Segreta (Lawrence DiStasi, ed.) are both available at the Santa Cruz Public Library.*

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A poster issued by the US government that associated foreign languages with disloyalty

# Barbie in Iran—has the revolution become skin deep?

By SHAHLA AZIZI  
Pacific News Service

*EDITOR’S NOTE: Makeup, party drugs and anorexic Barbie dolls have a different meaning in Tehran, where personal expression is strictly regulated by religious police, but youth push the boundaries anyway. The question is, can a revolution for freedom be built on Western cultural values? PNS contributor Shahla Azizi (ShahlaAzizi@yahoo.com) is a Western-educated Iranian-American who lives in Tehran with her two children.*

TEHRAN, Iran—It is hard to be an Iranian or just a thinking, feeling, human being, and not be angered and saddened by the state of affairs in Iran. It is even harder to be a woman and a feminist.

Women’s struggle here, of course, is different from the West. As you strive to be considered a full witness in court and have the right to travel without your husband’s permission, for instance, the influence of Barbie on the young female mind becomes a secondary issue. Here, Barbie is the symbol of a woman from a place that gives her equal rights and considers her a full human being—even if she is anorexic.

In this land that claims that one of

imposed hejab. The uniform *Roopoosh*, a coat that covers the body, is now shorter and tighter than ever. It comes in every color, from aubergine to bright pink. The head cover, meant to conceal all the hair (considered by the religious authorities to be a huge turn-on), comes halfway down the head in a state of perpetual suspension. Women use heavy makeup, with eyeliners that accentuate the eyes to the point of making them unavoidable, and lip-glosses that make everyone’s lips like Brigitte Bardot’s.

Fifty percent of the population is under 25. The upper-class youth, the *enfants dores* of this town, spend most of their evenings going to private parties, drinking, doing drugs and dancing to the latest Western electronica music. Rave parties equipped with DJs of the moment are held in secret corners of the Caspian and the Alborz Mountains above Tehran.

From time to time, these parties are raided. Many claim to have been whipped, beaten up, humiliated and mentally abused by the Special Forces (Bassijis), whose job it is to stop this un-Islamic behavior. But most go back

“Here, Barbie is the symbol of a woman from a place that gives her equal rights and considers her a full human being—even if she is anorexic.”

the benefits of *hejab* (Islamic covering for women) is to lessen women’s competitive and excessive preoccupation with appearances, the way a woman looks is everything. With more than 20% unemployment and lack of real opportunity for women, the only way to assure any kind of upward mobility is still a good marriage.

Only now, a good marriage is considered to be one with someone who holds a Western passport, preferably from the United States—an exit to a better life.

Ironically, since there are very few venues or opportunities for men and women to date or even casually mingle, the way a woman looks becomes disproportionately important. It’s hard to impress your character on someone, after all, when you only see them a few times before your formal engagement.

Ever since the coming to power of president Khatami, the only visible reform here has been in the more lax and colorful *hejab* of women and the sounds of more music on the streets. Women can sing in a group, but not individually; the clergy claims it is provocative and too much for men to handle.

Here, women are veiled and silenced in order that the men may not be provoked into sin.

But such religious laws run counter to youthful hormones. Stroll down any uptown street in the evening and you’ll see young men with the latest gelled haircuts and designer jeans cruising the streets in cars.

Prostitution is rampant. The government even tried—without success—to legalize it in order to profit from it, most people say.

Young women push the limits of the

to their partying, sometimes within days of coming out of prison. They boast about these experiences with the youthful zeal of someone having returned from an Outward Bound trip.

These youths are no revolutionaries. They desire freedom, but lack ideology. Having had religion shoved down their throats, they have become nihilists. Often I hear, when people speak about American foreign policy, an outright desire to be attacked by the West. “God willing, they will bomb us too and end our misery,” is a common refrain.

You don’t see an ideological battle any more here, but one of tastes and sexual mores. The next revolution is going to be about freedom of expression. Here, youths fight to be able to listen to Madonna and show a bit of flesh—not to free the oppressed or curb economic injustice. These kids just want capitalism and rock ‘n’ roll. Of course they also want the ability to enter the universities, which are overcrowded, and the economic sphere, burdened with heavy unemployment. But the real driving force behind their behavior and restlessness is the need for individual expression.

After decades of trying to shed the yoke of American imperialism with chants of “death to America,” the majority of the urban population of this nation now believes that only America and American culture—Barbie and all—can bring about the freedom they so desperately seek.

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# Great white guise—Canada replaces its neighborly mask

By DAVID BEERS  
Pacific News service

*EDITOR’S NOTE: Canadian editors and lawmakers are scrambling to make up with America after an aide to their Prime Minister called President Bush a “moron.” But on key issues like UN peacekeeping and immigration policy, writes PNS contributor David Beers, the Great White North will never see eye-to-eye with the United States—despite the friendly mask. Beers (davidbeers@telus.net) is an American-born journalist living in Vancouver, British Columbia. He is author of Blue Sky Dream, a memoir of growing up in Cold War California.*

How mortifying for Canada’s elite when their Prime Minister’s public relations aide called President Bush a moron. Mortifying because Canada had suddenly slipped its mask of the polite and grateful neighbor.

Now the mask is feverishly being put back.

The latest sign: A draft report from parliament, rushed forth Monday, fretting over Canada’s “diminished” diplomatic status with the United States, and urging more weapons spending and tighter borders if that’s what it takes to please its biggest trade partner.

This after the flak resigned over the moron remark. And after, perhaps most tellingly, Canada’s biggest newspaper chain, Canwest, ran unprecedented front-page editorials in its 14 major dailies. The editorial calls the moron remark “a crude and inappropriate insult,” blames it on an “intellectual climate [of] smug anti-Americanism” and instructs readers “to reflect on how much Canada depends on its neighbor, and how much they risk with their harping.”

The wind-up is a stunning about-face for a media conglomerate famously supportive of the party in power: “Canadians’ best interests lie in strong relations with the US and...if government’s attitude toward the US becomes destructive of those ends, it is the duty of the people to alter or abolish the government.”

In other words: our politicians had better butter-up Bush, or be un-elected.

Most Canadians reading that will merely shrug and return to feeling ever more subservient to—and resentful toward—the American mega-power next door.

But the public scold of those editorials, as well as the offending flak’s departure and other make-nice noises from Ottawa will have served their purpose in Washington. Those who run Canada know well the usefulness of pretending a gracious smile.

It’s simple. To shrewdly negotiate from a position of weakness, one must wear a pleasant face.

Negotiating from weakness is a fact of life for Canada when it sits down at the table with the United States, whether to discuss the price of lumber, grain or offing Saddam Hussein. In fact, that’s what US relations really mean to most Canadians—one endless, lopsided negotiation.

But like some jujitsu master who knows how to feint and dodge to use his opponent’s superior muscle against him, Canada is an expert at appeasing the Yanks while solving its own domestic political equation.

And so, for example, you have Cana-



da shrewdly claiming the role of the world’s peacekeeper, when in fact Bangladesh, Fiji and 31 other countries provide more United Nations peacekeeping troops around the world. The peacekeeper ideal plays well at home, distracting Canadians from seeing that their economic fate is, in fact, intertwined with the same oil fields and global markets policed by American military power. That fact is hardly lost on Canada’s leaders, of course, so whenever they are asked to supply a fig leaf of international support for the latest American military adventure, a token battleship flying the maple leaf quickly sets sail.

If this way of playing the game frees up billions of dollars in Canada for, say, a world-class, universal health care system rather than an imperial fighting force, Canadians figure they’ve got the best of that bargain.

Or take immigration policy. Washington wants tighter borders all around fortress North America. But Canada’s leaders are convinced that their nation—vast and lightly settled by a population not reproducing its own numbers—needs a good deal more immigrants just to keep pace economically. Already, Canada accepts nearly twice as many immigrants per capita as does the United States, and the minister in charge wants more let in, until Canada, a nation of 31 million, accepts over 300,000 immigrants a year.

Do this “one percent solution” math in the United States, and you’d see the current annual 850,000 documented immigrants jump to nearly 3 million.

The same Canadian immigration minister has proposed requiring those newcomers to settle in non-urban hinterlands—a century-old Canadian practice that started when railroad investors lured Europeans to the country’s frozen prairies. Nowadays, it’s medical technicians and engineers and investors of any stripe that Canada culls from eager applicants. By policy, the poor and unskilled wait at the back of the line.

So, when Washington demands a deeper suspicion toward immigrants, look to see Canada politely listening. And then shrewdly proceeding to accept the skilled prospects its neighbor has turned away.

Likewise, in doing its bit for the US war on terror, expect Canada to add a few more fig leaves to its military—nothing very expensive.

The mask may have slipped a bit. Unfortunately, yes, most Canadians perceive Dubya Bush to be, if not a moron, the epitome of America as arrogant bully. But Canadians also know Americans prefer to see a smiling partner when they look north. So the mask goes back on, with fingers still firmly crossed behind the back.

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# ‘Coyotes’ win in immigration struggle

By OMAR, AS TOLD TO DAVID BACON  
Pacific News Service

EDITOR’S NOTE: Omar, a retired high school teacher in Guatemala, is a well-known figure in the tiny mountain community of Santa Eulalia, half of whose families now have members working in the United States. He’s a recruiter for the “coyotes,” part of a network of people who send immigrants to the United States. He told PNS associate editor David Bacon (dbacon@igc.org) how the system works. His last name has been omitted to protect him from arrest during visits he still makes to his daughters in the United States.

SANTA EULALIA, Guatemala—The “coyotes” are the real winners. Eight or ten years ago, they were paid \$1,000 to \$1,125 to help people here make the trip to the United States. Nowadays, they charge up to \$5,625. In Guatemala, this is enough money to start a serious business.

In order to come up with it, people have to offer their houses as security and sell their land.

There are usually two ways people travel. One is through Mexican territory, overland, in a van or a car. People have died because the vans are completely sealed. The majority of people leaving Guatemala come from the high plateau, where it’s very cold. For them, crossing the border alone through the desert is a sure death.

Today there are also coyotes who take people by air. They rent a plane in Mexico and take eight or ten. The first stop is Tuxtla Gutierrez, in Chiapas. They make several other refueling stops on the way.

This is an open business. Pretty much any person can point out someone they think is safe to take you to the border. Sometimes people look for me and ask me for a safe contact. I give them a telephone number, and they make the call. Before you know it, they’re gone.

Being a recruiter is a job, just like a real state agent. They tell you what the trip costs, the travel conditions, and if you’ll travel by land or air. They tell you

to take a change of underwear, only one for the whole journey. There’s no time to take a bath or change clothes, and you eat whatever you can. You’re taken to hotels, maybe not good quality ones, but you survive. They give you telephone numbers to call to make arrangements wherever you are.

After people know a coyote can produce results, he gradually increases the price, raising it by \$125 (1,000 quetzales), then another \$125, and then another. The coyotes communicate and decide on the price. When it’s more difficult to cross, they ask for more.

Nowadays, it’s very hard to get a visa. Perhaps out of 1,000 people, only 20 get one. So this is the law of the market: when there’s more demand, the prices rise.

Here in Guatemala, the coyote

“ I don’t feel guilty because I’m not causing harm to anyone. On the contrary, I’m helping people leave a bad economic situation ”

charges about \$1,875 to cover all the expenses for the trip from Guatemala to the US border. At the other end, another payment of \$2,000 to \$2,500 is made. Everybody gets some of that—the coyote, the recruiter, and the guide who travels with the people.

This system has changed things a lot. In 15 days, a coyote can make over \$600 per person, or over \$6,000 for taking 10 people. For the average person here, it takes more than a year of work to earn that much. When people see that a coyote has a two- or three-story home, good cars, and lives in luxury, they want the same things. So they take the road to the United States.

A coyote is a businessman, simply doing a job. Nothing illegal is taking place. It’s illegal to cross the border, but inside Guatemala no laws are being broken. There’s no need for him to bribe the au-

thorities in order to operate freely. Nevertheless, his money does give him power in his own community. Some coyotes even finance political groups so that nobody bothers them. But that’s like any other business.

Terrible things happen to the emigrants, like the recent case of 17 people who drowned while traveling through Mexico. But people who leave without papers must take a risk, the way the coyote does. They have to accept what happens.

I don’t feel guilty because I’m not causing harm to anyone. On the contrary, I’m helping people leave a bad economic situation. As a result of the armed conflict in the 1980s, poverty got worse in our country. Some people don’t have anything to eat, while others have three cars parked in front of their house. We have more than 5 million people without housing. What it takes for a family to survive has been increasing sharply. That’s the basic reason people emigrate to the United States.

In the long run, the immigrant in the United States is solving a problem for the government. When people go north, they save money and build houses back home. The government says that people are sending back hundreds of millions of dollars a year. There are close to a million Guatemalans already in the United States, and people keep leaving Guatemala.

An immigrant getting five dollars an hour for five hours a day in the United States earns the equivalent of 200 quetzales, or \$25. Here in Guatemala, many people earn 25 quetzales per day—about \$3—working from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Money from the north has changed us. In many places now, a small piece of land costs \$25,000—the equivalent of a lifetime of work. If people don’t sell their land so someone can go north, it’s not possible for them to survive with what they earn here. Going north has become a necessity, not a luxury.

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## In Brief

### Low-income Chinese fear loss of benefits

More than 1,100 low-income San Francisco residents will lose state welfare benefits in the coming year and almost half of these recipients are monolingual Chinese speakers with few options, reports the *Sing Tao Daily*.

Low-income Chinese immigrants are often overlooked in what is perceived as an affluent Chinese community, say activists. Supervisor Sophie Maxwell is asking the city to hold a special public hearing to help these residents and others whose CalWorks’ benefits will expire early next year.

CalWorks provides financial assistance, food stamps, healthcare and other benefits to eligible families. Each recipient can only collect the benefit for a life maximum of five years and cannot receive the benefit for more than two consecutive years. —Source: (PNS) Kai Lui, *Sing Tao Daily*,

### US to monitor remittances to the Philippines

The US State Department has asked the Philippines to monitor money sent back to the country from overseas Filipinos. They are concerned the funds are being used to finance terrorist activities, reports *Filipinas* magazine.

Filipinos worldwide send home approximately \$6 billion annually and US Filipinos account for half of that total. While money sent through electronic wiring services and couriers is typically in small increments, it could add up if pooled, said Philippine Finance Secretary Jose Camacho.

American and Philippines officials plan to jointly create a system to monitor remittances. —Source: (PNS) *Filipinas*

### Filipinos set up new legal defense fund

Filipino Americans have created their own legal defense fund to aid the

increasing number of Filipino immigrants being detained or deported as part of the terrorist sweep, reports the *Philippine News*. Many have been scammed by con artists posing as lawyers. Also, public defenders assigned to deportation cases have little immigration law experience, writes Filipino lawyer Rodel Rodis.

Filipino immigrants have come increasingly under scrutiny because of suspected links between the Abu Sayyaf terror gang in the Philippines and al Qaida. More than 300 Filipinos have been deported from January to September of this year, according to the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Half were deported for overstaying their visas and the rest for committing criminal offenses. The INS says it has a list of more than 12,000 Filipinos, who face deportation.

