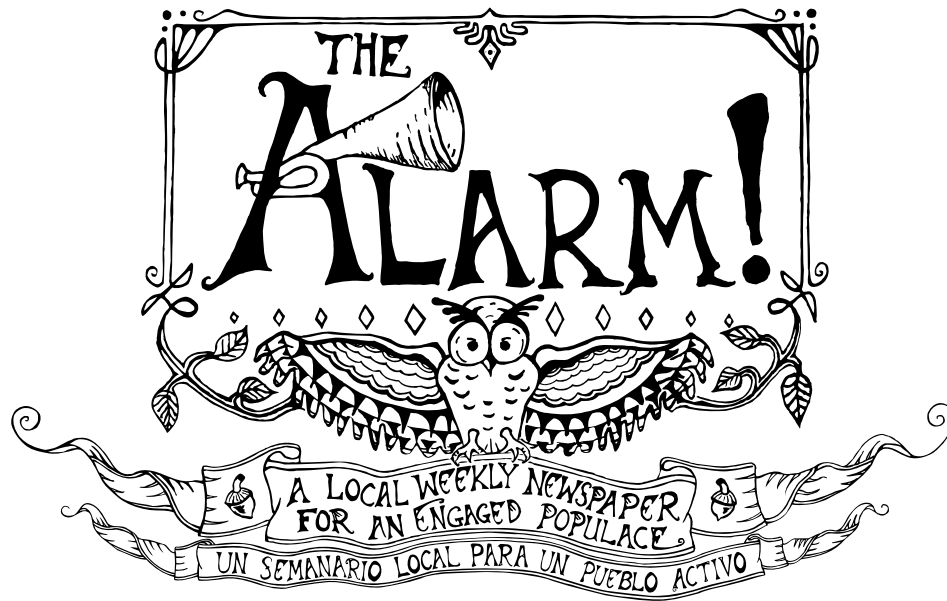


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Photo Spread  
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# NEWS & COMMENTARY

# 50¢

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Santa Cruz, California, USA

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## City council to cut Citizen's Police Review Board budget

□ Council looking to spend less yet have better results in citizen police oversight.

By **ARMANDO ALCARAZ**  
*The Alarm! Newspaper Collective*

During a 1999 peace demonstration in downtown Santa Cruz, activist Steve Argue was arrested for striking Police Officer Dave Lafaver in the face. Argue said he was trying to stop Lafaver from twisting the arm of a woman carrying a child. Four other people were arrested at the demonstration. In response, protesters filed eight different complaints with the Santa Cruz Police Department (SCPD) and the Citizens' Police Review Board (CPRB), the City's advisory body responsible for overseeing police policies and procedure, accusing the police officers of using excessive force and arresting without cause.

Based on its own outside independent investigation parallel to the SCPD internal affairs investigation, the CPRB concluded that four of the allegations against the police officers were founded. Nevertheless, the police exonerated all officers in all eight of the complaints. Furthermore, the Santa Cruz City Council barred the CPRB from making the independent investigation public for fear of violating the Police Officer's Bill of Rights, which states that all information in a police officer's file must remain strictly confidential.

The controversy around the case renewed doubts about the effectiveness of the CPRB. Now, three years later, the City Council will be looking to the possibilities of reducing the CPRB's \$88,000 yearly budget and making the civilian oversight of police more effective by changing or modifying the model of the CPRB.

The Santa Cruz CPRB, made up of seven volunteers appointed by the City Council, two part time staff and a legal counsel, reviews the reports and findings of the police department's Internal Affairs Office investigation. The CPRB can then forward its own findings with attached recommendations to the Chief of Police who has the final say on what actions will be taken. Through an agreement with the Conflict Resolution Center of Santa Cruz, the CPRB can also arrange a mediation between police officers and complainants, though only if both the police and complainant agree and the Chief of Police approves of the mediation. For complaints about excessive use of force or violation of civil rights, the board members may vote for the City Manager to hire an independent investigator, and can also call for a public hearing.

According to ex-board member  
Go see **CPRB** on Page 2

## ¡No Quiero Taco Bell!



No Quiero Taco Bell March in San Francisco, March 9, 2002

□ Florida farmworkers take on a giant

By **DAVID BACON**  
*Pacific News Service*

IMMOKALEE, Fla.—Yo Quiero Taco Bell? If a small union of Florida farm workers has its way, the nasal voice of the famous Chihuahua will be saying “No quiero Taco Bell” on college campuses nationwide.

For almost a decade, the campus anti-sweatshop movement has exposed the poor working conditions abroad that produce the big-label sportswear favored by American youth. Now tomato pickers in the Everglades are urging young people to look closer to home.

Students are “some of the largest consumers of fast food tacos and chalupas,” says Lucas Benitez COMMA a leader of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW). Conditions for here “are really no different from the conditions of Nike factory only difference is that the offending taco tomatoes. Florida

cents for filling a 32-pound bucket, working for a network of growers whose main customer is the fast-food giant. To make \$50 in one day, a worker must pick two tons of tomatoes—120 buckets, or one every four minutes.

Pickers would like to see Taco Bell pay growers an additional penny a pound. If that were passed on to workers, it would double their wages. Even if Taco Bell passes labor costs onto the finished product, at the cash register, consumers would see little difference.

Taco Bell, a subsidiary of Tricon Corp., has \$5.2 billion in sales annually, a quarter of its parent corporation's gross receipts. “Their tremendous revenues are based on cheap ingredients, including cheap tomatoes picked at sub-poverty wages,” says Benitez. “We are tired of subsidizing Taco Bell's profits with our poverty.”

“When you look at the difference in power between us and them, you may think we're crazy,” says Romeo Ramirez, a CIW activist. “But we have the power of the truth.”

Many of the students in Florida have been inspired by the farmworkers'

## LABOR & ECONOMY

some farmworkers different from the con- workers in Asia. The we are here.” ingredients are the workers get 40-45

Go see **NO QUIERO** on Page 7

## Suit over methyl bromide use near schools settled

□ Safety still an issue

By **CAROLINE NICOLA**  
*The Alarm! Newspaper Collective*

A settlement reached on May 17 established special safeguards for the application of the pesticide methyl bromide near La Joya Elementary School and Pajaro Middle School, both in Monterey County. The safeguards restrict the application of methyl bromide within 1,500 feet of the schools on school days. In addition, tarps used to trap fumigant gases in the soil are not to be removed for ten days after any methyl bromide application, and are not to be removed on school days.

Attorney Mike Meuter of California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA) filed the suit last August in Monterey County against the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) and the Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner's Office. Meuter said the provisions in the settlement

Go see **METHYL** on Page 5

# Letter from an Editor

In the process of starting this newspaper I learned that media law is all forgiving of the cliché—if the same statement has been plastered all over the mainstream media you won't be sued regardless of how unsubstantiated one's claim is. Likewise, the further your claim is from those asserted in the mainstream media, the more you need to explain and the closer attention you must pay to your sources. According to the law, repetition establishes truth, and the corporations own the means to reproduce news *ad infinitum*; the mass media is like a giant corporate-run rumor mill.

The information age has created a data overload, but the flood of news the media provides is often the mass reproduction of a small number of stories. After all, the news is owned by fewer and fewer companies.

The media decides what "issues"

one should have an opinion on and then demands no more of people than a pro or a con. Polls seek to record and quantify the opinions of large numbers of people and give the impression that the citizenry has been consulted and represented.

The AP style of newswriting is a means for the most information to be conveyed and wired around the world using the fewest words and, therefore, the least money; it is a style of writing founded in economic motivations. "Opinion" is included therein, under the guise of facts, in bite-sized economical pieces.

So, what do all of these bits of data and pro and con opinions add up to? The proliferation of information technology has not resulted in an informed public. Unless the news is contextualized and analyzed, unless ideas (as active forces) as opposed to opinions

(passive modes of representation that have more impact only if they are frequently repeated) are unapologetically re-incorporated into our stories (with one's position clearly exposed), news will remain a means to acquire more brain-numbing data, instead of an inspiration to thought and action.