In response, the National Federation of Filipino American Associations has established the defense fund to hire immigration attorneys for the detainees. —Source: (PNS) *Philippine News*



# Eye on the INS

A forum addressing the INS and immigration policy

## ❑ Warm and Fuzzy?

By **MICHELLE STEWART**  
*The Alarm! Newspaper collective*

We are supposed to get warm and fuzzy feelings when large corporations come to the aid of the average immigrant, despite their legal or illegal status. Indeed, it reinforces feelings of confidence in this capitalist system when we hear about the great work Bank of America and/or Wells Fargo are doing *with* immigrants (largely from Mexico). It must be that omnipresent yet vague term “corporate citizenship” at play when a corporation decides to take a step towards including immigrants into its system—an act of inclusion in a society where exclusion seems to be the norm. But are such acts really all that inclusive?

This corporate participation comes in the form of the relatively recent acceptance, by banks and other institutions, of the matricula identification cards issued by the Mexican government to its citizens living in the US. The motivation of the Mexican government to issue these cards has been largely disclosed from the get-go. According to the Fox Administration, stalling between the US and Mexico on immigration talks has led to a need to assert the rights of Mexican citizens—legal or not—living in the US and contributing to its economy. One way to assist these foreign nationals, according to the Fox Administration, is to implement and promote the matricula card program.

The matricula cards are handled by Mexico’s Foreign Ministry, and include information about an individual’s place of birth, date of birth and US address. Much effort has gone into creating cards that are as fraud-proof as possible. This year alone, 800,000 were issued through consular offices.

Issuing these cards has been more than a symbolic act. The Fox Administration has reported relative success in having the card accepted by law enforcement, state and county agencies. Currently 13 states accept the ID as a means to obtain a state driver’s license (Gray Davis declined this opportunity in early Fall this year) and 800 police stations reportedly accept the card, alongside 15 cities and 20 counties. But consider the other group of willing receivers of this type of identification: US banks. To date, nearly 70 banking institutions currently recognize the card as a valid ID that allows individuals to open an account.

Why are banks accepting these cards? Is it that banks, out of the goodness of their hearts and sick of the way immigrants are treated, long to give such immigrants the opportunity to have bank accounts as a secure means to handle their US cash? You might swallow that explanation if you subscribe to the following narrative generated by the Austin police and Wells Fargo.

In 2000, Austin, Texas saw a sharp rise in the number of immigrants being robbed. The underlying factor seemed to be that many immigrants were carrying *all* of their earned cash on them at certain times. Criminals figured out this timing and would rob folks right after payday. This rash of crime sparked an interest on the part of Austin police to formalize the Mexican-issued ID cards. The idea was that if the cards were fraud-proof, the banks would be able to accept them. Working closely with Wells Fargo, the Austin police became central in having the bank create a policy to accept matricula cards. And recently, Wells

Fargo announced that since November 2001, it can credit at least 50,000 new accounts to the matricula system. So, do we celebrate the work of the Austin police and Wells Fargo and see this work as somehow altruistic? Hardly. Consider the following supplemental information before drawing conclusions about the achievements the police and the banks:

The rise in crime in Austin was against both “legal” and “illegal” aliens. It is likely that the Austin police were not very excited about having to expend resources handling and investigating crimes committed against illegal aliens. Couple this law enforcement reluctance with an economic realization on the part of banks. The Mexican government reported last year that immigrants in the US send back approximately ten billion dollars to Mexico each year. This colossal amount of returning revenue serves

“ *Recently, Wells Fargo announced that since November 2001, it can credit at least 50,000 new accounts to the matricula system. So, do we celebrate the work of the Austin police and Wells Fargo and see this work as somehow altruistic?* ”

to support the immigrants’ families and part of Mexico’s economy—indeed, the amount immigrants send back is nearly equal to the revenue Mexico makes from tourism annually.

With this figure in mind, it comes as no surprise that banks realized that various money-wiring companies were making a hefty profit by serving the needs of Mexican immigrants. So, lo and behold we see the Mexican government working in conjunction with US law enforcement and US banking institutions. Strange bedfellows indeed. Put it all together and we find that the Mexican government can plead the rights of immigrants as it issues the matricula cards. It shoves these cards down the throats of law enforcement by insisting they are fraud-proof. In turn the support of law enforcement and the Mexican government facilitates the middleman—the bank. Working together, the primary agents become the bank and the Mexican government. The bank finds its own reward for participation: the service fees it extracts from immigrants to send their money back to Mexico (\$42 at Wells Fargo and \$30–45 at Bank of America—local quotes). On the receiving end, the Mexican government welcomes this windfall of revenue into the Mexican economy. So, what of the immigrant?

Well, in this case it would seem that the immigrant is essentially secondary. Though the Fox Administration claims to be acting in the interest of its foreign nationals living in the US, the bottom line seems to be an earnest interest in assuring that immigrants’ money gets back to Mexico in the most systematic way possible. Whether intentionally or not, it would appear that the Fox Administration and major banking institutions are doing a fine job of obliterating the viability of small money-wiring companies. And it may come as no surprise that these companies charge a fraction

of the cost to send the money out and don’t require an ID from the sender. But, in order to streamline, the Fox Administration is supporting the invasion of US banks into this previously private means of business.

This returns us to the question of whether these are acts of inclusion. The Fox Administration admits it is focused on highlighting the significance of the immigrant to the US economy. But coupled with this assertion is the claim of raising the spotlight on immigrant rights. The Bush Administration, through Colin Powell, has stated that if an accord were to be struck between these two nations it would have to occur in the next year or risk being postponed until after the 2004 elections. Both administrations are willing to admit there is an economic tie between the nations. However, the Bush administration is focusing on the issues

surrounding water rights and the Fox administration is looking at immigration. And just as Bush won’t discuss border patrol issues before a water agreement is made, it appears that Fox is willing to overlook the border patrol issues in favor of guaranteeing that revenue makes it back to Mexico as systematically as possible. Fox’s economic motive may seem unduly cynical, but then again he was the boss of a major multi-national corporation.

So, as both administrations pretend to “deal” with immigration issues, Operation Gatekeeper persists in the desert, the US benefits from imported labor, and the Mexican government is guaranteed an enormous outside revenue base. The only thing that appears to be missing is for the US government to tax the money leaving the country and for Mexico to start a program that actively promotes emigration to the US. Both governments are nowhere near actually challenging and redefining the border relationship, and it appears that this status quo serves the interest of each.

Good work boys! Our warm fuzzy feeling fades, and is replaced by the familiar icy dread of more deaths in the desert and more exploitation of immigrants.

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# Firewall

By **CONN HALLINAN**  
*The Alarm! Newspaper Contributor*

When 200 people showed up at the gates of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory last month demanding the right to “inspect” the sprawling complex for “weapons of mass destruction,” the press either ignored it or dismissed it as clever political theater.

But people had better start paying attention to what Livermore, and its sister labs at Los Alamos and Sandia, are up, which includes:

- Undermining the 1972 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty;
- Sabotaging the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty;
- Testing bio-weapons in the heart of the Bay Area.

The demand for “immediate, unimpeded, unconditional and unrestricted access” to Livermore—language lifted from the UN Security Council resolution on Iraq—might seem tongue-in-cheek, but representatives from California Peace Action, Tri-Valley CARES, Western States Legal Foundation, and Veterans for Peace were dead serious. “We are demanding an end to all weapons of mass destruction,” Tara Dorabji of Tri-Valley CARES told the crowd, “whether developed in the suburbs by the University of California scientists or in Iraq.”

The labs are flush with cash these days, and they are gearing up to create a new generation of nuclear weapons explicitly designed for use in conventional wars. And if that isn’t scary enough, they are also seeking Biosafety Level 3 permits to grow and test anthrax, bubonic plague, Ebola fever and biotoxins.

Behind this program are two lab honchos, Stephen Younger of Los Alamos (now at the Pentagon) and Paul Robinson, director of Sandia. The former is pushing to build a “bunker busting” nuke, and the latter for the creation of what he calls “low yield weapons with highly accurate delivery systems for deterrence in the non-Russian world.” Translation: We nuke people as long as we are sure they can’t nuke us back.

Congress has already allocated \$15 million to study development of a Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator, and both Los Alamos and Livermore are working on different versions of it. And if we build it, we will test it, since it would be folly to deploy an untested weapon.

Secretary of State Colin Powell claims that the Administration is “not devel-

oping new nuclear weapons and not planning to undergo any testing.” However, Paul Wolfowitz, Deputy Defense Secretary, says the US must “contemplate” returning to testing and the Department of Energy has already started upgrading the Nevada Nuclear Test Site. There goes the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Just in case you aren’t up on international treaties, this development is also a material violation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which forbids the development of new weapons. It also trashes Article VI of that Treaty, which requires the nuclear powers to negotiate in good faith to abolish nuclear weapons. Lastly, it violates the Treaty section that forbids threatening non-nuclear nations with nukes. Pretty much a clean sweep.

The push for the “bunker buster” is part of the Bush Administration’s Nuclear Posture Review, which argues that “nuclear and nonnuclear strike systems” be considered just another “option” to “complement other military capabilities.”

Which, as US Rep. Edward J. Markey points out, is pretty insane, “A new bunker-busting nuclear earth penetrator sends exactly the wrong message to the world. At a time when we are trying to discourage other countries—such as North Korea—from developing nuclear weapons, it looks hypocritical for us to be preparing to introduce a whole new generation of nuclear weapons into the arsenal.”

Developing an earth penetrator will require miniaturizing warheads, and the Tennessee Valley Authority has already begun a \$3.25 million program to produce radioactive hydrogen, or Tritium. The latter is a “blast enhancer” that gives small warheads a big bang. If this technology ever gets out, some terrorist organizations won’t need a shipping container to hide a nuke. An overnight bag will do just fine.

Even the mission of the labs to “monitor” the safety of nuclear weapons, the so-called Strategic Stockpile and Stewardship Program and its companion, the National Ignition Facility, has been perverted for weapon designing. The projected “Laser/Fireball” test, for instance, can be used to simulate low-yield nuclear warhead explosions.

All of this is aimed at breaking the firewall that has kept nuclear weapons on the shelf since Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Maintaining that firewall is in our own interests, since breaching it, as Princeton physicist Frank von Hippel points out, “would make it permissible for others to use them against us.”

*To contact Tri-Valley Cares, go to [www.trivalleycares.org](http://www.trivalleycares.org). A Canadian group has also formed to send weapons inspectors to US facilities. They can be found at [www.rootinggoutevil.org](http://www.rootinggoutevil.org).*

## Supercomputing and nuclear weapons

By **HALIE JOHNSON**  
*The Alarm! Newspaper Collective*

IBM is working with nuclear research laboratories in the US to develop a new supercomputer they’re calling the ASCI Purple. Like many of the nation’s fastest computers, the ASCI Purple will be used to simulate nuclear tests of the US’s nuclear weapons stockpile. Skeptics fear that the US is preparing technology for the development of new nuclear weapons and subsequent weapons testing.

This November, US Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham announced the \$290 million contract with IBM at the SuperComputing 2002 confer-

ence in Baltimore. The contract is also for a second, even faster supercomputer—the Blue Gene/Lite—for the Department of Energy. This computer will be used to research global climate change and atmospheric pollution, including that created by nuclear power and nuclear weapons testing. IBM aims to connect the two machines so they will work together.

The ASCI Purple and the Blue Gene/Lite will operate out of the Department of Energy’s Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories, which is managed by the University of California.

The Japanese company, NEC, currently leads the race for the world’s



Photo courtesy of Emily Hell

A man calling himself the Mad Scientist has a question for Lawrence Livermore.

## The threat of nuclear war could become a reality

By **HALIE JOHNSON**  
*The Alarm! Newspaper Collective*

### The Nuclear War in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

In the twenty-first century there are increasing signs that the US is working to restore and improve its nuclear capabilities over the next 20–50 years. The Nuclear Posture Review (NPR), introduced to Congress in December 2001, shows that the Department of Defense has plans to repair and upgrade a portion of the 10,700 nuclear warheads in the nation’s stockpile. The NPR also pointed to plans to design a new type of nuclear weapon, an act that would defy the Non-Proliferation Treaty signed by 182 nations including the US.

General Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told CNN in March, “This preserves for the president all the options that a president would want to have in case this country or our friends and allies were attacked with weapons of mass destruction, be they nuclear, biological, chemical, or, for that matter, high explosives.”

Critics of Bush’s nuclear plans point out the danger that comes with improving upon the nation’s current capabilities. Ivo Daalder of the Brookings Institute notes, “Throughout the nuclear age, the fundamental goal has been to prevent the use of nuclear weapons. Now the policy has been turned upside down.” He goes on to explain, “It is to keep nuclear weapons as a tool of war fighting rather than a tool of deterrence. If military planners are now to consider the nuclear option any time they confront a surprising military development, the distinction between nuclear and non-nuclear weapons fades away.”

Why is such a distinction so important? As nuclear weapons research analyst Dr. Robert Civiak explains, such an option “sanctions the threat of nuclear force as a legitimate means of conducting diplomacy.” Civiak feels that the Bush administration’s approach “only heightens other nation’s resolve to obtain nuclear weapons for their own defense.”

### Disclosure of the Nuclear Posture Review

On December 31, 2001 an unclassified and a classified version of the Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) were submitted to Congress by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld (the unclassified version consisted of a three page forward and a series of slides, the classified version was 55 pages long). The NPR is a review of the US’s projection for the next five to ten years in regards to the potential use of nuclear weapons.

In March of this year, much to the administration’s horror, a leaked version of the classified NPR was highlighted in an article in the *Los Angeles Times* and published on the website [Globalsecurity.org](http://Globalsecurity.org). The article revealed seven countries as potential targets for the use of nuclear weapons: Russia, China, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Iran and North Korea. The unsettling report came as a shock and threat to the nations listed. China demanded an explanation from the Bush administration and North Korea warned that any nuclear action taken against the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea would result in the US’s “ruin in nuclear disaster.”

### The Threat of Lowering the Threshold for Use of Nuclear Weapons & Rejecting the Non-Proliferation Treaty

Concern and controversy are buzzing about the National Nuclear Security Administration’s (NNSA) funding of a “low-yield” nuclear weapon, which nuclear laboratories are calling the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator. (The NNSA was formed in 2000 as part of the Department of Energy (DOE) to manage the nation’s nuclear stockpile and related tasks.) The new weapon is designed to propel downwards from an airplane driven by a rocket engine into the earth with great force, hypothetically penetrating dozens of feet into the ground before the nuclear explosion is set off. The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Northern California

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# Me and Ricky

□ 'Seaport Security' as a longshoreman sees it

By **HARRY STAMPER**  
*Pacific News Service*

*EDITOR'S NOTE: A longshoreman reflects on the recently passed seaport security bill and wonders if an attempt to eliminate terror risks will disturb the rich tradition of freedom, work and friendship on America's docks and elsewhere. PNS contributor Harry Stamper (h.stamper@charter.net) is a longshoreman in North Bend, Oregon.*

NORTH BEND, Ore.—I was driving along in my car when news of the Senate vote came over the radio. They voted 95–0 for legislation requiring America's 361 seaports to develop security plans.

I'm a longshoreman who works in a small port in Oregon. The radio said the bill will establish "secure areas" at ports; workers in such areas will undergo background checks and carry identification cards. A "maritime intelligence system" within the Coast Guard will collect information on vessels and their cargoes and crews.

I'm skeptical. After all, what are they going to do about me and Ricky Provido?

I first saw Ricky across the deck of a log ship loading out of Coos Bay, Ore. Our eyes met with the mischievous familiarity of young men everywhere when they find themselves enmeshed in a situation so crazily beyond their control they can only laugh and silently ask each other where they bought their disguises.

We were loading logs aboard the *Sea Light*, a Philippine cargo ship bound for China. We were carefully placing each load so a summer's worth of work for a timber company in Oregon could be lashed tight enough to make it through the waiting ocean storms as the ship plowed through the waves to its destination.

My job was to signal the placement of the load, and then to unhook the heavy slings that were used to lift the logs. Ricky's job was to make sure I did it right. He was the Third Officer on the *Sea Light*, and he would be the one awakened in the monsoon darkness of the open sea if the cargo started to shift, or the thick lashing cable snapped like a worn-out shoelace.

Our supervisors watched from the ship's bridge like battle commanders checking their troops through heavy lenses. We understood they couldn't see the holes in the load, or know if the logs were tight against the restraining stanchions.

After a short time Ricky and I began to talk. He was an officer in the Philippine Navy who held two college degrees and spoke three languages. He had earned the certification papers for

captain and was capable and licensed to pilot the ship we were working on. He owned a home in Manila, where he provided food and shelter for eight members of his family, including his mother and several cousins. He was working his way up the promotion ladder, waiting for vacancies to occur in the company hierarchy.

Ricky and I spent the afternoon break sitting in his cabin looking at pictures of his family. He mentioned how much he loved music and took me to the main dining area to show me some stars painted on the floor. Each star carried the name of a crew member in the ship's band. The instruments lined the walls, a sorry array of broken strings and taped-together drums. I told them I was a guitar player and was promptly invited to dinner as an honored guest.

We had a wonderful dinner, with much laughter and many stories, and we played music until early evening. We sang the Beatles in Spanish, and I passed my beautiful guitar around.

I left just as the summer sun was setting, bathing the deserted dock in slanted, golden light.

As I walked to my car, I realized the guitar case in my hand could contain contraband of a hundred different kinds. My intentions were not even in that hemisphere, but I suddenly knew that any paranoid, over-zealous protector of our soil could have read any horror story they could think of into my actions.

There is no way that waterfront security, or any security for that matter, can be broken down into a formula that will take into account my relationship with the officers and crew of the *Sea Light*. The leaders of this country are actually convincing people that every rivet can be checked, every fuel tank measured for verification, every sailor in the world authenticated and every enemy discovered.

It can't be done, no matter how much money we spend. We need a system of defense, and we need policies that strengthen our purpose, our very resolve as a democratic people. But we can't do it with the ghost of Joe McCarthy haunting the centers of our lives and hearts. Our government is asking us for acceptance of a new kind of seaport security in exchange for a lessening of our ability to live our lives on the docks as we have long done, in a way that has worked.

I don't think it's much of a bargain, and neither does Ricky Provido. He's somewhere down south, last I heard.

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and the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico are both working on designs for the weapon. The NPR promotes such a weapon, stating: "With a more effective earth penetrator, many buried targets could be attacked using a weapon with a much lower yield than would be required with a surface burst weapon." The NPR went on to advise a study entertaining the concept to start in April, 2002.

The idea to design and manufacture a low-yield nuclear weapon was first introduced on June 27, 2000. Stephen Younger at the time was Associate Laboratory Director of Nuclear Weapons at Los Alamos and the head nuclear weapons designer. In a paper calling for

"significant modifications" to the US's nuclear capabilities, Younger explains the advantages of low-yield nuclear weapons and encourages their development before other nations have the time to match US capabilities.

Dr. Robert Civiak warned in an analysis of the Bush administration's nuclear plans, "Development of a new Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator weapon could also harm the security of the US by lowering the threshold of use of nuclear weapons." Civiak went on to observe "The nuclear weapon genie has been put back into the bottle for 60 years....If the US were to release the horror of nuclear weapons once again, even for a limited attack against a reviled enemy, there would be little hope that the genie could be locked up again for long."

# Global Prestige sullies Galacian seas

By **FHAR MIESS**  
*The Alarm! Newspaper Collective*



Photo courtesy Spanish Coast Guard

## Oil washes up on the Spanish coast

The oil tanker *Prestige* split in two and sank off of the coast of Spain on November 19, spilling its cargo of Russian fuel oil into the sea and sullying the Galacian coastline. The disaster has caused a storm of controversy regarding liability and responsibility for the vessel and its demise. Spain and Portugal have traded accusations, and Spain has also pointed the finger at the UK territory of Gibraltar, where Spanish authorities claim the *Prestige* had recently refueled without European Union-mandated inspection.

The tanker itself has an incredibly convoluted history. It was manufactured in Japan in the 70s, owned by Mare Shipping, Inc.—a Liberian company based in Athens—and chartered by a Greek firm called Universe Maritime, Ltd., which registered the ship under the flag of the Bahamas. The ship was carrying cargo owned by Crown Resources AG, a Swiss commodity-trading company, which is in turn owned by a Russian conglomerate named Alfa Group. It was insured against liability by a UK-based protection and indemnity (or P&I) club, London Steamship Owners' Mutual Association. Such P&I clubs collect insurance premiums from their members and pool the risks with other P&I clubs around the globe.

This maze of international connections and interdependencies reflects the global nature of globalized shipping patterns, not just in its complexity, but also in its vulnerability to exploitation by profiteering corporations and private dynasties.

To a certain extent, oil spills are encouraged by the complex interrelationship of shippers, charterers, owners and insurers. In the windfall of the spill, for instance, Crown Resources AG can expect to reap a \$1 million profit from insurance claims, an amount twice what it would have earned by selling the oil on the market.

Much of the reason for the disrepair of the tanker that caused it to break apart in the Atlantic can be attributed to its pedigree. Mare Shipping leased the ship to Universe Maritime under an a contract known as a "bareboat charter". A bareboat charterer assumes responsibility for the minutiae of running the ship and, under the laws of certain nations, Liberia among them, it may register the ship in a country different from its nation of ownership. Ostensibly, this is done to allow shippers to register all of a fleet of ships under the same flag. But the loophole in international law allows the primary beneficiaries of the ship to take advantage of tax shelters, lax environmental, labor and safety regulations, inconsistent (i.e., bribable) enforcement of the same or swift (somewould say "hasty") processing of applications.

For this reason, these are called "flag of convenience" (FOC) countries, and they include such nations as the Ba-

hamas, Cambodia, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Malta, Liberia, Cayman Islands and Myanmar, among many others.

In addition to the poor environmental and safety regulations that led to the sinking of the *Prestige*, FOC countries tacitly permit the owners to pay seafarers sub-standard wages, employ them in sub-standard working conditions and prevent them from organizing in unions. All of these elements combine in enormous profits for the beneficial owners, shippers, commodity traders, corrupt governments and, in some cases, producers. The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) has had an ongoing campaign against the FOC system for 55 years, and environmental groups have more recently joined the campaign. Days after the *Prestige* spill, activists with Greenpeace attempted to block the departure of its "sister shipment" from Estonia aboard the *Byzantio*. Like the *Prestige*, the *Byzantio* is a single-hull oil tanker manufactured in Japan in the 70s. It was also chartered by the same Crown Resources, carrying the same Russian fuel oil and registered under another FOC, this time Maltese. The activists blocked the ship's passage for some time and hung a banner reading "HAZARD" on its hull, but were unable to thwart it in the end.

Despite the dangers to workers and the environment, the over half-century old campaign against the FOC system has been met with little support from governments. Many developed nations are, however, rethinking their positions, largely because the difficulty of tracing actual ownership. Control over international shipping is now being exploited as much by global terrorists as by global capitalists. Osama bin Laden is thought to have been able to smuggle munitions in al-Qaida's 1998 attack against US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania aboard FOC ships he ultimately owned. In an experiment, reporters with the London *Guardian* filed a bogus online registration application with a Singapore-based Cambodian registry under the name of Zacarias Moussaoui (the famed "20th hijacker" in the September 11, 2001 attacks) without arousing any apparent suspicion.

However, with the profits of the upper echelons of the global economy so dependent on the FOC system, measures such as the recently-approved US Senate Seaport Security Bill—which address some security concerns without addressing environmental, labor and safety concerns—are more likely to prevail.

Maritime Issues

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SPOTLIGHT: Whose Security?

# 9/11 Probe: Bush gets his way again

By MIKE WU  
The Independent

The question “How did this happen?” still lingers. Many relatives of the victims of the September 11 attacks and politicians have been asking this. They have been pressing the government for a broad inquiry, but thanks to an obstinate White House, the investigation will not be as far-reaching or as unbiased as they would have liked.

Various groups of relatives and congressmen had been at loggerheads with the White House for months over the details. Bush and company won two major concessions: the ability to appoint a chairman, and raising the number of votes required for a subpoena to be issued from five to six out of the eleven commission members. The proposal passed the House and Senate as an attachment to the Intelligence Authorization Bill.

“They kept saying ‘We just have this little thing to fix.’ So we fixed that, and they would come up with three other things,” says Stephen Push, whose wife, Lisa J. Raines, died in the plane that crashed into the

Pentagon. “We’re not crazy about the president appointing the chairman, but our greatest concern was the subpoena power.”

The time frame of the investigation and the various topics it will be investigating were two issues the relatives of victims fought for and won. The time span is limited to two years, with the committee having the ability to turn in its findings earlier. Also key to the agreement was the role that Senator John McCain (R-Arizona) would play. One of the Republican appointees must meet his approval. The proposal would not have been approved otherwise.

“As long as Sen. McCain has one of the picks, and the others are people of integrity, then we’re guardedly optimistic about this investigation,” Push said.

The battle was intense. The White House wanted a chairperson of its choice, and it wanted the Republicans to be able to block subpoenas. Acceptance of those proposals would have prevented the commission from being bipartisan and from investigating whatever and whomever it wished. The Bush administration also wanted the commission to wrap up its findings within a year.

Senators from both parties believed they would need at least 18 months to two years to complete the probe. That length of time would have meant the report (and any embarrassing

findings) would come out in the middle of President George W. Bush’s re-election campaign.

Bush and company also called for sharp limits on the scope of the investigation. Rather than focusing on intelligence, the White House wanted the independent commission to investigate other areas, including aviation security, border control, immigration policy and the response of the North American Aerospace Defense Command.

The demand for limits on the scope of the investigation was especially stinging for those who lost loved ones. “More than half an hour after the second Trade Tower attack, the Pentagon was attacked. Why weren’t jets scrambled to intercept that airliner?” Push asked.

The actions of the White House caused many to question the administration’s real intentions. Senator Joseph I. Lieberman (D-Connecticut) asked the White House, “Do you really want to allow this commission to be created? And if you don’t, why not?”

A coalition of four groups of families issued a statement saying they could not understand why the administration declared it supported an investigation “while apparently doing everything in its power to prevent the commission from being established.”

Leaders of family groups promised a high-pressure campaign against the Bush administration if the commission proposal was rejected. Not long after that, an agreement was reached. Commission members may be appointed as soon as Dec. 15.

## Slipping through the Condor’s Clutches

By MICHELLE STEWART  
The Alarm! Newspaper Collective

It seems that individuals may be slipping through the clutches of operation Visa Condor, a visa program put in place over the summer by the Bush Administration.

Men between the ages of 16–45 (from specific countries) are required to fill out the Supplemental Nonimmigrant Visa Application, Form DS-157. The agency that handles the application then decides if the applicant is subject to a Condor background check. Various factors are taken into account to decide if the application sparks this type of investigation, which can add an additional 30 days to application processing time.

This program of profiling was assumed to be running smoothly, until the General Accounting Office—the investigative branch of Congress—released its findings that the system was critically impaired.

In these times of constant transition, the GAO reported that the failure of Visa Condor was be-

By IMC STAFF  
The Independent

“Smile, you’re on virtual candid camera. If the Pentagon has its way, every American—from the Nebraskan farmer to the Wall Street banker—will find themselves under the accusatory cyberstare of an all-powerful national security apparatus.” Those were the words of Laura W. Murphy, director of the American Civil Liberties Union Washington National Office as the federal government prepared to okay the massive Homeland Security Act.

The Senate approved the sweeping legislation on November 19, a week after the House, and the bill is expected to be on the president’s desk by the end of November.

Senator Robert Byrd (D-WV) called the Act the most farreaching legislation he has seen in his 50 years in Washington. The ACLU, Byrd and conservative New York Times columnist William Safire were among the few warning the country about what might follow.

In a November 14 column titled “You Are a Suspect,” Safire wrote: “Every purchase you make with a credit card, every magazine subscription you buy and medical prescription you fill, every web site you visit and e-mail you send or receive, every academic grade you receive, every bank deposit you make, every trip you book and every event you attend—all these transactions and communications will go into what the Defense Department describes as ‘a virtual, centralized grand database.’”

The plan includes a project named Total Information Awareness. It calls for the world’s most expansive electronic surveillance system to be run by the Information Awareness Of-

cause responsibility for screening was shuffled between the CIA, FBI, the State Department and the Foreign Terrorist Tracking Task Force (a larger multi-agency entity). This shuffling of responsibility led to many applicants being left in limbo or being issued visas *without* the results of the screening taken into consideration.

According to the GAO, the most significant factor in the failure of the Visa Condor program stems from different approaches in the two major agencies involved in applicant screenings.. Whereas the State Department requires explicit reasons to deny an application, the Justice Department feels the burden is on the applicant to *prove* their right to a visa—in the case of the latter, visas can be denied if there is information lacking on the application.

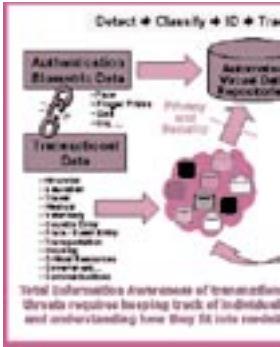
Ultimately, the approach taken by the Justice Department is largely the policy many lawmakers are wishing to employ. The guiding logic, then, is that applicants must provide all the information they have at their disposal and those applications that come up short in information will be subject to refusal.

Of course a program of this type—agency miscommunications aside—is a large undertaking. By April 2002, the FBI reportedly had a backlog (from the State Department) of approximately 8,000 “unchecked” applicants.

Coupled with the backlog is the recent finding that 105 applicants were granted visas despite a refusal recommendation by the State Department. This slip-up caused Senator Charles E. Grassley (R-Iowa ), a member of the Judiciary Committee, to comment: “The left hand doesn’t know what the right hand is doing.” Grassley demanded federal officials comply with an investigation into the matter. According to the agencies, the State Department refusal recommendation in these cases had arrived *after* the 30-day hold expired. The timing resulted in the visas being issued to people who should have been refused under Visa Condor program standards.