We wish to provide quality news and commentary that does not purport to represent the flattened and quantified opinions of the community but to provide a forum for many voices to be heard. (Our collective has seven voices and surely seven different points of view on this letter.) Instead of aiming to represent others and speak for them, we hope our paper will inspire people to think for themselves and act accordingly. That is, we want to create a weekly newspaper for an engaged populace. 📧

Leila Binder

## Local News

### CPRB cuts

CPRB from Page 1

John Malkin, the current CPRB ordinance departs from the ideals of the Coalition for a Police Review Commission (CPRC), a group that originally pushed the City Council to create the CPRB. Malkin said the ordinance sponsored by Scott Kennedy and approved by the Council was missing a key component: it did not allow for independent investigation of all complaints.

The CPRB only has power to conduct independent investigations in exceptional cases specified in the ordinance, and only with a majority vote of its members. The case of the 1999 anti-war demonstration was the first and only time the CPRB conducted an independent investigation.

Although on that occasion the CPRB was unable to fully disclose the investigation to the public, Council Member Scott Kennedy said independent investigations have the potential to allow for more disclosure. However, Kennedy said he doesn't think it is necessary for the CPRB to have power to conduct independent investigations of all cases. "It costs too much money, and there is not enough substance to the cases they receive," he said.

According to the CPRB's 2000 Annual Report, there were twenty-four complaints filed, containing forty-three allegations. Each complaint can contain several allegations. Only four of the allegations were about excessive force and most—twenty-two—were about the officer's conduct. Both the CPRB and the Chief of Police exonerated officers in a very similar percentage of the allegations. Only seven percent of all the allegations were sustained by the CPRB and the Chief of Police sustained only five percent.

In an interview with Metro Santa Cruz in 2000, Police Officers Association (POA) Representative Barbara Williams said that the fact that the CPRB generally agrees with the police department shows that the department has an effective internal review process. "It tells me the CPRB

is not necessary," Williams said.

However, some former CPRB members say the statistics reflect fundamental weaknesses of the CPRB. According to Malkin the low number of "serious" complaints may come from the way complaints are classified. Complaints of a lesser nature are classified as "citizen inquiries" and the CPRB does not review them.

Former CPRB  
Member

San-dra Brown argues that although it is up to the complainant to decide if s/he wants to file a complaint or an inquiry, the police regularly encourages the public to file inquiries instead of complaints. The SCPD's citizen comment brochure says that while the citizen inquiry allows for "an immediate handling of the matter by the supervisor" to be completed within a month, the citizen complaint may take several months to complete. Brown said many summaries of inquiries she saw could have

“*What the Police Officer said was taken as a fact, while the complainant was always questioned...starting with the wording [of the police investigation]; what the complainant says its an 'allegation'*”

been serious complaints that could not be reviewed by the CPRB because they were filed as inquiries.

Brown, who resigned from the CPRB in 1999 after the City Council decided not to release the independent investigation of the anti-war demonstration, said the internal police investigations the CPRB reviews are often unsatisfactory. "There were so many times that I thought why didn't [the police internal investigator] ask this question or this other question, it was very frustrating," she said.

According to Brown, the CPRB reaches the same conclusions as the police and sustains so few allegations because it can only comment and take

into consideration the facts presented by the police department's investigation, which she said is usually biased towards the police officers. "What the police officer said was taken as a fact, while the complainant was always questioned," Brown explained, "starting with the wording [of the police investigation]; what the complainant says its an 'allegation'."

The importance of a truly independent investigation became apparent to Brown after the 1999 anti-war demonstration. According to Brown, although the police and the independent investigations were about the same events, their results did not show it. "It was the same investigation, but the questions asked and the outcome of the independent investigation was completely different," she said. Brown said she became disillusioned when the independent investigation was not released to the public. "It became clear that our hands were tied," she said.

"The problem with the CPRB is that it is set up to be ineffective," Brown said.

#### New model or new priorities

The CPRB is expected to give recommendations to the City Council on a possible change of model during the Council's budget hearings of June 12, 13, and 14. Although there are many models of civilian police oversight, the CPRB and the City Council are looking very closely at the model currently used in San Jose: the Independent Police Auditor.

The San Jose office of the Independent Police Auditor (IPA) was first created in 1993 as a small department with one part-time staff person, it now employs a six full-time staff with a budget of over half a million dollars. The San Jose IPA was voted in as a separate department in San Jose City's charter. Teresa Guerrero-Daley, the Independent Police Auditor, has a four-year tenure position that can only be removed by seven of the eight council members.

Guerrero-Daley does not conduct independent investigations, but she substantially influences the investiga-

Go see CPRB on Page 3



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

The Alarm! Newspaper is distributed locally through coin-operated newspaper racks and can also be found at select vendors. Our print run for this issue is 5,000 copies. Home delivery and postal subscriptions are also available (see back page for rates and instructions for subscribing).

### The Alarm! Newspaper Contacts

P.O. Box 1205  
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061

Phone: 831-429-NEWS (6397)  
Fax: 831-420-1498  
E-mail: info@the-alarm.com  
Website: www.the-alarm.com

#### How to Reach Us

to subscribe  
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to place a personal ad  
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to place a classified advertisement  
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to submit letters to the editors  
letters@the-alarm.com

to submit calendar items  
calendar@the-alarm.com

to submit queries  
for article submissions  
queries@the-alarm.com

to report distribution problems  
distro@the-alarm.com

to report printing problems  
production@the-alarm.com

to report problems with newsracks  
facilities@the-alarm.com

for questions about your bill  
finances@the-alarm.com

#### Collective Members

Armando Alcaraz  
armando@the-alarm.com

Leila Binder  
leila@the-alarm.com

Halie Johnson  
halie@the-alarm.com

Fhar Miess  
fhar@the-alarm.com

Caroline Nicola  
caroline@the-alarm.com

Rachel Showstack  
rachel@the-alarm.com

Michelle Stewart  
michelle@the-alarm.com

#### Editorial

Education  
education@the-alarm.com

Environment  
enviro@the-alarm.com

Food & Agriculture  
foodag@the-alarm.com

Health  
health@the-alarm.com

Housing & Real Estate  
housing@the-alarm.com

Labor & Economy  
labor@the-alarm.com

Local Government  
localgov@the-alarm.com

State Government  
stategov@the-alarm.com

National / International Gov't  
natlgov@the-alarm.com

Incarceration  
prisons@the-alarm.com

Transportation  
transpo@the-alarm.com

Youth  
youth@the-alarm.com

Contributors in this issue:

Lisi DeSwart, Vincent Lombardo, Manuel Schwab, Blaize Wilkinson, Travis Workman

Special Thanks go to:

Blaize, Sasha, Manuel, Marty, Rachel,

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# Council considers CPRB

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tions carried out by the internal affairs unit of the San Jose Police Department. Guerrero-Daley observes the questioning of officers and witnesses but can not ask questions directly. Instead, she can request the police internal affairs investigator to pose questions for her. "The process is slower [than directly asking the questions]," she said. "But it is also more effective, because the officers have to answer questions posed by a superior."

In addition, the Internal Affairs investigation can't be closed without Guerrero-Daley's consent, and if her findings disagree with the findings of the Chief of Police, she takes her case to the City Manager who then has the final decision on the findings.

The San Jose Police Department has enacted most of the IPA's recommendations on police policies and procedures. According to Guerrero-Daley, thanks to the IPA the San Jose Police Officer's training standards for interacting with the public have been raised, and the public's level of confidence in the police department has increased from seventy percent to eighty percent in the last two years.

In Santa Cruz, the CPRB can also make recommendations regarding police policies and procedures, but it is limited by its role as an advisory body that sends recommendations to the Chief of Police. In contrast with San Jose, the SCPD has accepted very few CPRB recommendations.

CPRB Member Tony Madrigal, for example, complained that the latest recommendation the CPRB sent to the police, that every police officer should give a business card to anyone s/he stops (so as to facilitate the officer's identification), was not taken into account. The response of Police Chief

Steve Belcher was that the cards do not work and that problems in identifying officers do not occur. The reasoning of the Chief of Police, Madrigal said, "is only an excuse for not following the recommendation."