Indeed, the right hand and the left hand are operating independent of one another. It leads us to wonder what will happen when 22 agencies, with over 170,000 workers, all come together under the Department of Homeland Security. That’s a lot of right and left hands to coordinate.

# Big Brother



This chart illustrates information on individuals processed and acted

fice, which could monitor the name of the war on terrorism will not be needed.

Heading the project is Security Adviser Admiral James L. Jones, who may be best known for his felonies for lying to Congress thousands of government employees during the Iran-Contra Affair.

According to critics, the Act goes much further than the electronic Big Brother.

Says Byrd, “It is a violation of personal liberties. It is a violation of privacy rights of our people. The checks and balances of the separation of powers of the American people are being destroyed.”

Under the language of the Homeland Security Act, the government in 50 agencies and more than

- Represents the largest surveillance system the government in 50 agencies and more than

## Terrorism

By FHAR MIESS  
The Alarm! Newspaper Collective

George W. Bush signed the Terrorism Insurance Act of 2002, vowing to back up property and casualty policies covering terrorist infrastructure. The act that insurance companies and reinsurers (compared to similar policies. Policyholders to accept the extra coverage.

No, actually, the act signed that day was the Terrorism Insurance Act of 2002, vowing to back up property and casualty policies covering terrorist infrastructure. The act that insurance companies and reinsurers (compared to similar policies. Policyholders to accept the extra coverage.

The intended message could be summed up in a dress on the issue in we’re taking action in America’s economy, to benefit America’s investors and America’s workers.” enforce his point by his by six union construction work-clothes.

According to lawmakers, the administration, the legislation encourage rebuilding damaged by the September 11 attacks. They claim that has been set back by the insurers and reinsurers (compared to the sharing of very large liabilities amongst many insurance companies liability) to assume the risk against terrorist attacks.

However, a number of companies including Wells Fargo and Won Sohn, quoted in the Post—have stated that the delays in the redevelopment of real estate has been a result of the reluctance of insurance





# er Arrives



## How the flow of information is gathered, stored, upon

monitor everyone in the error. Search warrants

is former National Security John Poindexter, who being convicted of five Congress and destroying documents in the

the Homeland Security than creating an elec-

a compromise of our a compromise of the ple. It is a compromise ces. It is a compromise ers. It is a compromise s's right to know."

approved by the House, Act:

argest reorganization of years, consolidating 22 n 170,000 government

workers under the power of the White House;

- Strips civil service protections from these employees by allowing the White House to summarily fire or transfer anyone in the Homeland Security Department

- Empowers the president to secretly reallocate funds within the department, usurping Congress' constitutional power to budget funds;

- Exempts the department from the Freedom of Information Act including information that private companies provide the government. (The Albany Times Union notes that the following scenario could occur: A company that knowingly violated pollution laws could hide its wrongdoing, and escape lawsuits, simply by voluntarily providing the information to the government. The information would then become classified, barring whistleblowers from disclosing anything.)

In addition, according to the American Association of Physicians and Surgeons, a section of the bill titled "Administration of Counter Measures against Smallpox" would allow the government to administer "forced immunizations, detainment and quarantines."

In Congressional testimony in September Byrd noted, "The President has proclaimed that we are entering a 'new era,' one that will resemble the Cold War in its concerns for national security. His proposal marks a disturbing start for this era and I am afraid may be a sign of things to come. The Cold War began with an iron curtain descending over Europe. Under this bill, the war on terror may have begun with an iron curtain descending around our government."

## m—get used to it

ollective

signed legislation on 6 that sends a strong ntial terrorists and the victims of large-scale "We're ready for you." gence-gathering pow- priation for advanced g rogue elements and cture of terror?"

legislation Mr. Bush he Terrorism Risk In- which provides federal nd casualty insurance rist attacks on domes- ne act also mandates anies offer terrorism es that rates be com- non-terrorism-related s, however, don't have verage.

age of the legislation in Bush's public ad- a New York: "Today to strengthen Amer- uild confidence with nd to create jobs for He attempted to re- aving himself flanked ction workers in their

makers and the ad- slation is intended to of infrastructure dam- ber 11, 2001 terrorist at this redevelopment ne reluctance of insur- mpanies that facilitate rge and high-risk poli- nsurers to spread the e risk of indemnifying is.

er of economists—in- chief economist Sung by the "Washington at the reason for de- oment of commercial sluggish economy, not rers and reinsurers to

get back into what is termed the "pool of terror risk" in industry parlance.

The federal government has pledged to provide a maximum of \$100 billion dollars to cover 90% of insurers' losses above a given deductible in the event of another terrorist attack, a commitment that amounts to a federal insurance policy for insurers.

While certain segments of the insurance industry that were already offering terrorism insurance were pleased with the legislation, opposition has come from many fronts. Consumer groups protested what amounts to a tax-payer subsidy to the insurance industry while free-market advocates have denounced the government's intrusion into an industry that would eventually adjust itself to the changing political and economic landscape.

Economic analysts such as Standard & Poors indicated that the measure would not bode well for the insurance industry, which is prohibited to a large extent from adjusting terrorism insurance policy rates to compensate for changes in the level of risk—risk which at this point is difficult to quantify.

As economists, insurers, policy-makers and bureaucrats jostle to incorporate the new legislation, key questions are not being asked. The most crucial of these is to what extent terrorism is inevitable. The fact that another large-scale terrorist attack, or several, will occur on American soil in the near future has been taken as a given. The "pool of terror risk" is not something to be questioned, but something to be quantified over time. The root causes of terrorist attacks against US interests (e.g., increasingly hawkish and repressive US foreign policy) are not to be examined except insofar as they affect insurance premiums. Indeed, this seems to have been the deeper message pronounced by Bush as he stood with mannequins for the working class in the background: "There will be more terrorist attacks against Americans. Don't ask why, just get used to it."

# Bush to privatize 850K federal jobs for 'market based government'

By SHAWN GAYNOR  
Asheville Global Report

Asheville, NC, Nov. 20 (AGR)—In a bold post-midterm-election move, President Bush announced plans to cut nearly half of all federal jobs, and allow private companies to bid for the work. According to the AFL-CIO, prior to the election, Bush had been calling for the privatization of 15% of federal jobs.

The privatization move mirrors some of the "structural adjustment" programs that have been forced on weaker nations by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank. These programs have lead to a decrease in wages, a destabilization of economies and an accelerated concentration of wealth in the hands of the rich.

"This administration is selling the federal government at bargain basement prices to their corporate friends, who then make campaign contributions back," said Bobby L. Harnage, President the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE). "This is not about saving money, it's about moving money to the private sector." The union represents 600,000 federal workers.

The jobs have become open to privatization because of the rewriting of the OMB Circular A-76, which governs the public-private competition process. The administration believes this process doesn't allow contractors to take federal employee jobs often enough or fast enough.

Federal employee trade unions vowed on Friday to keep fighting plans by the Bush administration to open nearly half of government jobs to competition from the private sector, but the new concentration of federal power in the traditionally anti-union Republican party leaves unions with little recourse.

According to the Associated Press, "After a 30-day public review period, [President] Bush can impose the new rules without congressional approval."

The plan is said to involve only workers in "commercial activities," which the corporate mainstream media has characterized as "lawn mowing." In reality the privatization will likely include such government services as the running of federal prisons and national parks.

The Government Accounting Office has determined that public-private competition will save taxpayers 30 % on each contract. But Paul Light of the Brookings Institute

said "They may low-bid to get the contract, and once the Federal Government denudes itself of its capacity, they start ratcheting up their costs."

The move comes as the House and Senate voted to create the new Office of Homeland Security, the largest shift in government programs since the New Deal. The legislation mandates the elimination of union rights and whistleblower protections for over 170,000 federal workers who will be moved from 22 federal agencies into the newly created department. Many of these workers currently belong to unions.

"Undermining the collective bargaining rights and civil service protections of federal employees on the front lines of the war on terrorism does not improve the security of our homeland," stated Harnage "Now we see the real White House agenda—it's not homeland security, it's union busting," said Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

"This proposal means that the safety of our communities could be entrusted to the administration's favorite companies and their lobbyists instead of to dedicated, trained federal workers. It's wrong to entrust our homeland security to the lowest bidder," he said.

Also buried in the 484 pages of the new Homeland Security legislation are provisions relaxing rules on giving federal contracts to overseas companies, opening the door for federal jobs to be out-sourced to countries notorious for sweatshop labor practices.

"How serious are [Republicans] about coming up with a good bill if they're going to protect companies who declare that they don't want to do business in the United States of America, to avoid paying taxes?" asked Tom Daschle, the Democratic Senate leader.

To contact Asheville Global Report visit their website: [www.AGRNews.org](http://www.AGRNews.org)

SPOTLIGHT: Whose Security?

## SO IT GOES

by Charlie Padow



cpadow@yahoo.com

11/21

CPADOW02



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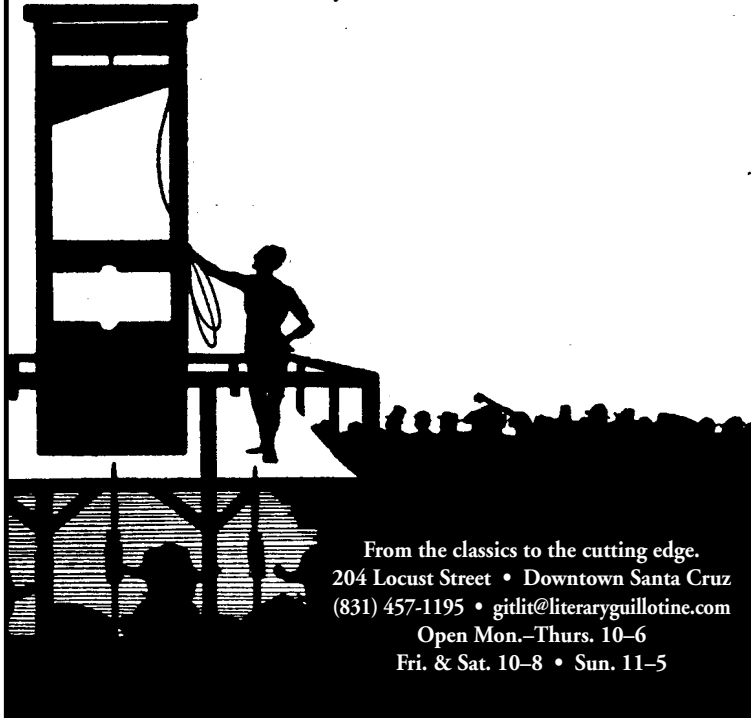
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## War Notes

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

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

### Where is Iraq, anyhow?

A recent poll found that only 13% of Americans could find Iraq on a map of the Mideast. Meanwhile up to 60% of Americans support a war with Iraq, although the number drops significantly when asked if America had to conduct the war alone.

### Bush on Iraq

Contrary to all the statements coming out of the UN and the UN inspection team in Iraq, President Bush said this week that it doesn't seem like Iraq is cooperating with the inspectors. "In the inspections process, the United States will be making one judgment: Has Saddam Hussein changed his behavior of the last eleven years? Has he decided to cooperate willingly and comply completely, or has he not? So far the signs are not encouraging," Bush said Monday at the Pentagon.

This is a sign of things to come: war. As expected, Bush administration is indicating that isn't interested in inspections at all, but in destroying the Iraqi army, killing Saddam Hussein and opening Iraq's oil to exploitation.

As evidence of the supposed lack of cooperation, Bush noted that Iraq had fired on British and US planes flying in the no-fly zone and the letters of protest Iraq sent the UN. While Security Council resolution 1441, which authorizes the new inspection regime, does state that Iraq cannot fire on UN planes or planes contributing to the inspections operation, this does not seem to apply to the no-fly-zone flights. The no-fly-zone is not set up under UN authorization.

### Empire

"We have no territorial ambitions, we don't seek an empire," President Bush remarked on Veterans Day. He continued, "Our nation is committed to freedom for ourselves and for others." The word "empire" has certainly been flowing from the pens of the Left this fall. But what is the nature of this empire so talked about these days? And do these recent comparisons to the Roman Empire make sense? Perhaps Bush isn't completely wrong in stating that the US has no territorial ambitions. Alain Joxe, of the Interdisciplinary Center for Research on Peace in France, suggests that the US is constructing a different sort of empire, an empire of disorder. In a new book entitled *Empire of Disorder* (Semiotext(e)), Joxe says the US has refused the imperial role of conquering and subjugating peoples and territories, and instead "it operates on a case-by-case basis, regulating disorder, repressing the symptoms of despair instead of attacking its cause." The chaos of the post-Cold War world is brought about by capitalist globalization, which has increased the divide between rich and poor nations. Instead of trying to solve this problem, the US, manager of this chaos, has attempted to push the chaos to the margins of the world. And it is in these marginal and impoverished regions that the US has unleashed its violent repression, destroying then moving on to other cases of disorder.

The US has no vision or plan to solve the root cause of disorder in the world. "For the first time perhaps, humanity has embarked on an ocean of disorder



with no final order in sight," remarks Joxe. Any such plan would upset America's utopian, neo-liberal dream of a free market of chaos from which to extract its profit.

All the US center of this empire of chaos can offer the poor of the world is a high-tech, permanent war, a war that Vice President Cheney has said will probably last more than a lifetime. Since the first Gulf War, the military has even come up with new theories of war to accomplish this task of managing and marginalizing global disorder; in this "asymmetrical war" new technologies will be vital. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has backed a plan for a Revolution in Military Affairs that stresses high-tech, lightweight and mobile military forces, especially precision bombing to take care of "hot spots." In the long run, this Revolution in Military Affairs will be used to suppress and destroy any revolution in social affairs that could put an end to neo-liberal capitalism's asymmetrical economy.

### China-Russia-India

Many other nations, of course, are weary of this US-centered, empire of chaos. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, there has been talk in Russia of building closer relations with China and India to counterbalance the global power of the US. This week Russian President Putin traveled to both India and China to do just that. In meetings with Chinese and Indian leaders in their respective countries, all three governments stressed the importance of a multipolar world and their opposition to unilateral action. China and Russia also stated their opposition to countries that use human rights as an excuse to put pressure on other nations.

### Doctrine creep; Australia and pre-emptive strike:

Following President Bush's lead, Australian Prime Minister John Howard said last week that Australia would take pre-emptive action within other nations without permission if those nations don't do enough to control terrorism. He also said that international norms should be changed to allow such pre-emptive strikes. But just at the moment that Australia needs the cooperation of Asian nations to fight terrorism, Howard's comments have driven a wedge between him and other Asian leaders. Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir called Howard "arrogant," and said that "it is as if this is the good old days when people can shoot aborigines without caring about human rights." Howard's remarks also brought condemnation from the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand. Roilo Golez, national security adviser of the Philippines, called Howard's statement "bordering on shocking." General Endriartono Sutarto, the chief of the Indonesian military, said such a pre-emptive strike would be "an act of aggression," and that, "we will not stand by should they attack." Backing Howard's statements, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said President Bush "of course supports pre-emptive action."



# Brooklyn students buck the military

By JOHN TARLETON  
*The Independent*

Luis Reyes is a senior at Bushwick Outreach Center in Brooklyn who wants to study journalism in college. He recently discovered that military recruiters had the inside scoop on him.

“They know my interests and everything,” says Reyes, 19. “I’m already getting all kinds of letters and phone calls and whatnot.”

The military’s individually-targeted appeal to Reyes hasn’t worked to date. He still hopes to start college next fall at Hofstra University. However, the high pressure recruiting experienced by Reyes and many of his friends suggests what lies ahead for students as the military aggressively makes use of a little-known provision in the 670-page No Child Left Behind Act of 2002.

The provision in the much-touted education bill requires high schools to allow military recruiters access to facilities as well as contact information for every student—or lose their federal aid.

“The military would choose to be in every school in every classroom in every community if they could, because overkill is their way of doing things,” says Rick Jahnkow, Director of Project YANO (Youth and Non-military Opportunities), a San Diego-based group founded in 1984.

The military currently enlists 350,000 people a year. Its recruitment efforts have become increasingly sophisticated, and relentless, since it switched from the draft to an all-volunteer force in 1973 at the end of the Vietnam War.

It spends hundreds of millions of dollars to advertise on television, radio, web sites, outdoor ads and in youth publications. It also operates Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) programs in 3,500 schools, holds summer camp programs on military bases for disadvantaged youth and provides guidance counseling, after-school tutoring and dropout recovery programs in some troubled inner city schools. Mobile recruiting stations also appear in shopping malls, at sporting events and inside theaters at showings of popular pro-military movies.

In Bushwick, getting the message out also means calling prospective recruits as early as 6 a.m. and showing up at their workplaces and outside of their churches, according to Reyes and Jesus Gonzalez, 17, a junior at Bushwick Outreach.

Under the No Child Left Behind Act, students or their parents can sign an opt-out form to prevent information from being released. In late September, the city’s Department of Education mailed the forms to parents of over a quarter million high school students, giving them an October 15 reply deadline. Reyes says most Bushwick Outreach students were unaware of the forms and were barraged by recruiter appeals soon after the deadline passed.

The students’ frustration at their loss of privacy boiled over on October 23 when about 60 of them held a protest in front of nearby Bushwick High School. They demanded a reversal of the opt-out form, which would allow their information to be released only with their permission.

“It’s for us to decide if we want to give



**Bushwick teenagers gather after school at the Make the Road by Walking Community Center. Many feel harassed by military recruiters in their neighborhood.**

them information,” says Gonzalez, who along with Reyes is also an organizer for the Youth Power project of Make the Road by Walking, a Bushwick-based community organization. “If we want to sign up, we can walk down to the recruiting station on Myrtle Avenue.”

Commander Edward Gehrke, head of Navy recruiting in New York, poured more fuel on the fire by responding to the protest in a letter to the New York Daily News, stating that most Bushwick students were plagued by police and drug problems and wouldn’t be eligible to enlist if they tried.

“It’s clear what the high people in the Navy and the military think about people of color in poor neighborhoods,” Gonzalez says. Captain John Caldwell, public affairs officer for the Marine Corps 1st Recruiting District, which encompasses New York City, says the military is simply trying to offer students another opportunity. “They get tons of information from colleges when they are looking at going to school,” he says. “We’re also providing information that could help them get an education and a job.”

Yet these promises of education and training are misleading, critics say. The present-day GI Bill is fraught with loopholes and stringent conditions that cause many soldiers to lose their educational benefits. Most soldiers train on equipment that is obsolete or has no civilian counterpart, or they perform specific functions on one or two machines, leaving them with few real world skills.

“Somebody who was a cook at McDonald’s who learns how to pick up a tray of prepared food, put in a heater, heat it up and wrap it, couldn’t walk in the door of a regular restaurant and say I want to be a chef,” says John Judge, a longtime anti-recruitment activist based out of Washington, DC.

The Bushwick action has since inspired other youth activists in the city. Youth Bloc, a citywide network of high school-age activists, has decided to launch a campaign against No Child Left Behind as well as JROTC, which is currently active in about 100 high schools across the city. The Youth Bloc activists plan to visit a high school a week in each borough except Staten Island, giving presentations or leafletting outside.

“It’s our generation that’s going to be the cannon fodder,” says Mike Gould-Wartoffky, a Youth Bloc member and senior at Hunter College High School.

“We want our generation to be in the front lines of the anti-war movement, not the war.”

The Bushwick students look to hold more anti-recruitment actions, but say their first priority is having more options in life than Army, Navy Air Force or Marines. “Bring college recruiters, not military recruiters,” Reyes says. “F— the military. These kids want to go to college.”

# Conspiracy: Tupac & Biggie



By RUSSELL MORSE  
*Youth Outlook*

I am not a Tupac fan. Never owned an album, can’t sing along to every track on *Makavelli* with all my boys. There was never any hatred, I just didn’t understand the appeal. But I remember where I was when I heard he died—high as United, crouched at the window of an older homeboy’s bucket, I just shook my head and looked down. I knew that it was significant. Even if I didn’t know why, I knew that something had changed.

That was more than seven years ago. I was 15, still wearing hoodies and posting up on corners. So why am I writing about it now? A slew of media releases—a new documentary, a book and an article published in the *LA Times*—probing the controversy surrounding the murders of Tupac Shakur and Christopher Wallace (a.k.a. Notorious B.I.G.) have been released in the past year. And so the lives, deaths and impact of these conflicted icons is back on people’s lips, from Tom Brokaw to your boy in homeroom.

The book, *LAabyrinth*, by Randall Sullivan, will turn your head inside out. It’s an investigative report that efficiently answers any question you may have ever had about the murders. It’s all there—whodunnit, why and how. The answers are astonishing. Sullivan presents indisputable evidence implicating Suge Knight, Los Angeles police officers and a member of the Nation of Islam in both murders.

Every eyewitness that Sullivan asks (he interviews more people than the police did), points at the same picture of the trigger man without hesitation. Sullivan alleges that LAPD officers contracted this man—who was acting as security officials for Death Row Records—at the request of Suge Knight to kill both Tupac and Biggie. His investigation is so thorough, there’s no doubt left about what went down. Any questions? Read the book.

Or if you’re pressed for time, see the movie. *Biggie and Tupac* directed by Nick Broomfield follows the same path of investigation and arrives at the same conclusions as *LAabyrinth*. It has more of a personal edge since the director—a goofy, older British cat—plays a key role in the drama and finds he’s swallowed up by a world of thugs, cops and lies. But he holds his own, asking the right people the right questions and looking at one aspect of the story that Sullivan slept on—Biggie and Pac had people who loved them.

An *LA Times* article infamously asserts that Biggie was connected to Pac’s death, alleging that Big offered some LA Crips a million dollars and his own pistol to take out Pac.



If you’re like me, your eyebrow is cocked right now. Big? A million dollars? The pieces don’t fit, right? Especially after reading the book or seeing the movie, it’s obvious that Big had nothing to do with Pac’s murder. So why would the newspaper print that story?

Well, the *Times* is a big ass paper. And the LAPD is a big ass crew. It’s no mistake that the murders are still unsolved. LA police officers were directly involved and the cop who found out to what extent they were involved was taken off the case, lost his job and had his life threatened. And if you wanna look even deeper, the FBI had Big on 24-hour surveillance at the time of his death.

A lot of heavy hitters were involved in these murders, either directly or indirectly—the LAPD, the feds, Las Vegas police. These heavy hitters don’t want their blunders and atrocities out there for all to see. So somebody put a bogus story out there that Biggie was involved and next thing you know, it’s in one of the biggest and most reputable newspapers in the country. So draw your own conclusions.

But before you do that, remember that these deaths are important because these cats were important. Somebody told me once that Tupac Shakur was our generation’s Elvis. I almost slapped her. Elvis? Tupac was our JFK. Charming, young, attractive, dynamic and stolen from his people. Loud mouthed, obnoxious thug? Yep. Convicted rapist? That too. But Kennedy was having an affair with Marilyn Monroe on the side. What icon is without flaws?

Pac and Big defined so much of what we strive for and admire. The idea that you can make something from nothing? That’s Big. The last figure of raw, unapologetic masculinity? That’s Pac. But I never would have said that seven years ago. I didn’t know why the murders meant anything.

And so on that crispy September day years ago, all I could do was shake my head. My friend had his three-year-old son with him, sitting shotgun in the parked car. The radio was playing a Tupac classic, I can’t remember which one. And my friend turned to his little boy and said, “Listen to this music. This man is a legend. And he’s gone now.”

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Movie Review for the Big and Small Screen

# Tales of the Funk Brothers

By RICHARD LANGE  
The Alarm! Newspaper Contributor

*Standing in the Shadows of Motown*, the new documentary by Paul Justman, sets out to bring some long overdue glory to a bunch of men with nondescript American names like Bob Babbitt, Robert White and Joe Hunter. If you're like the several record store shoppers interviewed in the film, some of whom claim above average knowledge of pop music, you've never heard of these guys. Even the name the men were known by collectively—the Funk Brothers—is likely to do little more than lift an eyebrow or cause a slow swiveling of the head. But if you've spent any time on planet Earth in the last three or four decades, you've likely heard the music these men recorded. They laid down the groove on some of the groove-heaviest tunes of all time, "I Heard It Through The Grapevine," "Baby Love" and "Ain't Too Proud To Beg" being but a few of dozens of examples.

That these men were all talented musicians or that their contribution was integral to the rise of the Motown sound is beyond debate. Many were already well-established jazz players and touring back-up musicians before they were tapped by Berry Gordy to join a stable that worked out of a dirt-floor basement in a simple brick apartment in Detroit.

The men are all so naturally musical one could conceivably make a hit out of the taps and hums they emit while reading the morning paper. The great service the film provides is to make you listen very intently to the individual performances on songs you have heard all your life. What you hear is the way a song's catchy brilliance comes from deep within the mix, from a drum pattern or a bass riff that counters perfectly with a guitar chord or a piano line. In the hands of these musicians, even a few notes on the vibraphone or a single tap of the crash symbol is essential to the mood and elusive magic of a song.

Justman builds his film around the reminiscences of the Funk Brothers themselves, keeping narration and the intrusion of abject fact to a minimum. The decision is a wise one as, to a man, the Brothers are great storytellers. Their stories are sometimes terribly sad—several members have passed on, more than a couple ushered off stage by drugs and alcohol—but more often the stories are funny, especially a couple involving the ingenious and strange bassist James Jamerson. As

with the music, the stories are lifted by subtle details; as the men talk their voices rumble with experience, they pull faces and, like good actors, they create mood with the cut of an eye or a corner-of-the-mouth smile.

Mixed through the stories is footage of the band performing some of the great Motown hits at a series of concerts that featured singers Ben Harper, Bootsie Collins, Chaka Kahn, Joan Osborne and others. The vocal performances vary in quality a bit (Ben Harper starts each of his songs looking positively terrified) but even a hopeless karaoke warrior would be lifted to new heights by this band. Though of all the performers Khan looks most at home on a stage with the Funk Brothers, it's Osborne and her juke-joint rasp who makes you want to stand up and cheer. Her rendition of "What Becomes of the Brokenhearted" just plain cranks, standing as the single performance with wattage enough to even be compared with the original.

If the film lacks anything, it is testimonials from the surviving acts that rode the Funk Brothers sound to fame and fortune. Martha Reeves is here, standing shoulder to shoulder with the Brothers and holding her own as a storyteller, and Stevie Wonder appears courtesy of comments he made at the 1992 funeral of Pianist Earl Van Dyke. But where are Smokey Robinson and Diana Ross and Mary Wells? How about a Temptation or two? Late in the film someone tells the story of visiting the late Robert White at a cafe in Los Angeles when the opening guitar line of "My Girl" came on over the stereo. White, who wrote and performed the line, is about to share this fact with the waiter when he suddenly stops and then dully places his order, confessing at the waiter's departure that he imagined the waiter would have thought him some old fool. One can't help but feel a few words from some of Motown's big-name performers would have gone a long way toward preventing such a thing from ever happening again.

The film makes clear the Funk Brothers, in the way they loved and teased and competed with each other, were very much like a group of actual brothers, and you can't help but cheer for them. Their passion and the way it plays counter to the memories of those who didn't live to see this modicum of glory makes *Standing in the Shadows of Motown* a film of equal parts sadness and triumph. But as long as the songs continue to play, and who can doubt they will, it is the triumph that will be remembered.

Standing in the Shadows of Motown is now playing at the Nickelodeon, located at 210 Lincoln Street in Santa Cruz. Showtimes are: 2:20, 4:40, 7:00 and 9:30 daily, with an additional 12:00 noon showing on Saturday and Sunday.

# Truth in the crossfire—'Live from Baghdad' peddles lie

By LUCY KOMISAR  
Pacific News Service

EDITOR'S NOTE: When HBO airs "Live From Baghdad," starting December 7, the drama that purports to tell the true story of a cable news crew broadcasting during the Gulf War will propagate a proven lie. The film's uncritical treatment of an old charge that Iraqi soldiers threw babies out of incubators, writes PNS contributor Lucy Komisar, is disturbing as America and Iraq lie on the brink of war. Komisar (lkomisar@msn.com) is an investigative journalist in New York City.

Remember the phony story about the Kuwaiti woman who testified in 1990 that Iraqi soldiers were throwing Kuwaiti babies out of incubators? It was later exposed as a public relations fabrication—but now it's back on HBO.

"Live From Baghdad," made by HBO, purports to tell how CNN covered the 1991 Gulf war. It is based on a memoir by Robert Wiener, then a CNN field producer, who wrote the script with three others. Airing December 7, this "fiction" based on "fact" propagates the famous Kuwaiti government incubator hoax. As the United States stands at the brink of war with Iraq, such unchallenged fabrications may invite other, more dangerous hoaxes.

Midway through the movie, an actor playing CNN anchor Bernard Shaw informs viewers that "more allegations of

and Knowlton, which received \$10.7 million from the Kuwaiti government for this and other services.

The October 1990 hearing was held by California Democrat Tom Lantos and Illinois Republican John Porter, co-chairs of the self-styled "Human Rights Foundation," lodged in Hill and Knowlton's Washington, DC, office. Craig Fuller, chief of staff for George Bush when he was vice-president, ran the PR firm. Nayirah was coached by the firm's vice-president, Lauri Fitz-Pegado, who later got a job in the Clinton Commerce Department.

The story was repeated by the Americans to the UN Security Council and by President George Bush in a January 1991 speech before he ordered the bombing of Iraq.

The incubator tale was a lie from start to finish—exposed after the war by ABC's John Martin and denounced by the respected rights group Middle East Watch as "a complete hoax." Nayirah was a member of the Kuwaiti Royal Family, daughter of Kuwait's Ambassador to Washington.