Guerrero-Daley believes that the CPRB's lack of results is manifested in the low number of complaints

“It is a job that merits your whole attention, and anything less is a disservice to the public and to the Police Department, both of whom deserve a process that is informed, knowledgeable and fair.”

filed with the SCPD. "A low number of complaints means either a lack of confidence in the complaint process, or a lack of outreach," said Guerrero-Daley.

Current CPRB Chair Mark Halfmoon is worried about the low public turnout at the Board's monthly open meetings. "To me it means the public feels the CPRB is not an effective means to address their concerns," he said. According to Halfmoon, the CPRB is attempting to do more proactive outreach to the community. Recently, the Board met at the Beach Flats Community Center and heard concerns from members of the public.

Madrigal said he would like to "take the CPBR to the community" much more often. "The less information that a person has, the less empowered they are to use the system of complaints," he said. However, Madrigal thinks it might not be possible to improve the

outreach. "It comes down to money. We want to take the board to the community, but we need to rent spaces, and we don't have the resources," he said.


The budget of the IPA represents 2.7 percent of the budget of the San Jose Police Department, while the CPRB budget only accounts for .5 percent of the SCPD's budget. But according to Scott Kennedy, Santa Cruz and San Jose don't even compare, since San Jose is a much larger city and has a much larger police department with more substantial problems. "For the run of the mill of complaints that we get, some kind of auditor approach would be appropriate and adequate," he said. "I'm thinking probably a part-time position would save on the combined costs that the CPRB incurs."

Guerrero-Daley, however, argues that even if it is a small department, the SCPD officers have at least 50,000 contacts with the public per year, and complaints could arise from any of these contacts. She is skeptical of the idea that a part-time employee would be able to do the job. "I just don't see how that is going to be possible, it is a job that merits your whole attention, and anything less is a de-service to the public and to the Police Department, both of whom deserve a process that is informed, knowledgeable and fair," she said.

"I'm a professional, and the City pays me well," added Guerrero-Daley "I don't come cheap."

Barbara Attard is the Director of the Police Review Commission of Berkeley, an office that conducts fifty

independent investigations each year, employs two clerks, an investigator, plus the director, and has a budget of \$325,000. Attard finds the CPRB's low budget hard to believe. "I don't know how they can do anything with the budget that they have," she said.

But regardless of the expense that might be necessary to make the CPRB effective, the need for a citizen police review system is clear, according to current CPBR Vice Chair Brent Fausen. "It is really important that we have an insight into what is going on in our community, whether that is our police, our government, or our City Council," Fausen said. "If they are watching us, I wanna know who's watching them." 

## Write Us a Letter!



### Write to Us!

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

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



Dear Alarm:

Thank you for featuring the UC Lecturers' Union struggle for a fair contract in your inaugural issue. Perhaps you need a little time to get the bugs out of your new endeavor. Perhaps I spoke too quickly in my phone interview with your reporter. Either way, your misquote of my words in the article reflects poorly on me and by extension, on my fellow lecturers. I did not say, nor would I ever say, "The Biology Department treats me good." And I would correct my students and my children if they said it. I believe what I said was, "The Biology Department treats me pretty well."

Your article will be seen by more people than this letter will and your readers will be thinking, "I wouldn't give that illiterate a permanent job teaching my kids, either." In fact, the many lecturers in the UC system are literate and very well qualified, are too numerous to do without and deserve to be recognized with access to a permanent position. We are the only job classification on campus that has no hope of a permanent position, irrespective of how long we have been working. I have been "temporary" for 7 2/3 years.

**ROBERT KUHN**  
lecturer in biology, UCSC

To The Alarm!

Ordinarily, I would love to support a worker-owned collective, especially one that was committed to alternative news and information. But your

stance on Israel is appalling. I do not condone Sharon's use of force against the Palestinians, nor many of the actions that led to this. But to equate Zionism with Apartheid is completely over the top. That article was offensive and alarming, and only served to alienate me from ever supporting your newspaper.

**RENA DUBIN**  
Santa Cruz

*Alarming? Us, The Alarm! alarming? Fancy that! But seriously, to respond to your letter, we do not equate Zionism with Apartheid (nor does our contributor, Manuel Schwab) anymore than we would equate the Democratic Party with the GOP. What Manuel was doing was drawing distinct parallels between the historical trajectory of—and the tactics utilized by—both regimes, as well as pointing out well-documented collusion between them. It was both researched and argued rigorously. If you want to dispute the verity of the facts*

*presented, by all means, do. If you find that the facts contradict the analysis, this is your platform to say so. If, on the other hand, you are content to disengage the article, as well as our entire newspaper, and simply dub them both "over the top", that is also your prerogative.*

*As we've made clear, we are a newspaper "for an engaged populace". One cannot be engaged without being challenged. If you're looking for the repetition of facile progressive and liberal truisms, we are not the paper for you. If being alarmed necessarily leads you to being alienated, then this is definitely not the paper for you. We will not promise not to piss you or anyone else off, but we do pledge to be significantly more responsive than the monolithic media conglomerates you may have become accustomed to.*

FM

I'm so grateful to politicians who have never been inside an inner city classroom for their assurances that

poor teachers are to blame for low test scores and that statewide, even nationwide testing will show us who those bad teachers are and will improve test scores statewide.

As I look back on my years of teaching in schools whose students consistently scored low on those tests, I wonder how I could have missed that obvious answer: testing. Testing would certainly have helped those students who came to school bleary-eyed because they'd spent the night sleeping with their mothers and sisters and brothers in the windowless halls of their apartment buildings, because the bedrooms had windows to the streets, and they were afraid of stray bullets, and it would have been the salvation of the kids who'd been in four or five different foster homes in the last couple of years, would have helped the little girl, living in a homeless shelter, whose mother had been in jail for several years and who had somehow gotten a baby brother there. Testing is the obvious magic bullet for those kids whose parents, perhaps because they couldn't read themselves, never read bedtime stories to them, the kids whose parents don't read for pleasure, the kids who don't have books of their own, the kids whose parents don't read. The crack babies. The ones who can't sit still. The ones with empty stomachs.

Testing keeps teachers from dealing with the real issues.

**MARGO WECKSLER**  
Albany, CA

## Memorial Day and a storm in Rome

By **MANUEL SCHWAB**  
*The Alarm! Newspaper Contributors*

On Thursday, May 30, the Guardian reported that lightning had hit and splintered a 3000-year-old obelisk located in Rome. Italian authorities consider it a miracle that no one was hurt. The obelisk, the Guardian report continued, had been stolen from Ethiopia in 1937 by Benito Mussolini to glorify the political might of the expanding fascist dictatorship. As a result of the lighting strike, a junior Culture Minister for Italy announced that the Foreign Ministry's proposal to return the ill-gotten cultural artifact to Ethiopia would not be pursued, because the obelisk was now "too fragile to move."

If there is any symbolic weight to the broken rock in Rome, its center of gravity is certainly the impact of Fascism's legacy on the political imagination of the West. Since the end of the Second World War, Europe (and the United States closely behind) has been working to come to terms with its encounter (which many argue is anything but past) with this extreme manifestation of nationalist authoritarianism.

This reckoning is all the more relevant today, in an era where the global political climate is once again marked by shocking international alliances, startling attacks on the sovereignty of nations, and a general return to the rhetoric of an international war against a monolithic evil. If we read the damage to the obelisk and the ensuing government reaction as a figure for our current western relationship to Fascism, then what has been shaken loose is our commitment to resist nationalist justifications for authoritarianism in the present.

The lightning strike comes on the heels of Bush JR's Memorial Day declaration at Saint-Mere-Eglise in Normandy, the site of the first landing of US Forces during the D-Day invasion of June 6, 1944. And there too, in Normandy, nearly fifty-seven years after the invasion, the rhetorical echoes of the old fascist heritage reverberate. In an insidious double move, Fascism is invoked as the prototypical threat to liberty, and nationalist aggression is offered as its only antidote.