A recent "Live From Baghdad" screening, sponsored by HBO and the Council on Foreign Relations, included a panel discussion. Present were: Wiener; moderator Garrick Utley (formerly with NBC, now with CNN); Deborah Amos, corre-

“ The implication is that the Iraqis are hiding the unspeakable crime that occurred in hospitals the reporters couldn't see. Except that it didn't. ”

Iraqi brutality emerged today as Kuwaiti refugees testified before a congressional committee." He segues to a tearful young woman declaring, "They took the babies out of the incubators, took the incubators and left the babies to die on the cold floor!" It is a real clip of the 15-year-old Kuwaiti, identified at the time as Nayirah "to protect her from reprisals," who in August 1990 said those words to an ersatz "congressional committee" operating out of Hill and Knowlton headquarters.

The intrepid CNN crew (featuring Michael Keaton as Wiener and Helena Bonham Carter as his associate producer, Ingrid Formanek) goes off to Kuwait with their Iraqi handler to investigate. They manage to interview one hospital director who nervously asserts, "All the incubators are here and none of our babies are missing."

**CNN correspondent:** You are aware of the allegations, doctor?

**Doctor:** I have heard these stories.

**Formanek** (sotto voce): He's scared.

**Wiener** (sotto voce): Yeah, this is bad.

**Doctor:** I can tell you, nothing has happened at this hospital (pause) that I know.

**CNN:** But in other hospitals?

**Doctor:** I cannot tell about other hospitals.

**Iraqi handler:** Finish! Finish! We go now!

**Formanek:** To the other hospitals?

**Handler:** No, back to Baghdad!

**Wiener:** Hey, hey, that was part of the deal!

**Handler:** Not this story.

The implication is that the Iraqis are hiding the unspeakable crime that occurred in hospitals the reporters couldn't see. Except that it didn't. The incubator story was a fabrication, first invented for the *London Daily Telegraph* by an exiled Kuwaiti housing minister, picked up by Reuters, and then propagated by the international PR firm Hill

spondent with ABC News; Tom Johnson, former president of CNN; and Eason Jordan, chief news executive at CNN. None of the eminent journalists mentioned the incubator story.

At question time, two people in the audience shot up their hands to ask why the film had perpetrated the phony incubator story. Jordan evaded the first question by relating how Saddam Hussein had ordered a Kuwaiti oppositionist cut up in pieces. A follow-up query pointed out that Jordan hadn't answered the question, and that the film perpetuated rather than corrected the phony incubator story. The film ends with text over the close telling what happened to some of the characters; surely, it was suggested, the film could easily run lines telling the truth about the hoax.

Some on the panel agreed that was a good idea, but Jordan of CNN explained that they had nothing to do with the movie. (He might easily phone the suggestion to HBO, which, like CNN, is a Time-Warner company.) Wiener, the ex-CNN producer who co-authored the script, said nothing.

A few days after the screening, Wiener was interviewed on CNN and, disputing that the network had promoted anti-Iraqi propaganda, pointed out the trip to investigate the incubator charge. He admitted that the incubator allegations "turned out to be false" because those accusations were made by the daughter of a Kuwaiti official and were never proven. "That was my regret in one instance," he said.

He didn't regret it enough to tell the truth in the film.

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# Looking for Answers: Hugo Chávez and the Fu- ture of Venezuela

By **GRAHAM PARSONS**  
*The Alarm! Newspaper Contributor*

*Many radical projects in Latin America have been left, like corpses on a gibbet, to turn and twist in the wind. The proposals of Comandante Chávez deserve a better fate.*—Richard Gott

On the afternoon of Thursday April 11, 2002, in the city of Caracas, Venezuela, a massive gathering of anti-government protesters, organized by Fedecámaras (the national Chamber of Commerce) and the Confederation of Venezuelan Workers (the largest trade union in the country) approached the presidential palace of elected president Hugo Chávez. Here, another huge crowd of Chávez supporters had gathered in front of the palace to protect it from the advancing opposition. When the confrontation occurred, shots were fired—apparently indiscriminately—into the crowd from the rooftops and bridges above, killing about 20 unarmed people.

While it remains unclear who was responsible for the violence, the privately-owned Venezuelan press and the Bush administration immediately assigned the blame to Chávez and his government. As a result, some sections of the military defected to the opposition. Before the next morning Chávez had been removed from office and Pedro Carmona, the head of Fedecámaras, was sworn in as president.

The following day, Chávez supporters, mostly poor people from the barrios that surround Caracas, swarmed the presidential palace and the military base where Chávez was being held prisoner. The show of support was so overwhelming that the anti-Chávez coalition began to dissolve and that night Carmona was forced to resign. Chávez was back in office before sunrise on Sunday April 14.

Many questions remain unanswered about the events that unfolded during these few days in April: Who directed the violence that occurred on the 11th? To what extent was the US involved in the briefly abortive coup? What does this mean for the legitimacy of Chávez's power? More generally, however, the dramatic nature of these events introduces us to already existing questions about the state of Venezuelan politics, including questions about the surviving populist president Hugo Chávez. As Richard Gott poses the questions that continue to surround Chávez in his latest book *In the Shadow of the Liberator: Hugo Chávez and the Transformation of Venezuela*:

"What...are we to make of Hugo Chávez? Is he a democrat, or a dictator in the making? Is he an anachronistic throw-back, advocating the failed economic and political recipes of yesteryear? Or does he represent a possible future for Latin America, a genuine alternative to globalization and neo-liberalism?"

While written well before the April coup and what some observers presently view as his decline, the book instructively describes the

rise of Chávez through the ranks of the military to the presidency, and discusses some of the radical policies he has championed. Along the way, we learn a great deal about modern Venezuelan society and its history. Gott's skills as a journalist are evident throughout, and his deep knowledge of the history of radicalism in Latin America (he is also the author of the acclaimed book *Guerilla Movements in Latin America*) enables him to situate Chávez and his program in its historical context.

Chávez has a long history of dissatisfaction with the established political order in Venezuela. Throughout his career in the military he was disgusted by the endemic poverty and the deep corruption of government officials he witnessed. In the 1980s, he began clandestinely organizing some like-minded officers, and together they attempted a coup of their own in 1992, but failed to seize power. This bungled affair brought Chávez notoriety and, indicative of the public's disenchantment with the government, wide popularity. Following a two-year stay in prison, Chávez rode this popularity into electoral politics and won the 1998 presidential elections by an overwhelming margin.

Although Chávez has concerned himself with some uniquely modern issues, parts of his political thinking are both rhetorically and substantively reminiscent of the Liberator—the famous Latin American figure Simón Bolívar. In the early 19th century, Bolívar was a leader in the fight against slavery and the struggle against Spanish rule throughout the continent. In his struggles he made

**“ the most interesting and significant figure to have emerged in Latin America since Fidel first marched into history 40 years before ”**

great advances toward integrating large parts of the continent into one unified polity. It is this latter enterprise that Chávez has attempted to resurrect. Chávez has pushed for the economic and military integration of all the nations of Latin America, arguing for the development of a common currency and the formation of a Latin American version of NATO—NATO, that is, without the powerful role of the United States.

The party Chávez helped form and campaigned for in 1998 was called the Fifth Republic Movement, which had as its goal the establishment of a fundamentally new state. Once in power, Chávez immediately set about creating a new constitution and called on voters three times in 1999 to participate in the process. The new constitution was unique in many ways, including granting unprecedented rights to Venezuela's indigenous peoples. Chávez has sought to reform Venezuela's pervasively corrupt and inhumane judicial system. He has made Venezuela a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and

drastically reduced Venezuela's oil production, focusing instead on investment in agriculture. For these reasons, and many others, Gott accurately describes Chávez as, "...the most interesting and significant figure to have emerged in Latin America since Fidel first marched into history 40 years before."

Of course, some of Chávez's measures are more controversial than others. One of his most daring moves has been the radical transformation he initiated in the relationship be-

tween the military and civil society. His plan, called Plan Bolívar 2000, and implemented soon after his election, has been to change the function of the military and integrate it into the civilian world by using military equipment and manpower to build roads, schools and health care services. He has also facilitated the integration of the military into the country's political leadership. Although Gott seems largely unconcerned, this ought to be viewed with some alarm because, as a consequence of the military's new role, Chávez is gaining effective con-

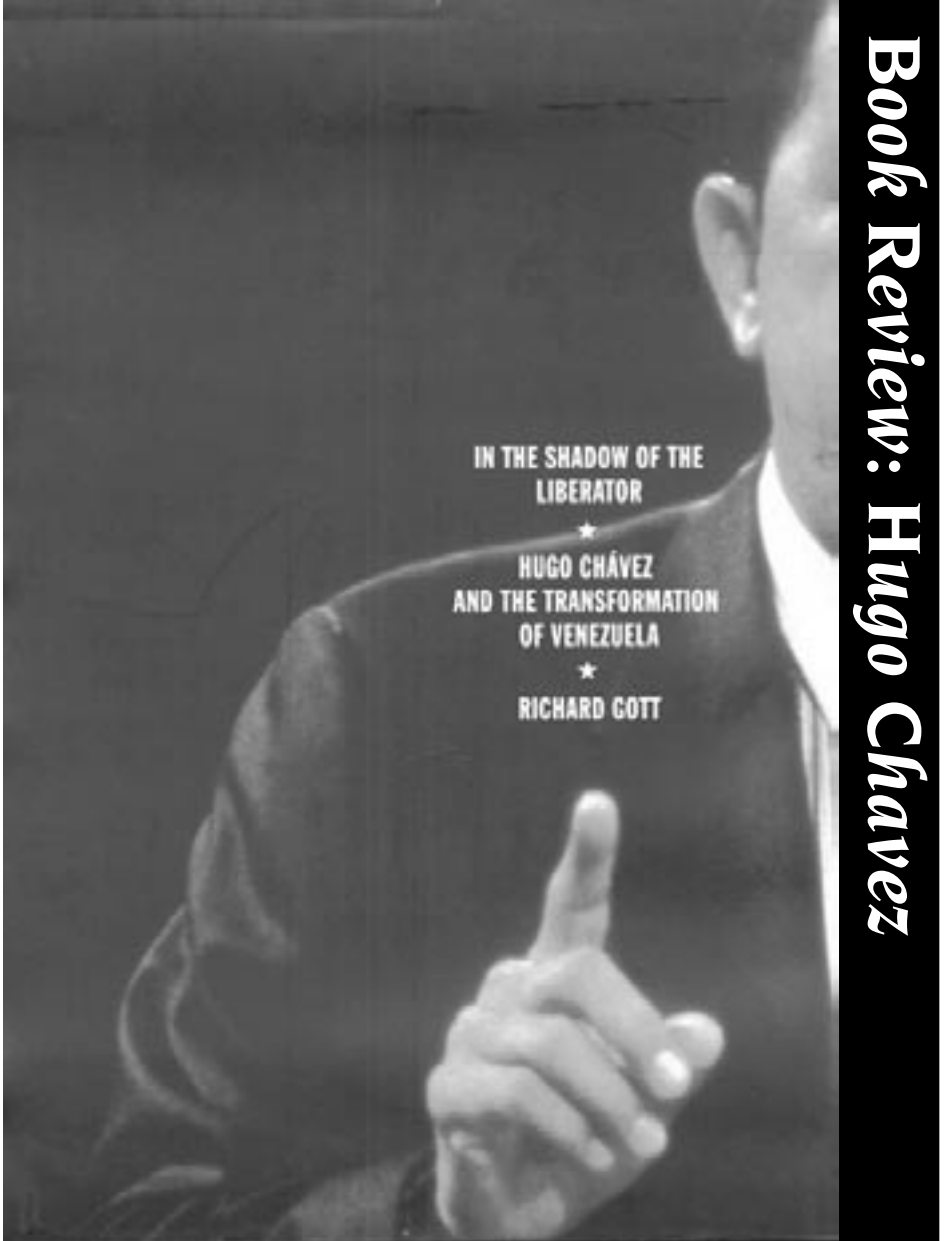
trol over a wide range of traditionally civilian institutions.

Despite this, there remain good reasons to be supportive of Chávez. Principal among them is the fact that Venezuela's majority of poor and non-white citizens have finally found a leader who has demonstrated a genuine concern for their interests. However, there continues to be substantial unrest throughout the country as it battles through a deep recession, and the threat of another coup looms. Some recent reports have claimed that Chávez's approval has fallen to the strikingly low figure of 30%. However, Gott is skeptical of such numbers. In an article in the *New Statesman* last June, he wrote:

"In practice...opinion polls provide no guarantee of accuracy because the pollsters do not reach into the areas where the great majority of people live....Journalists and commentators here rarely get out and about to make their own, old-fashioned, informed guesses about the state of public opinion. My impression is that a rock-solid majority for Chávez, based on class and race, remains intact."

Given the unpleasant composition of the forces seeking to oust Chávez, let us hope this is correct.

In the *Shadow of the Liberator: Hugo Chávez and the Transformation of Venezuela* is published by Verso. It is available in paperback at your local independent bookstore for \$18.



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# Radio, Radio: Clear Channel Makes Monopoly Nightmare Reality

By **JEFF PERLSTEIN**  
*The Independent*

EDITOR’S NOTE: *Jeff Perlstein is the executive director of Media Alliance. To get involved with the national campaign to curtail Clear Channel, see [www.media-alliance.org](http://www.media-alliance.org) or [www.clearchannelsucks.org](http://www.clearchannelsucks.org).*

SAN FRANCISCO — Think of a Texas-based multinational company that is facing a Department of Justice investigation, lawsuits for inappropriate business practices, a flurry of criticism in the mainstream press and a bill in congress to curb its impact on the industry.

Did you think Enron? Try again. This 800-pound Texas gorilla has spent \$30 billion since 1996 to buy its way into becoming the world’s largest radio broadcaster, concert promoter and outdoor advertising firm. Clear Channel Communications of San Antonio, Texas may not be a household name yet, but in less than six years it has rocketed to a place alongside NBC and Gannett as one of the largest media companies in the United States and gained a reputation in the radio and concert promotion industries for its ugly hardball tactics.

It has played a leading role in destroying media diversity in the United States. And yes, it is the same media company that allegedly “blacklisted” certain songs following September 11, including Cat Stevens’ “Peace Train” and John Lennon’s “Imagine.” Before passage of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, a company could not own more than 40 radio stations in the entire country.

With the Act’s sweeping relaxation of ownership limits, Clear Channel now owns approximately 1,225 radio stations in 300 cities and dominates the audience share in 100 of 112 major areas. Its closest competitors, CBS and ABC—media giants in their own right—own only one-fifth as many stations. “It’s not just how big and powerful they are but how they do business, the arm twisting,” Mike Jacobs, former independent label

owner and manager of Blink 182, told Eric Boehlert who has been covering Clear Channel’s shady business practices for Salon.com.

Accusations abound that Clear Channel has illegally used its dominance in radio to help secure control of the nation’s live entertainment business. Several cities, including Denver and Cincinnati, have accused radio station managers of threatening to withdraw certain music from rotation if the artists do not perform at a Clear Channel venue.

This tactic, “negative synergy,” has allegedly been used to pressure record companies into buying radio-advertising spots in cities where they want to book concert venues. With this anti-competitive tactic of leveraging airplay against concert performances, Clear Channel has firmly solidified its hold in both areas.