It should strike every civilian as a travesty that the commemoration of the war-dead falls, year after year, under the banner of the same nationalism that has served as a justification for the sacrifice of generations of civilians. But our current administration, at war, would never pass up such an opportunity to exploit the history of those who have already been killed in the service of their country. In fact, it seems that this war only demands renewed sacrifice, and that an alliance on the scale of

the Second World War is being invoked to justify the deaths of countless Americans – not to mention those countless others that never seem to count. Making a seamless transition from remembering the grief of the families of D-Day victims, our President now insists that, "For some military families in America and in Europe, the grief is recent, with the losses we have suffered in Afghanistan." More pointedly, he continues that "Our security is still bound up together in a transatlantic alliance, with soldiers in many uniforms defending the world from terrorists at this very hour."

We should be deeply alarmed at this conflation of our present war with World War Two – not because the casualties of either war are to be disparaged, nor because the geopolitical parameters of the two Wars are to be confused. Rather, we should be alarmed that our current administration is positioning itself as the central engineer of a war in which it demands global complicity. We should be alarmed that it is once again acceptable for our president to uncritically remind the world that "the grave markers here [in Normandy] all face West."

Have we stopped paying attention to the dead of the East? Judging from the casualty reports we heard daily from mainstream news sources during our war in Afghanistan, evidently. But there was a period, more recent history than the war hawks would like to acknowledge, in which large populations in the West were vigilant (a word that has now taken on an entirely new meaning) against the resurgence of such internationally hostile nationalism. The New Left of Germany is a compelling example from that time: a radical movement of the young generation of the 1960s and 70s driven by the fear that the industrial leaders of Nazi Germany had never experienced the "de-nazification" attempted in the political sector of that country.

There was, alongside this German youth, the movement in the US and abroad against the Vietnam War. Many of these anti-war protestors emphasized the Cold-War imperialism that was the backdrop of that war. They considered the actions of their country as genocide (an opinion shared by Jean-Paul Sartre) practiced to further the goals of an insupportable American nationalism insinuating itself into politics of the Third World to combat the Soviets. The anti-Soviet surrogate wars they waged continued through the late 1980s, and into Afghanistan. Back then, ironically, our Government was funding Osama Bin Laden in his fight against the Soviets.

But that Cold War era (for which we should be anything

## Clip it & Learn More Demonstration on Golden Gate Bridge results in arrests

By **VINCENT LOMBARDO**  
*The Alarm! Newspaper Contributor*

Approximately 150 people gathered this past Saturday, May 25 in San Francisco's Crissy Field near the bridge to stand in solidarity with oppressed peoples around the world. Demonstrators demanded the US cut all financial aid to Isreal, and to advocate for repeal of the USA Patriot Act.

Thirty-three people were arrested after a permitted march across the Golden Gate Bridge was cut short by riot police from the California Highway Patrol.

Sascha Winter, an eighteen year-old UCSC student, said "about twenty," Santa Cruz residents were among the demonstrators.

A contingent of assorted police agencies greeted the marchers with numerous squad cars, vans, buses and dirt bikes. A CHP helicopter hovering overhead the demonstration and a Coast Guard boat patrolled the bay. Park Rangers were positioned on the bridge armed with video cameras.

The protest was coordinated by the All People's Coalition, an ad-hoc group of organizations and individuals who came together after 9/11 to oppose the current U.S. "war on terror."

Rally organizers say they chose the Golden Gate Bridge

for its appeal as a high profile symbol of the United States.

Permits were secured for the gathering after a series of meetings with officials from the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District. Under the terms, the walk across the bridge was to end promptly at 2 pm.

By 1:30, protesters had neared the Marin County side of the bridge and were to turn around and walk back, when according to Winter, police stopped the progress of the march and ordered the crowd to retreat. Winter said "There were two officers. They were beating people back with batons." Referring to reports that the demonstration caused a standstill on the bridge, Winter states, "We didn't actually block traffic. Most of the people were charged with obstruction of movement in a public place and they were cited and released. I didn't actually see anybody breaking any laws."

"My first thought was they were overreacting," said Emily McMillen, 22, of Santa Cruz. She attended Saturday's protest to document the event for the Independent Media Center.

While attempting to question the advancing police, McMillen says that at least three of them pulled her to the ground. "They targetted people with videocameras

and took them down." She was among twenty-six people taken to Marin County Jail.

Seven others were taken to San Francisco's Hall of Justice, including, 11 year-old Sophia Ibrahim, a Palestinian-American from Los Gatos, who is charged with assaulting an officer. Photos of the arrest, however, show the one-hundred pound-girl handcuffed, lying face down in the grass, with a rather large cop pressing his knee across the back of her legs. Sophia's 20 year old brother, Musa was also arrested after being told he'd be released if he went with them to pick up his sister. "Once he got there they put him in cuffs as well, and booked him for felony child endangerment," said Winter.

The Council on American Islamic Relations issued a statement calling the police actions 'unconscionable' and recommending a suspension for the officer involved. Sophia was released to her father on Monday.


At press time, some individuals have reported their charges were dropped in court. Plans are in the works to pressure the DA to drop all remaining charges stemming from this protest. Asked to sum up her experience, McMillen, said of the protest, "It's nice to get (good) media attention and I thought this was effective in that regard." 📷

but nostalgic) is now "officially over." Back in Italy, the site of the pregnant lightning strike on the old spoils of Fascist expansionism, Prime Minister Berlusconi took the weeks after September 11 as an opportunity to stomp for his particular brand of far-right nationalism. He said that the attacks demonstrated once and for all the supremacy of Western civilization, and that they should inspire all European nations to re-commit themselves to their occidental roots. Apparently, more than just the tombstones face West.

Or perhaps, the new geopolitical situation is even more complicated. Berlusconi was not, after all, the only world leader to take advantage of the rhetorical reservoir handed over to the belligerents of the world in the form of our government's declaration of the War On Terrorism. Immediately after the attacks, Vladimir Putin announced to the world that America's new war was comparable to Russia's war against Chechnya, and that the two superpowers should join in the global struggle against terror. For a while it seemed that

Go see **SCHWAB** on Page 7

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# Local News

## Methyl Bromide & Schools

**METHYL** from Page 1

are very positive for the students and teachers at the schools. "While these are somewhat small improvements, these two schools are the best protected schools anywhere in the state of California," he said.

But Marilyn Garrett of Toxics Action Coalition called the settlement a minimal success. Agri-business and chemical corporations dominate farming and they lack genuine protections for children and communities, according to Garrett. "It's a myth of safety that they're projecting. Regulations and fines merely legalize harm," she said. "If a grower does not follow a regulation, a tarp blows off, or the wind is blowing and the pesticide drifts, the grower pays the violation and keeps using the pesticide. It means the grower can legally harm the neighbors."

Instead of fighting one pesticide at a time, Garrett said the whole conventional agricultural model needs to change. "The problem with regulations is that we're regulating how the earth is being destroyed, at what rate, when and where, instead of stopping it," she said.

California is the world's largest user of methyl bromide, a pesticide used to fumigate soil before planting strawberries and other crops, and for building fumigations. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) classified methyl bromide as a Category I acute toxin, the classification the EPA uses for the most deadly toxins.

### Reference Concentrations—Safety Standards or Regulatory Device?

Meuter said he filed the lawsuit because the State's 2000 air monitoring tests determined that the levels of methyl bromide in the air exceeded its own reference concentrations, which Meuter called "safe" levels. Meuter was concerned about the potential health risks associated with the results of the air monitoring tests and sent letters to CDPR and the county Agricultural Commission and then met with them. "We attempted to work with the two enforcement agencies to take some proactive steps to reduce the potential health risks to students, teachers and others living in the area," Meuter said. When the two agencies refused to take any action, Meuter filed the suit.

According to CDPR there were no health risks associated with the levels of methyl bromide detected in the air monitoring tests. "Reference levels do not indicate a safe or unsafe level. It's a regulatory or risk management device," said Anita Ruud, Attorney General Representing CDPR Ruud said. When the detected level of pesticide exceeds a reference concentration, according to Ruud, it does not mean anybody is harmed. She could not identify any CDPR established safety guidelines for air monitoring tests.

Meuter argued that the reference concentrations have built-in safety margins. "Those safety margins are there for a reason. When there are levels eating into those safety margins, it means a change is needed," he said.

Meuter and CDPR agree that air levels below reference levels are not expected to harm anyone. "Relying on that definition, we take the position that measured levels above the

concentration are a potential health risk," Meuter said. And if the reference concentrations do not establish safety guidelines, Meuter asks why CDPR doesn't have some other level associated with safety.

### Air Monitoring and Environmental Racism

In April 2002, CDPR released a report that monitored methyl bromide

“The problem with regulations is that we’re regulating how the earth is being destroyed, at what rate, when and where, instead of stopping it.”

concentrations at six school sites in Monterey and Santa Cruz counties in fall 2001. Samples from Pajaro Middle School and La Joya Elementary School reported the highest concentrations of the six school sites.

Environmental Working Group (EWG) analyzed 1998 State data on all the pesticides used within one and a half miles of California schools. The data ranked Pajaro Middle School the highest of twenty-nine schools listed in Santa Cruz County, with almost 140,000 pounds of pesticides applied that year. With 76,000 pounds applied, methyl bromide accounted for fifty-six percent of that total. Of the fifteen top-ranking schools in Santa Cruz County (for pounds of pesticide applied within one and a half miles of the school) fourteen are all in Watsonville.

Mike Walker of EWG said State and independent air monitoring tests show that when methyl bromide is used on strawberries and other crops, potentially harmful concentrations of the chemical routinely drift from the application site into nearby schools and neighborhoods. Walker said a 1997 EWG air monitoring test that began on Saturday, reported relatively high levels of methyl bromide into the next Tuesday. Because of the chemical drift, Walker said school children are not fully protected by restricting methyl bromide applications to non-school days.

In addition, Cheri Alderman, a teacher at Pajaro Middle School said some students attend school on Saturday, too. She added that students live by the school and are invariably around on the weekends. "The growers are poisoning people that live here," she said, "and people are afraid to speak up because of their jobs".

Comparative data from 2000 and 2001 shows significant declines from one-day and one-week average methyl bromide concentrations. However, five of the six schools including, Pajaro Middle School and La Joya Elementary School, showed seasonal averages higher than reference concentrations or "safe" levels.

A 2000 EWG report found that potential exposure to methyl bromide at school falls disproportionately on children of color. "What we found is that when you overlay the State's own figures on methyl bromide usage with the locations of the schools and the racial make-up of those schools, the

overwhelming number of students in California that are exposed to heavy levels of methyl bromide being sprayed near schools are Latino."

"It's clear that environmental burden and exposure to toxins is disproportionately affecting people of color," said Skip Spitzer of Pesticide Action Network (PAN). He added that children face particular rises from pesticides because they are more reactive to toxic substances in general.

A 1998 National Resources Defence Council report found that fetuses, infants and children are particularly susceptible to pesticides compared with adults, because their bodies can not efficiently detoxify and eliminate chemicals. Also according to the report, their organs are still growing and developing, and they have a longer lifetime to develop health complications after an exposure.

The report also stated that many scientists agree public health protection efforts should focus on those children who are most exposed and most susceptible, rather than on the average adult or even the average child. According to Spitzer, most of the research and regulatory policy dealing with people and pesticides presumes the people in question are adults.

### Speaking Out

Sara Ringler, a teacher at Pajaro Middle School said her school district has resisted addressing possible exposures. "The school district has mostly been on the side of agriculture and has tried to marginalize teachers who have stood up to this," she said.

Garrett said she received letters when she was a teacher at Amesti School in Watsonville that were clearly harassment letters. She added that other teachers have been intimidated, had

“Strawberries were not a really big crop before the use of methyl bromide. We have allowed a specialty crop that was just a niche market to completely dominate our policy about this very dangerous pesticide.”

left the school or were not re-hired for reasons related to the pesticide controversy. She still asserts that people need to focus on stopping the poisoners and the need to reclaim democratic rights. "It's so egregious what's happening and so threatening to our survival," Garrett said. "It really needs to be ended."

### New Rulemaking on Methyl Bromide

As part of the settlement, CDPR will develop new regulations for methyl bromide. The regulations will be established by a standard process, including public hearings and a comment period.

According to Ruud, CDPR agreed to the settlement because it had already initiated a round of rulemaking as required by a different lawsuit filed in San Francisco. "It seemed like a way to agree was to look at some specific items in order to resolve the lawsuit," Ruud said.

Meuter said he hopes the next round of rulemaking will establish clear and enforceable safety standards and that CDPR will take the necessary steps to

protect the public. "The problem that we were seeking to address in this lawsuit is sub-acute or longer term exposures that occur day after day for a six-to-eight week period," Meuter said. "There is no regulation that protects people from that kind of exposure."

Walker said if history is a guide to the type of regulations CDPR will establish for methyl bromide, the new regulations will be inadequate. "CDPR has resisted making enforceable regulations, or actually setting a standard. They keep saying it's a guideline or it's flexible and that allows them maximum flexibility to do what they want," Walker said. "When they were finally pushed to write some regulations, they adopted guidelines that were not improvements on the informal ones they were already using," Walker said.

### Alternatives

Most of the methyl bromide in the state of California is used on strawberries. "Strawberries were not a really big crop before the use of methyl bromide. We have allowed a specialty crop that was just a niche market to completely dominate our policy about this very dangerous pesticide," Walker said. "It really comes down to the state doing a special favor for a small group of people. That enabled the large strawberry growers to take this specialty niche crop and turn it into a very large market."

Walker pointed out a number of strawberry growers in Monterey and Santa Cruz counties who are profitably raising strawberries without the use of methyl bromide or any other pesticide.

When environmentalists talk about alternatives to methyl bromide, they're referring to something very different than what the growers are talking about. "The growers want a one-for-one substitute that does the same thing that methyl bromide does, which is basically to kill everything it comes in contact with," Walker said. "They call it a silver bullet, and they want another silver bullet to replace methyl bromide." He said environmentalists are advocating an overall approach that includes a variety of practices.

Spitzer said conventional agriculture in the U.S. has everything to do with the pursuit of profit, and virtually nothing to do with feeding people or providing

healthy food or subsistence to farmers. "The industry can't say 'we failed to create a safe way to farm, so we have to continue to farm in a hazardous way,'" he said. "The industry has done this to itself."

According to Spitzer, some practices that would promote a more fair and sustainable farming system include agency and federal government promotion of alternative farming methods; anti-trust measures brought against the large agri-business conglomerates; a fair Farm Bill, not the one Bush just signed with hundreds of millions of dollars for subsidies to disproportionately large farms that don't really need it; and land reform so farmers don't have to "get big or get out".

"There is a whole host of things that can be done to really turn the whole situation around," Spitzer said. "There is absolutely nothing inevitable about it from a policy point of view."

# In Retrospect

## A Grizzly Tale

*"Until the bears have their historian, all tales of hunting will glorify the hunter"*

By **BLAIZE WILKINSON**

*The Alarm! Newspaper Columnist*

When I first moved to Santa Cruz in 1990, I spent a lot of time asking questions. I would walk the half block from my front door to the top of the stairs down to Seabright Beach, and strike up conversations with people who looked like they might know something. This is the way I found out what the pelicans were diving for (anchovies), what the strange man-made rip-rap that held the harbor jetty together was called (God's jacks), and that the light off shore was the mile buoy. During this time I remember hearing that grizzly bears once lived in the Santa Cruz mountains, and that when a dead whale would wash up on a county beach, the local newspapers would tell people to stay away from the shore because the grizzlies would come down from the hills and eat the rotting carcass.

I have yet to find such a warning in the *Santa Cruz Daily Surf*, the weekly *Pacific Sentinel*, or its descendant, the *Santa Cruz Sentinel*. Nor have any of the books I have read about county history made mention of such warnings. Still, in searching for such a document, I have learned about the bears.