As a result, Clear Channel now owns, operates or exclusively books the vast majority of amphitheaters, arenas and clubs in the country. It also controls the most powerful promoters, who last year sold 27 million concert tickets. That is 23 million more than the closest competitor.

Clear Channel’s mode of operation is also accelerating the homogenization of programming on the airwaves. The company shuts out independent artists who can’t afford to go through high-priced middlemen, and is responsible for taking the practice of voice tracking to new heights (or depths, depending on your perspective).

Voice tracking is the practice of creating brief, computer-assisted voice segments that attempt to fool the listener into thinking that a program is locally produced, when in fact the same content is being broadcast to upwards of 75 stations nationwide from a central site. So you have one overworked “radio personality” recording the phrases, “Hello, Topeka!” “Hi, Springfield!” “How you

feeling, Oakland?” all day long. Voice tracking is also part of another Clear Channel homogenizing strategy.







In cities across America they have set up stations with call letters which sound like KISS-FM so that everywhere you hear the same songs, the same DJs and the same presentation when you tune in to KISS-FM. Such branding and consolidation is clearly counter to the Federal Communications Commission’s mandate to encourage media diversity.

Fortunately, long-standing concerns of media activists are now being echoed by the mainstream press, members of Congress, courts and regulatory agencies. Clear Channel is currently facing antitrust lawsuits from a wide range of plaintiffs around the country, including an Illinois concert-goer concerned with soaring ticket prices and the nation’s largest Latino-owned radio company.

Last summer a small Denver-area concert promoter, called Nobody in Particular Presents, sued the media behemoth for antitrust violations, claiming that it “has used its size and clout to coerce artists...to use Clear Channel to promote their concerts or else risk losing airplay.”

The judge agreed to hear the case, and ruled that the evidence is “sufficient to make a case of monopolization and attempted monopolization under Section 2 of the Sherman Act.” As a result, the halo of silence surrounding the company’s anti-competitive practices may finally be shattered. Plaintiffs’ lawyers will be able to compel music industry insiders to testify regarding the often-repeated, off-the-record allegations that Clear Channel’s radio stations have illegally rewarded or punished artists based on their dealings with the company’s concert division.

Community coalitions that hold Clear Channel accountable for the negative effects of over-consolidation have also emerged in Detroit and San Francisco. Letter-writing campaigns have urged elected officials to rein in the company

BEHEMOTH IN BRIEF	
ClearChannel, Inc.	
 HEADQUARTERS:	San Antonio, Texas
REVENUE:	\$7.97 billion in 2001
EMPLOYEES:	55,000
Radio	
 RADIO STATIONS:	1200 stations in all 50 states & DC
WEEKLY AUDIENCE:	110 million, 54% of Americans aged 14-59
MARKET SHARE:	20% of U.S. radio advertising
INTERNATIONAL:	250 stations in Mexico, New Zealand, and 63 other countries
Programming (Premier Radio Network)	
 PROGRAMMING:	100 radio shows including Rush Limbaugh, Dr. Laura & Casey Kasem
REACH:	7,800 stations
WEEKLY AUDIENCE:	180 million
Television	
 TV STATIONS:	36 stations in 28 cities
AFFILIATES:	ABC, CBS, FOX, NBC, UPN & WB
Concerts	
 AMPITHEATERS:	41
EVENTS HELD:	26,000/year
ATTENDEES:	66 million/year
Outdoor Advertising	
 WHERE:	46 major U.S. cities and many other countries
WHAT:	776,000 outdoor ads on billboards, taxis, truck panels, buses, in train stations and airports, the Times Square Spectacolor, bus shelters in Northern Ireland, 85% of outdoor ads in Singapore, 12,000 ads in China, etc. "more than half of U.S. adults"
U.S. AUDIENCE:	

and make policy changes to protect the public interest.

Several websites and hundreds of listserves have been providing information about Clear Channel’s excesses and communities’ resistance. At a Reclaim the Media Conference in Seattle in mid-September, a national coalition launched a campaign strategically to coordinate efforts, amplify their impact and link up with broader media-policy initiatives.

Nationally recognized organizations such as Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting, the Democratic Media Legal Project, Media Alliance and Prometheus Radio Project began mapping out steps to mobilize public pressure against Clear Channel.

“The political terrain is really shifting,” says Robert W. McChesney, author and professor of communications at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, in an interview by Randy Dotinga in Wirednews.com.

“There’s an opportunity for discussion about radio that would have been unthinkable six months or a year ago.”

To contact The Independent visit their website: [nyc.indymedia.org](http://nyc.indymedia.org).

# Poor forgotten as ‘digital divide’ still gapes

BY **PAUL LAMB**  
*Pacific News Service*

EDITOR’S NOTE: *Though the hype around bringing the Internet to all Americans has largely disappeared, the “digital divide” still separates a technology elite from those in low-income communities. Bridging the gap will require new, community-based initiatives that, in an increasingly technology-driven economy, are in all Americans’ best interests. PNS contributor Paul Lamb is Executive Director of Street Tech ([www.streettech.org](http://www.streettech.org)) and chairman of the Bay Area Technology and Education Collaborative ([www.baytec.org](http://www.baytec.org)).*

Since the demise of the dot-coms we have heard less and less about the “digital divide”—that late-1990s buzzword for the gap between technology haves and have-nots. Has the technological playing field truly been leveled, or are Americans too worried about unemployment, the stock market and a war with Iraq to give a digital damn?

Joe Booth, a young man I know who rose from a life of poverty and gang violence to become a successful computer technician, says the divide is still there.

“There are programs out there that will help teach people to use the Internet and operate a computer,” Joe says. “But many people can’t afford these classes.”

Some say the divide is gone—or

soon will be. Because more than half of all Americans now have Internet access, they say, and because computers and technology prices will continue to decline, there will soon be a computer and the Internet in every home across the land.

But today, only 25% of American households earning less than \$15,000 per year have Internet access, while nearly 80% of families earning \$75,000 or more have access in the home.

Furthermore, a computer and Internet access in the home (or in the school) does not a technologically literate and workforce-ready populace make. Having a television in the home, for instance, does not guarantee that people will choose educational programming over Jerry Springer.

How one uses technology is every bit as important as whether one uses it at all.

While familiarity with the tools of technology and its related knowledge/skills base grows exponentially among the technology elite (meaning folks who have both technology access and an education), the poor and uneducated are standing still. In the poorest neighborhoods I work in, I cannot recall seeing anyone carrying a Palm Pilot or laptop. Sure, cell phones and pagers abound, but the tools of choice on the street are

not the tools of choice on the job.

How will these same folks survive in the 21st century workforce, armed with only cell phones and pagers and not the work-related technology, skills and jargon the tech elite take for granted?

I am reminded of a poem called “Digital Monster,” written by a student of mine. “The monster had pushed me forward into a new world I knew nothing about...I tried to start a stride but my feet were stuck.”

It’s time for a serious national initiative to bridge the digital divide—not the glitzy corporate initiatives and presidential technology tours to low-income neighborhoods that we saw in the ‘90s. Some starting points:

- In the home: Train and dispatch “technology missionaries” to educate families in low-income and under-served communities. Right in their homes, families can be shown a variety of low-cost equipment options and receive basic, ongoing training for making the best use of technology. This service could be managed by a national community technology agency that hires and trains workers from local neighborhoods, and underwritten by vendors who compete for national equipment and service contracts.
- In the schools: Public schools should develop technology-specific vo-

cational training tracks, the way they have done for other trades in the past. State universities and community colleges should begin to move away from their on-campus mindset, where an Internet elite already exists, and start designing specialized technology-training programs in communities at large.

• In the community: Expanded community technology centers, or CTCs, can provide mass trainings in the latest technology skills, delivering the culture and language of technology in a non-threatening way to under-served populations. From these centers could spring digital villages, e-business parks, new media outlets, and 21st century public spaces that allow local communities and businesses to organize and educate around local needs.

Some of the above ideas have already been put into practice, but only in limited and piecemeal ways. The federal government is rapidly scaling back its support for digital-divide projects.

If we continue to keep our heads buried in the sand, denying the digital divide, we risk losing an opportunity to take full advantage of a technology-driven economy. Let’s not, in the words of one struggling youth I know, relegate an entire generation to the role of “worthless, sign-carrying hobos on the information superhighway.”

# Police checkpoints fail to stop SOA protest

By **WILLY ROSENCRANS**  
*Asheville Global Report*

Nov. 19 (AGR)—Over 10,000 people showed up at the gates of Ft. Benning in Columbus, GA on Nov. 16 and 17 to demand the closure of the US Army counterinsurgency training center once known as the School of the Americas, now popularly called the School of Assassins (SOA). Organizers said that, despite unprecedented efforts by authorities to prohibit access to the gathering, it was one of the largest yet in the annual demonstration’s 13-year history.

The day before the demonstration, Judge Clay Land ruled that the city of Columbus could erect police checkpoints, complete with metal detectors, at the entrances to the protest site. SOA Watch, the organizing group committed to shutting the school down, responded by issuing thousands of forms declaring that the bearer did “not consent to this search.”

“We have monitored protests for decades,” said Gerry Weber of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), “and this is the first time we’ve ever heard of a plan to conduct mass searches of all demonstrators.”

“It’s totally inappropriate for people to be searched in order to exercise their right to freedom of assembly,” added Solstice, a member of SOA Watch’s staff. “The court’s ruling was a very bad precedent; we’re appealing it.”

At checkpoints erected between curbside greenery freshly mowed by prison convicts, police armed with metal detector wands confiscated an arbitrary assortment of metal objects. No weapons were found.

Participants at the SOA Watch vigil heard music ranging from folksingers to Hip-Hop and Mayan bands, and testimony from a diverse group of speakers including torture survivor advocates, student groups, drug policy researchers and a representative of displaced Afro-Colombians.

A puppet pageant including almost 400 performers reenacted Argentina’s struggle through the violent military re-

pression of the 70s and 80s, through its recent spate of successful popular uprisings, to the growing number of bakeries, clinics and other enterprises run by and for the people.

The pageant’s second run followed the traditional funeral procession, during which thousands of mourners walked to the fence erected across the entrance to Ft. Benning after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in New York and Washington, DC. The protestors decorated the fence with crosses bearing the names of SOA victims, along with offerings such as banners, baby-sized coffins and paper cranes. Many wept as the names of victims, ranging in age from the unborn to

“terrorist training camp.”

“Our foreign policy has been hijacked by corporations,” says Solstice. “Institutions like the SOA reflect neither the values nor the interests of the American people. And we believe that these policies are making us a lot of enemies.”

“There are two possible paths we can take after September 11. We can teach our children to fear and avoid people who criticize what our government is doing, people who engage the democratic process through street protests and other means of nonviolent engagement. Or we can choose a direction where we say ‘Now, more than ever, we need to take responsibility for the policies of our

Judge G. Mallon Faircloth set bail at \$5,000, releasing one protestor on personal recognizance because his position as a tenured professor, according to Faircloth, made him less of a bail-jumping risk. Bail was briefly revoked for some because they refused to give personal information required by incorrectly used Federal Marshal forms; the forms are meant to be used after conviction, for people being transported to federal prison.

“There’s obviously no ‘innocent until proven guilty’ in Faircloth’s court,” said Becky Johnson, a member of the Legal Collective. “And exacting punitive damages before a trial has even occurred for them—it’s appalling.” Over \$40,000 was required to satisfy the excessive bond.

As of this writing, two protestors remain in jail—one for refusing to post bond until the judge releases her on personal recognizance, and the other for insisting on calling himself Peace. Without his real name, federal prosecutors have had to refer to his case as “The United States of America vs. Peace.”

Earlier this year, 43 people were convicted for trespassing at last year’s action. Twenty-six remain in prison.

Adrian Tate, 19, a resident of Southgate housing complex, which lies just outside Ft. Benning, sympathized with those who committed civil disobedience. “I’m glad they’re doing it,” he said. “I don’t want to see all those people going over there and getting locked up. But it ain’t nothing but the truth—they ought to close that motherf\*\*king school.”

Eight-year-old Holly Rose Black of Asheville, NC was one of the last to cross the line, at sunset, long after the vigil was over. Oblivious MPs crunched their way up and down a growing garbage pile of crosses nearby as she took the last paper crane from the fence.

“I was really happy that so many people were brave enough to cross the line and go to prison,” she said afterward. “I’m glad there were so many people there to help close the SOA.”

“We have monitored protests for decades, it’s totally inappropriate for people to be searched in order to exercise their right to freedom of assembly”

the elderly, were recited from the stage.

No complete record exists of deaths orchestrated by SOA graduates; they number in the uncounted thousands, and include atrocities like the El Mozote massacre of 1981, in which about 900 Salvadorans were killed. The date of the vigil commemorates the 1989 assassination of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter, also in El Salvador. Graduates have been implicated in virtually every major human rights violation in modern Latin America.

In 1996 the Pentagon admitted that the SOA had used manuals advocating torture for years. Current manuals encourage the use of counterinsurgency techniques against labor organizers, student groups and people critical of government. In January, 2001, in an attempt to deflect criticism, the school was renamed the Western Hemispheric Institute for Security Cooperation. These days its opponents often refer to it as a

government.”

Civil disobedience has been a major part of the vigil since its earliest days, typically consisting of trespassing onto the base to demand the SOA’s closure. This year, police arrested 92 people. Five were released without being charged, including four juveniles, one of whom was abandoned by military police (MPs) at a gas station by herself, at night, and had to find her own way back to SOA Watch’s Legal Collective office.

Of the rest, the majority were charged with a Class B federal trespassing misdemeanor, which carries a maximum sentence of six months and a \$5,000 fine. Four were charged with Class A misdemeanors, including “running a police checkpoint” (the woman in question had taken a wrong turn onto Ft. Benning) and property damage (the cutting of a lock on Ft. Benning’s gates); Class A carries a maximum sentence of one year and a \$100,000 fine.

## Surveillance brings fear to Arab, Muslim-American communities

*EDITOR’S NOTE: Ethnic profiling, unchecked surveillance and secret detentions by the US government of Arabs and Muslims in America, writes PNS contributor Shaker A. Lashuel, have changed the face of entire communities. Lashuel (yalnet@aol.com) has written on Muslims in the United States for the Yemen Times in Sanaa. He heads the Yemeni-American League in New York City and was a community organizer for the Arab-American Family Support Center.*

By **SHAKER A. LASHUEL**  
*Pacific News Service*

NEW YORK—I am proud to be an American citizen, but this former land of refuge is increasingly unrecognizable.

Ethnic profiling, unchecked surveillance, secret detentions and psychological intimidation of Arab and Muslim Americans already have reached levels that many of us only knew previously under repressive Middle Eastern regimes.

During World War II, the United States government isolated tens of thousands of Japanese Americans in concentration camps. Today, Americans reflect on that part of history with shame.

True, Muslims are not being herded into concentration camps. Instead, we are being placed into an information-age corollary—a system of digital surveillance that amounts to psychological apartheid.

The fact that Iraqi immigrants will be under surveillance by intelligence agencies is making headlines around the world.