The bears evidently did eat beached whales. The Spanish explorer Vizcaino, who traveled by ship up the California coast in the early 1600s, reported seeing bears in the Monterey Bay region, congregated on a beach eating a whale carcass. Later, as whaling stations set up their rendering operations on the beaches during the mid-1800s, the bears would come to the shore to eat the discarded carcasses left over after the blubber had been stripped.

According to Burton L. Gordon, whaling was not the only human activity the bears benefited from. In his book *Monterey Bay Area: Natural History and Cultural Imprints*, Gordon explained that after the Santa Cruz Mission was founded in 1791, cattle and sheep—kept by the Native American Catholic neophytes for the priests and soldiers—attracted bears down from the hills. The grizzlies' fondness for Mission livestock gave the padres a reason to send both gun-armed soldiers and bow-armed native converts out to hunt bears.

With the arrival of the American period came an increase in the county's population. Trade expanded with logging, mining (for gold and limestone),

and tanning concerns (which used the bark of tanoak trees) spreading up the San Lorenzo Valley. The grizzlies now had more ready fodder in the settlers' cattle. The evident increase in bear population was not welcomed in Santa Cruz County, as newspapers of the time made clear.


In 1859, the *Pacific Sentinel* reported the trapping of four bears within thirty-six hours by a man living on Corralitos creek: "This beats anything in the bear catching line we have seen recorded" (September 13). The same paper reported two incidents in August 1860. In the first, a grizzly had killed an ox near Brady and Nichol's saw mill on Soquel Creek. Then Henry White "knowing the nature of the animal, watched for his return and shot him through the heart, killing him almost instantly" (August 10). In the second incident, a man near the summit "killed four bears: a female with her cubs. Four shots were fired before she 'gave in,' and then the younger members of the family became an easy prey" (August 24).

The *Pacific Sentinel* and the *Santa Cruz Sentinel* appeared to approve of bear hunting. After reporting on Mr. White's clean shot, the *Pacific Sentinel* went on to note that three grizzlies had been seen crossing the coast road six miles north of Santa Cruz. "Hunters who prefer 'big game,' " the paper opined, "would find this a fine place for amusement" (August 10, 1860). The *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, in May 1884, reported that "Bears are said to be more numerous than usual this year around the region near Waddell Creek. Farmers complain of having sheep carried off by Bruin. Here is a good chance for some of our local marksmen to distinguish themselves" (May 31). If, as Burton L. Gordon says, the last of these "numerous" grizzlies in Santa Cruz County was killed in 1885, then the marksmen must have distinguished themselves indeed.

The *Santa Cruz Daily Surf*, in 1885, reported what must have been one of the last grizzlies in Santa Cruz County, evidently "an enormous female...with her cubs." The article went on to say "We hear of several parties of bear killers being organized, but will not embarrass the valiant hunters by exposing names" (September 4, 1885). When I first read this sentence, I thought there must be a joke I was missing, and that the paper was praising these hunters in some backhanded way. But, upon rereading, I began to wonder whether the sentences were not actually a critique of the proposed hunt. If so, perhaps the *Surf* was showing a dislike of killing a female and her cubs. Or, if I were to project my most hopeful modern

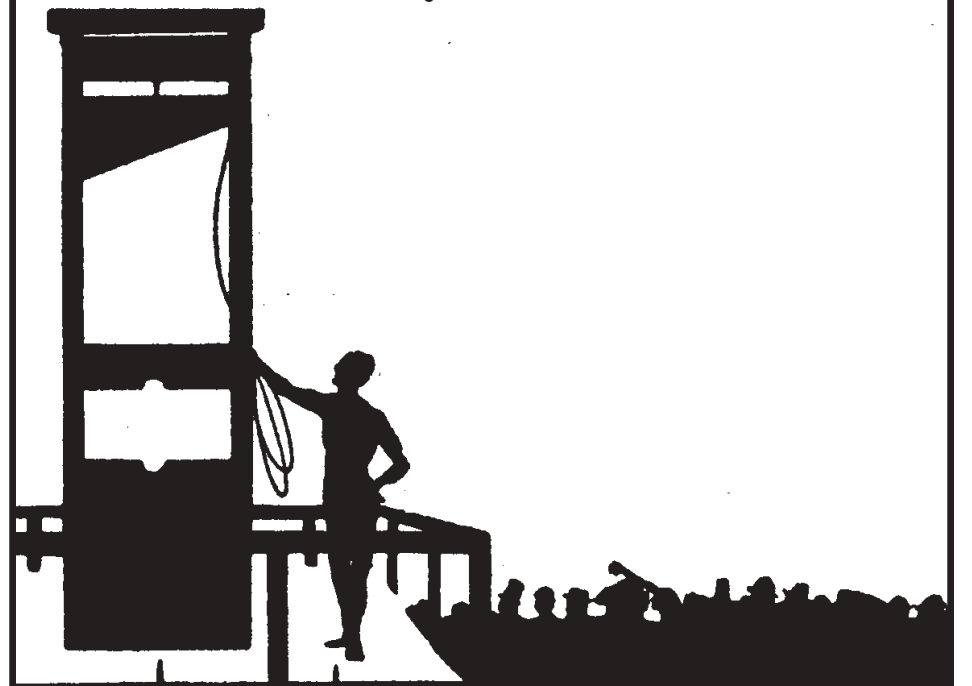
idealism back into the past, maybe the *Surf* foresaw the utter demise of the Santa Cruz Mountain grizzly population, and made its sassy comment to express disgust at the hunt. With its masthead graced by two different images of grizzly bears, perhaps the *Surf* had a more than aesthetic affection for the animals. Whatever the reading, the sentence remains tantalizing.

Even after the last wild grizzlies were killed in Santa Cruz County, the bears still held a place in local imagination. In its reports on the festivities for the forty-first anniversary of California's statehood, the *Surf* told of the

"prominent place in the grand parade" of Billy Bruin, Jr., an eight-month old grizzly captured as a baby in the Santa Cruz Mountains (evidently on the Santa Clara county side, if we are to trust Gordon's 1885 date for the last bear in Santa Cruz). The bear paid "a very social and fraternal call" to the paper and was "the most affectionate little fellow in the world" (September 9, 1891). Billy Bruin and his kind were, of course, a symbol of California, taking the center spot of the state flag. The last of California's estimated 10,000 grizzly bears was killed in the Sierra Nevada in the 1920s. 

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# Sexy Salmon and Naked Chickens

By LEILA BINDER

The Alarm! Newspaper Collective

*Of the streets that blur into the sunset  
there must be one (which, I am not sure)  
that I by now have walked for the last time  
without guessing it, the pawn of that Someone  
Who fixes in advance omnipotent laws  
sets up a secret and unwavering scale  
for all the shadows, dreams and forms  
woven into the texture of this life*

—Limits, Jorge Luis Borges

Last week Tony Blair gave a speech condemning “anti-science” culture and criticizing the growing movement against genetic engineering. The sabotage of genetically modified test crops occurs somewhere in Britain nearly every week. On May Day this year, 95 % of those polled in Weeley, Essex county voted against a planned test site in their area. The Independent described the feeling many Brits have about the science their government supports as a sense of unease.

Recently, the “culture of science” has found a new way to propagate itself; corporations are making arguments in cyberspace under the names of people and citizens’ groups that do not exist. The Bivings Group was contracted by Monsanto to conduct a PR campaign using “viral marketing.” Its web site, entitled “Viral Marketing: How to Infect the World” explains, “Once you are plugged into this world, it is possible to make postings to these outlets that present your position as an uninvolved third party.... Perhaps the greatest advantage of viral marketing is that your message is placed into a context where it is more likely to be taken seriously.”

Viral marketing even spurred the retraction of an article in Nature magazine that claimed that genetically modified pollen had infected native maize over a large area in Mexico. Hundreds of postings, claiming that the article was biased, eventually led to a petition. The first postings were signed by a “Mary Murphy” and “Andura Smetacek”, but these people and the “Center for Food and Agricultural Research” that Smetacek purportedly represents appear not to exist.