But this is nothing new. Immigrants from various Middle Eastern countries already have been subjected to repeated FBI visits, wire-tapping and interrogations. Since September 11, 2001, Muslim and Arab communities have lived in fear.

Our freedom of speech, assembly and worship are under attack. Thousands of Muslims and Arabs have been interrogated, at least 1,200 detained and hundreds deported after secret court hearings for minor visa irregularities, according to the American Civil Liberties Union. Muslims are refraining from visiting mosques and praying in public.

One friend, a 20-year-old Muslim student, ended his once daily trips to the mosque for fear that his steadfast observance would be misinterpreted. He now attends only on Fridays.

It’s clear to Muslims that their mosques and community centers are under surveillance and that pictures of people and license plates are being recorded in digital dossiers. When I helped to organize a “know your rights” forum in the Muslim community this summer, many attendees cited surveillance as a reason they preferred to stay home rather than circulate in public.

Muslims and Arabs also refrain from expressing political views for fear of being reported. They know it’s likely that many of their actions and words are scrutinized by the FBI. I know that every time I pick up the phone or type an e-mail, there is

the likelihood of having a third person eavesdropping. For one of my acquaintances, a 38-year-old college professor, clicks and static on his phone line make him suspect he’s being watched.

People invent roundabout ways to refer to their own children or relatives if they happen to be called Osama or Saddam. A friend of mine, a young Yemeni immigrant calling his family, asked, “How is my brother?” When his mother asked him which brother, he did not want to say the name: “The one who’s just finished taking the exams.” The clueless mother yelled, “OSAMA! Osama is fine.”

My friend’s heart skipped a beat and he quickly hung up.

What if his conversation was being monitored? How would FBI agents interpret it? And that \$500 wired to relatives in Yemen—would that be construed as terrorist sponsorship or money laundering?

While most Americans can freely contribute to charities of their choosing, Muslims and Arabs hesitate, wondering if their generosity to causes such as a Palestinian aid group will come back to haunt them.

It is a cruel irony that Arab Americans and Muslims sought freedom in America from security agencies that monitored them, detained them and censored them, only to relive those conditions under the American flag.

This shameful chapter is being written

in fine print within a flurry of US Justice Department directives and legislation creating a new, powerful, domestic security apparatus. But the message is clear for the Muslim American and Arab American community. The fine print says our liberties are suspended.

Many Americans don’t seem concerned. Perhaps they have been deafened by the noise of fear emanating from their TVs and radios, the color-coded terror threats and unspecified, possible attacks.

There is a need for intelligence and law-enforcement to track and fight the real terrorists who seek to kill and sow fear. Despite what is occurring, I still have faith in this nation, as do other Americans who disagree with the rights abuses. But America must begin to fight the war against terrorism without racism and with real justice.

When I return from travel overseas, I always gaze with anticipation out of the airplane’s window at my hometown, New York. Like most Americans, I am relieved when the plane touches down safely. “Home, sweet home,” I think.

I am proud of being a citizen, not because of the country’s power, but because of what America has symbolized for millions like me who sought refuge and renewal in this great land. No bigot, no Ashcroft and certainly no Bush will be able to take that pride away from me.



Calendar of Events

Send calendar submissions to [calendar@the-alarm.com](mailto: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 12/7

**10 AM** Annual Downtown Holiday Parade. Join the fun as floats, marching bands, horses, classic cars & Santa in a horse-drawn carriage make their way down Pacific Avenue. Call 429-8433 for info. Sponsored by the Downtown Business Association. Downtown, SC.

**1–3 PM** Free Wormshop. Learn how worms can eat your garbage & make beautiful compost for your garden! Join us for a workshop on how to compost food scraps with worms. If you wish, you may set up a worm bin to take home after the workshop (\$15 materials fee for worms and bin). Sponsored by Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors & the Live Oak Grange. Call Karin Grobe for info or to reserve materials, 427-3452. At the Live Oak Grange, 1900 17th Ave., SC.

**6 PM** (pre party) **7 PM** (Stars event) Stars X + One is a benefit for the Museum of Art and History. The event features an auction with ten one-of-a-kind experiences, including a trip to Jamaica & wine tasting at Byington Winery. Catered by Gabriella Café, Theo’s Restaurant and Southern Exposure Bistro. Tickets to pre-party: \$100/person, Stars event: \$75/person. For more info call 429-1964 x21. At the Museum of Art and History, 705 Front St., SC.

SUNDAY 12/8

**9 AM–3 PM** Downtown Antiques & Collectibles Show. Vendors from throughout California provide high-quality pre-1960s antiques and collectibles for purchase. Visit [www.santacruzantiqueshow.com](http://www.santacruzantiqueshow.com) for more info. At the Cedar St. parking lot (close to Water St. intersection), SC.

**11 AM** Bookfair Against Warfare. Browse and buy books, videos, audio, tapes, etc. to help end Bush’s war plans. Hear local authors & activists including Dennis Bernstein (host of KPFA’s Flashpoints daily news show), Noelle Hanranan (editor of *All Things Censored* by Mumia Abu-Jamal), David Hilliard (former Chief of Staff of the Black Panther Party, author of *This Side of Glory*) & many more . At the New College, 777 Valencia St., SF.

**4:30–6 PM** Dickens Holiday Evening. Enjoy fun, entertainment, holiday treats, Victorian music & a well-loved Dickens reading. Call 459-5870 for more info. At the McHenry Library, UCSC.

**1:30–3:30 PM** Plants of the California Mountains. Nevin Smith, founder of Wintergreen Nursery & Horticulture Director of Suncrest Nursery will lead a short but intense sometimes whimsical tour of some of California’s high, wild places. Part of a benefit to raise funds for the Arboretum’s lecture hall. \$10/ person. Call 427-2998 for more info. At the Arboretum Horticulture Building, UCSC.

**8 PM** WAMM Bamm! Drag show and raffle to benefit Wo/Men’s Alliance for Medical Marijuana (WAMM). \$5/person. Call 454-9030 for more info. At the Club Dakota, 1209 Pacific Ave., SC.



MONDAY 12/9

**6:30–8 PM** Peace Corp General Information Meeting. All American Citizens over 18 may apply to work for the Peace Corp. Come to this event to get more information & learn if the Peace Corp is something you’d like to try. Call (415)977-8787 for more info. At the Louden Nelson Center, 301 Center St., 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.

**8–9 PM** Santa Cruz City Band in concert. Concert band standards, marches and show tunes at their first concert of the year. \$3/ person. Visit [www.communitymusic.org](http://www.communitymusic.org) for more info. At the Louden Nelson Center, SC.

TUESDAY 12/10

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

WEDNESDAY 12/11

**7–9 PM** Introduction to Permaculture. This introductory evening will include a brief description of the art & science of Permaculture (applied ecology). We will focus on the ethics, principles, natural patterns, design strategies & applications of this emerging and hopeful method of designing human habitations. We will also view the last half-hour segment of the *Global Gardener* video. Hosted by the Permaculture Guild of Santa Cruz \$5-15/person. Contact Ken Foster, Sallie Corbin, and Heather Brady at 459-7551 for location & info.

**Times TBA** Music Together, a demonstration for children to discover how much fun learning & playing music can be. Free for kids. Call 462-4195 for times and more info. At Music Together, 239 High St., SC.

THURSDAY 12/12

**6–9 PM** Snow Night! Kids under 10 years of age are welcome to come down & play in 14,000 tons of snow! Free for children. Anticipate a visit from Santa. Call 429-8433 for more info. Downtown, SC.

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

**7–8 PM** Caroling Under the Stars. Families & friends are invited to celebrate the holiday season at this annual community event. Free caroling books & goodies provided. Dress warmly & bring a flashlight. Call 420-5273 for info. Meet at the Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf, SC.

**Times TBA** Music Together, a demonstration for children to discover how much fun learning & playing music can be. Free for kids. Call 462-4195 for times and more info. At Music Together, 239 High St., SC

FRIDAY 12/13

**Times TBA** Music Together, a demonstration for children to discover how much fun learning & playing music can be. Free for kids. Call 462-4195 for times and more info. At Music Together, 239 High St., SC.

SATURDAY 12/14

**All day** Victorian Holiday. A special family living history day. Revel in holidays past in the Victorian building and others. Sing-along, holiday goodies, crafts and holiday decorating. At Wilder Ranch State Park, HWY 9, Felton.

**10 AM–6 PM** 7th Annual Winter Solstice Craft Faire. Artisans & craftspeople will sell their handmade treasures. Clothing, jewelry, marionettes, dolls, hand-puppets, glassware, sculpture, mosaics & more. The Faire benefits artists, craftspeople & the CELLspace in its year round pursuit of nurturing art, community, performance & education. At the CELLspace, 2050 Bryant St. (between 18th & 19th), SF.

**11 AM–2 PM** Pioneer Christmas. 1880s Roaring Camp is decorated with garlands & bows & carolers sing along Main Street. Take a wintry steam train ride to Bear Mountain & join Santa Claus for a fun treasure hunt in a redwood forest. At Roaring Camp Railroad, Felton.

**Time TBA** Water: Sustainable harvesting, storage and use. Water is a growing concern as our populations expand. Sustainable harvesting, storage and use systems will be covered as well as gray water use in the home landscape. Hosted by the Permaculture Guild of Santa Cruz. For location, time & workshop fee call Ken Foster, 425-3514.

SUNDAY 12/15

**10 AM–4:30 PM** 7th Annual Winter Solstice Craft Faire. Artisans & craftspeople will sell their handmade treasures. Clothing, jewelry, marionettes, dolls, hand-puppets, glassware, sculpture, mosaics & more. The Faire benefits artists, craftspeople & the CELLspace in its year round pursuit of nurturing art, community, performance & education. At the CELLspace, 2050 Bryant St. (between 18th & 19th), SF.

**11 AM–2 PM** Pioneer Christmas. 1880s Roaring Camp is decorated with garlands & bows & carolers sing along Main Street. Take a wintry steam train ride to Bear Mountain & join Santa Claus for a fun treasure hunt in a redwood forest. At Roaring Camp Railroad, Felton.

**4:30 PM** (Registration) 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Light Cruise & Poker Run. Includes self-guided tour of decorated & historic homes, hot dog roast & photos with Santa. A charity event for Valley Churches United. Call 438-3251 for info. At MacDorsa Park, Scotts Valley.

December 19 brings a full moon.



**7 PM** Santa Cruz Indymedia meeting (SC-IMC). For more info go to [santacruz.indymedia.org](http://santacruz.indymedia.org). At Caffé Pergolesi, 418 Cedar St., SC.

TUESDAY 12/17

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

**7:30 PM** Poetry Santa Cruz presents poetry readings and workshops in the Santa Cruz area. Call 462-4415 for more info. At the Capitola Book Café, 1475 41<sup>st</sup> Ave., Cap.

SATURDAY 12/21

**7–8 PM** Sensory Night Hike. The winter solstice is a time when the night lengthens. Here’s a chance to learn about the nocturnal world by broadening the use of your senses, learning to slow down, listen, smell and feel your way along the flat trails of Quail Hollow. Call 335-9348 for more info. At Quail Hollow Ranch County Park, Ben Lomond.

SUNDAY 12/22

**1–2 PM** Walking Tour of the Arboretum’s New Zealand Collections. Join Curator Tom Saucedo for a Solstice tour of the Arboretum’s extensive New Zealand plantings. Meet at Norrie’s Gift Shop, just inside the entrance to the Arboretum. Call 427-2998 for info. At the Arboretum, UCSC.

WEEKLY EVENTS, SERVICES, SUPPORT GROUPS & MEETINGS

SATURDAYS                      SÁBADO

First & Third Saturday of every month, Fifty-Plus Association walk/run. Call 426-4715 or 464-7340 for more info. Meets at the Lighthouse, SC.

Last Saturday of every month Fifty-Plus Association bike ride. Call 426-4715 or 464-7340 for more info. Meets at the Lighthouse, SC.

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

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

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

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

SUNDAYS                      DOMINGO

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

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

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

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

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



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

MONDAYS LUNES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**6–7 PM** KPFA Radio News. 88.1 FM KZSC.

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

TUESDAYS MARTES

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

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

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

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

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

**6–7 PM** KPFA Radio News. 88.1 FM KZSC.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAYS JUEVES

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

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

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

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

**6–7 PM** KPFA Radio News. 88.1 FM KZSC.

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

**7:30–9 PM** Anxiety and Panic Support Group, for individuals seeking support for general anxiety, panic, social phobias and OCD. At the Twin Lakes Church, 2701 Ca-brillo 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 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.



Happy Winter Solstice! On Saturday the 21st of December join others for a Sensory Night Hike. Here’s a chance to learn about the nocturnal world by broadening the use of your senses, learning to slow down, listen, smell and feel your way along the flat trails of Quail Hollow. Call 335-9348 for more info. At Quail Hollow Ranch County Park, Ben Lomond.

Local Happenings

# Wholly Cross-Words

## By Oliver Brown

Oliver Brown had technical difficulties and was unable to grace all of us with a puzzle this issue. Feel free to email him at [oliver@kingturtle.com](mailto:oliver@kingturtle.com) for last week's solutions.



**HEY!**  
*The Alarm! Newspaper is always looking for new cartoonists, artists and photographers.*  
Interested? Give us a call:  
429-NEWS



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


Desk w/ hutch, stereo cabinet,  
kerosene heater. Make me an  
offer. Will accept community  
currency. Call Fhar: 818-8614

Used books focusing on  
Afro-American, women, gay,  
Jewish and 4th way ideas and  
experiences. 479-8379.

Food not Bombs needs a food  
processor! Call 425-3345

**Work Opportunities**

MANIFEST DESTINY OF THE  
21st CENTURY

  
The Nation's Largest and Most Active  
Peace and Justice Organization

While the Bush administration  
lines its ducks for an invasion  
on Iraq, it is hiring horren-  
dously oppressive militaries  
all over the world to do the  
rest of its dirty work. To name  
a few—Colombia, Indonesia,  
the Phillipines, and Pakistan.  
The voice for human rights  
and social justice is in all of us  
who refuse to accept the racist  
policies of our corporate-owned  
and controlled government.  
Peace Action is hiring  
and training orgaizers to  
awaken the massive po-  
tential of social unrest.  
FT/PT Paid Training Diverse  
and Supportive Staff. Call Hey-  
ward or Laura 831.420.1931

The Alarm! Newspaper is cur-  
rently seeking contributors.  
Specifically seeking bilingual  
applicants with strong writing  
and editing skills. Please send  
a letter of interest and writing  
sample to: The Alarm! Newspa-  
per, PO Box 1205, Santa Cruz,  
CA. For more info call the office  
at 429-NEWS.

**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**

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!

Hmmm...worried about spend-  
ing New Year's Eve alone?  
Watching Dick Clarke on TV,  
just you and a bag of Cheetos...  
and your cat? Think about this.  
You have options; you are an  
intriguing person, you have  
sass and sophistication. Share  
it with someone! Give us a call  
or send in an email, think of the  
possibilities. Anything has got to  
be better than Dick Clarke! Give  
our personals a try, you don't  
have ANYTHING to lose!

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Santa Cruz, CA 95061  
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831-429-NEWS