Blair asserts that protesting against genetically engineered food is “a retreat into the culture of unreason” and begs us to embrace the culture of science. So does Monsanto. They seem to think we should embrace corporate arguments made by puppet non-existent people and organizations on the internet. Apparently, reason is based on the arguments of the highest bidder. Blair’s “culture of reason” has long been spread by corporations for a price; viral marketing is just their newest propaganda device, infecting cyberspace so that it may infect gene pools.

Professor Philip Dale, from the John Innes Centre, said, “The recent destruction of field crop experiments, which were designed to generate knowledge on which sound decisions are made, has parallels with book burning in less enlightened times.” This is ironic since it is the corporations who wish to wipe out anti-genetic-engineering sentiment. However, genes aren’t simply texts, they are the foundations of life.

Blair said that science “can be used by evil people for evil ends.” Strange that he brings up this possibility, since the corporations that support him and his government use science to their ends. So, what are these illustrious ends? I will draw a sample exclusively from the last week of news.

The first mutant featherless chicken was designed here in California, at UC Davis in 1954. The only problem was that it was too small to be marketable. Now, Dr. Avigdor Canaher of Hebrew University in Israel has designed a large pre-plucked boiler that grows faster than your regular chicken. “Feathers are a waste. The chickens are using feed to produce something that has to be dumped and the farmers have to waste electricity to overcome the fact,” said Dr. Canaher. These mutant pre-plucked chickens are more tolerant of hotter climates than other chickens. Meanwhile, the Hadley Center for Climate Prediction and Research in London just released a report that indicates that the earth is heating up at a higher rate than expected. In fifty years we may be blessed with a planet where only the mutant featherless-chickens survive.

As if pre-plucked chickens were not disturbing enough, they have also designed an extra-large super-sexy salmon. Some scientists claim that test areas are secure but others say that it is inevitable that these genetically engineered salmon would eventually escape. This salmon is more attractive to the opposite sex than wild salmon and thus would likely wipe out other species of salmon through sexual selection. Also, they were engineered to be bigger to provide more meat to sell in supermarkets but in the wild they would eat up all the smaller salmon.

Last Friday, the Wall Street Journal reported that UCSF is conducting stem cell research applying cloning technology much like that used to create Dolly, the cloned sheep. Eventually humans will be engineered too. Not only is it frightening that “they” will fashion humans according to their fancy, but, because they do not understand what the potential effects of their experiments are, they do not even know what Frankenstein will look like. Will they make humans sexier like the salmon? And if so, according to whose liking? Will genetic engineering be a kind of plastic surgery prevention, with everyone looking like they’re from Beverly Hills, white with big breasts and no wrinkles?

The US military attempted to create completely isolated laboratories in the middle of the Pacific on ships and atolls; they repeatedly tested biological and chemical weapons on US soldiers between 1964 and 1986. Much like nuclear testing on atolls, these experiments could never be totally contained. Radiation and bio-pathogens will always disperse into the environment.

Just as the hermit who works on his computer from home and only eats take-out food is under the mistaken impression that he is separate from society—that his food appears miraculously, neither prepared by a cook or harvested from some field where it was grown—some scientists and businessmen are under the mistaken impression that DNA can be separated from the body or the species. Scientists admit that they do not know the effects of tampering with DNA and that such experiments cannot be contained in the first place—pollen blows in the wind and sexy salmon could escape their test sites and spawn their way through the gene pool: genetic engineering is a massive uncontrolled experiment.

DNA has become patented data, a commodity, treated as equivalent to all other DNA as if it were an easily-replaceable spare part for a machine. The propagators of the infectious twin cultures of reason and science are determined to isolate the coding of life and engineer in the image that the market dictates. The new evolutionary logic is: survival of the most profitable. 🐔

# Taco Bell boycott

NO QUIERO from Page 1

helping Taco Bell realize its responsibility for improving the wages of our state’s tomato pickers,” says Brian Payne, of Florida’s student-farmworker alliance.

Immokalee, in the middle of the Everglades, feels more like a labor reserve than a southwest Florida town. It’s an unincorporated area where the farmworker population nearly doubles to 30,000 during the harvest season.

“Every day here, thousands of people wake up at 4 a.m. to beg for a day’s work in the central parking lot in town,” Benitez says. “And every Friday, they get checks from three or four different companies. No company has a fixed work force. There are only the changing faces of Immokalee workers picking and planting every day.”

Three decades ago, when Edward R. Murrow produced “Harvest of Shame,” the celebrated expose of semi-slave conditions among Florida farm workers, the state’s tomato pickers were African-Americans and Black immigrants from the Caribbean. While Haitians still make up a significant percentage of that work force today, most Immokalee residents today are Mexican and Guatemalan.

But the plight of the nation’s farmworkers has changed little since Murrow’s television documentary. According to a U.S. Department of Labor report to Congress last year, farmworkers everywhere in the United States are at the bottom of the economic heap. And Florida pickers are among the poorest.

In the past five years the CIW has provided the Florida Department of Justice documentation of three slavery operations. One southwest Florida employer cited held over 400 people in bondage, forcing them to work 10- to 12-hour days, six days a week, for as little as \$20 a day. Armed guards stood watch in the fields and work camps where pickers lived.

In 1997, that employer was sentenced to 15 years in federal prison. Another labor contractor is currently serving three years for holding 30 workers in two trailers in a swamp near Immokalee. The CIW’s anti-slavery program is currently investigating a third case.

The American South is a region of few unions and low wages, but grassroots organizing projects are spreading rapidly. In the eyes of many traditional unions, the new Southern workers—immigrant agricultural labors, who often don’t speak English—are difficult or impossible to organize. But for Benitez and the CIW, the immigrant status of the Immokalee work force is an advantage to organizers, who use popular education techniques that have become part of the culture of social justice movements in Central America and the Caribbean. Many workers can’t read, but movies, popular theater, cartoons and drawings help them recognize their situation and participate in changing it.

This spring the CIW took two busloads of its members on a “Taco Bell Truth Tour,” which culminated in a demonstration of 2,000 workers and supporters outside the company’s blue, glass office tower in Irvine, in California’s Orange County. Taco Bell maintains it is not responsible for the work conditions of tomato pickers since it doesn’t employ them directly. Nevertheless, company representatives met with Benitez and other CIW activists.

In a statement after the meeting, Laurie Gannon, Taco Bell spokesperson, said that “we allowed them to share their views and they allowed us to clarify some of their statements. It’s still too early to tell what will happen because we’re still talking about this.” 🐔

# Memorial Day

SCHWAB from Page 4

his plea would miraculously fall on deaf ears, but we should not be so lucky.

The day before running the story on the lightning-struck-Roman obelisk, the Guardian reported on the impending US-Russian agreement as “an epoch-making agreement that will give Russia a say alongside NATO and bury the Cold War forever.” But if the Cold War has been officially buried, the lightning that struck twice against the twin towers on September 11 was not the cause of death. Rather the attacks are, in addition to all their immediate horrors, an abiding alibi for a new era of militarism. If Bush’s call to arms does not suffice, and the posturing of Putin seems obscure,

what about Sharon’s invasion of Palestine clothed in the imperial rags of anti-terrorism? Or what about the strange political about face of German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer? Fischer was himself somewhat of a radical anti-authoritarian in his German-New-Left-Youth, and a man who has for years been fighting the attempts of right-leaning government officials, both past and present, to brand him a terrorist for his political past. In the days after the attacks, he mused on public television that the September 11 events demonstrated the need to re-invent the relationship between civilian and military intelligence.

Perhaps Bush was onto something after all about the importance of Memorial Day. He described it as a

Go see SCHWAB on Page 14



My style is a bit of a gender-f--k, since I got bored just performing as one gender or another, I like to mix the two and make it a really sexy number—Ranka



Celebrate Sam



Above: Ranka; Middle: Vegas Jake and the



Kameltoh



It's Saturday





# Gloria Steinem did it with Bunny Ears on

Part 1

By RACHEL BINDER  
The Alarm! Newspaper Contributor

I was back in New York, sleeping on my best friend's couch, flat broke and loafing. I always dreamed of having my own place in Manhattan, where people would crash on my couch and not the other way around. I had gone to the temp agencies and hit the department stores for extra holiday help. And nothing. A deposit on even a ghetto Manhattan studio was a sum larger than I had ever possessed at one time. My money, groceries, and welcome were all quickly running out. I was willing to try anything.

My friend Katie had an idea. She had been cocktail waitressing at a strip joint right in Times Square and making bunches of money. I had met Katie in our small college feminist group: we were the only ones to ever show up to meetings. If Katie can get past it, I thought, I certainly could. So, I went in to meet the manager of *Flashdance*, aptly named "Nunzio".

I was terrified. I had never been inside of a strip club before and I tried to avert my eyes to anything I should not be seeing. The stairway that led down into the club had walls covered in smiling glossy 8x10s of scantily clad women with unusually large endowments. Upon entering I was reminded of my county fair; except on steroids with flashier lights, louder music, more skin, but the same bellyache you get after too much cotton candy and too many drunken teenage boys.

Katie asked me to wait in the corner for Nunzio. The corner was also the place where waitresses would change into their work clothes: a black bustier with gold and black sequins, a spandex thong worn over incredibly thick nylons, and what I like to refer to as the "butt cape", a skirt that only mostly covered your ass. The girls tried to cover one another from the grazing eyes at the bar while they dressed, but it was inevitable that something would flash. Katie explained that the dancers had full territorial rights to the bathroom area before their shifts. No stall or mirror space was going to be taken up by the likes of a lowly waitress.

I stood uncomfortably in that corner as the girls got dressed, feeling light-headed and childlike. I feigned comfort while Nunzio approached me. Nunzio was a tall man with white hair that had the same voice as Joe Pesci (he later explained that was because Pesci was "from the neighborhood").

"So, you ever cocktail before?" he asked in that hard ass New York tone.

"I've worked at restaurants before," I offered lamely.

"Alright. You can start tonight." I exhaled, relieved and mortified all at once. "But you have to pick another name. No one goes by her real name here. What's it gonna be?"

"J-Jesse, I guess." It was the first name that popped into my head. My mother had almost named me Jesse but decided it was too much of a boy's name.

"Alright, J-Jesse, I guess," he replied, mocking me. "Give Mona over there your size and we'll see if we can get you a uniform. It's eighty dollars, we'll take it out of your first night's cash. Mona can explain the rest." It all happened before I could really digest it. I snuck into the bathroom, hiding my uniform

from the glaring eyes of the dancers, trying to avoid looking too closely at their grotesquely painted faces in the bright light of the room. I changed in the stall despite the hostile grumbling of a tanned blonde busy smoothing lotion over her body. There were mirrors everywhere; on the way out I couldn't help but sneak a look at myself. I guess I could pass as a cigarette girl, I thought; even if only like a cigarette girl on *Dance Fever*. I frowned at myself, hoping to cling onto a little dignity but the mirror revealed none. They gave me 15 bucks cash and a little tray to start the evening. I hung around Katie hoping that she would show me the ropes and not one of the other girls. They didn't really like the idea of new blood.

We stood in a line by the door, like a line of highly glossed taxicabs waiting for a flight to come into La Guardia. As each new customer entered we showed them their table, got them a drink, and answered questions like: "Can you find me a girl with real boobies?" or "Can you find me a girl without a big ass? I mean, still round and all, but not too much?" or, better yet; "Do you dance? Cimon, sure you do for the right price, how much?"

Most evenings, especially Fridays, there was a featured dancer on the main stage performing some bizarre, often costumed variety act and my first night was no exception. Champagne Shawntell was the name. I don't quite recall the opening of her act--I had been engrossed in figuring out my first couple of drink orders--but I will never forget what was to follow. Suddenly, an enormous champagne glass filled with bubbly water was in the center of the main stage, and Shawntell was climbing in. She had long since lost her top, but this was Guilliani's town, so I figured I was safe about her thong staying on. It was a safe assumption since most major strip clubs in NY had recently been raided by the police (in an attempt to enforce all the new laws). Some clubs had been shut down, creating an excess of dancers looking for work, and many career shifts to prostitution. Even the PC terminology became law: "lap dance no way, table dance OK". The stories I had read in the news reassured me that Shawntell would keep her bottoms on. And I do so hate to be wrong about such things.

"Oh, God." I heard Katie murmur. "And on your first night."

"What??" The noise had gotten even louder since their first enthusiastic introduction of Miss Shawntell.

"Well, first she was just touching herself, but now I think she's going to do the golf ball thing." I wasn't sure I'd heard her right, I could've sworn she'd just said golf ball.

"What?" I asked over the music. "Try not to cross in front of the main stage. Let Tiara take your place in line. Trust me."

"Did you just say golf ball?" And before I could get the question out, a rather wet golf ball flew across the stage and into the audience where several drunk men dived towards it, hoping for a perfect catch. The announcer piped in: "Whatever lucky man *snatches* that Shawntell snack can have her sign it for only five dollars after the show. NowÖReadyÖSetÖCatch boysÖ." And another golf ball launched itself into the audience of drooling men. When I say *launched*, I mean that golf ball soared. In case you are wondering how the ball soared, it is safe to say that she was not using her *hands*, well not for throwing the ball, anyway. I never did like golf.

I made it through that first evening,

and I left feeling rather brave and ballsy. I mean, I'd taken care of myself just fine, made 200 bucks without taxes, and been told I was pretty (or some drunk version thereof) more times than I could count. Even so, the next evening my pre-work butterflies began in the early afternoon. I did my make up two hours early and had to listen to relaxation music while chain smoking. I drank a glass of wine, put on my lucky perfume, and prayed to stop having such a heart attack. It wasn't so bad; after all, I was able to afford take out food that day and a new tube of lipstick. It felt good to have money and I didn't even have to deal with some dumb office to get it.

I was ready. Besides, Gloria Steinem was once a Playboy Bunny.

"All right girls, 7:15 out on the floor. Come on, stop your goddamn milling." Nunzio smirked, in his friendly paternal manner. He got away with all sorts of things because, in contrast to the rest of management, he never went after anyone's ass, and always pretended to be fair.

With our hair freshly brushed and breasts shoved upwards, we eagerly waited at the door beginning our competitive scramble for one dollar more than the next girl. It was like a game. Some guys would pay you ten bucks just to get him another beer, even when he had one already; they liked to watch you walk away. Others would tip you all night just to try to get your number. The girl with the most tips knew how to maneuver the lure of the waitress—the girl who won't give you a dance, the girl whose boobs you don't see, the girl who is almost a nice girl that you want to corrupt. That's what they told me time and time again, anyway.

Just as the evening would begin they brought out all the dancers to announce them one by one: Kharma from Katmandu, Gina from Germany, Star from Hollywood, and so forth. Most of the women towered clumsily with their large Barbie shoes: clear thick platforms to elongate the legs and a glittery, some-



## From Behind the Counter

times flashing spike heel for that extra cheap sex vibe. They looked like they were playing dress up in their Mommy's clothes; the shoes were practically un-walkable, even to the seasoned professional.

Of course, some girls didn't have to bother prancing around. One such woman was Star. Star looked like a thirteen year old with unimaginably large breasts and the kind of innocent face that men tend to like to throw money at. She only had to work one night a week because rumor had it that she could almost always clear a couple grand in a single shift. She hardly moved when she danced. She never bent over or shook or spanked her own ass; she would just slowly move her hips back and forth with a far off, vacant gaze. Always polite, she would murmur "thank you" as men tipped her, allowing them to tuck their twenties in the hip or sometimes front of her G string. Star barely ever spoke, she barely ever did anything; she didn't have to since her kind of money was like a get out of jail free card. No one ever bothered her.

I kept thinking about Gloria Steinem's *I was once a Playboy Bunny*. No one ever turned around and accused her of being slutty just because she worked at a place like that. She did it the clever way by sneaking into their ranks, just to get a good story. She didn't even need the money and I'm pretty sure no one really got naked, but she got a close look at that world. For me, it was like that sensation you get when you can't turn away from staring at an accident; the sickest details stuck in my mind, and I couldn't rest until I could begin to understand why any of us were there at all.

To be continued



# Youth

## Suspended!

□ For school kids, harsh lessons in life without due process

By **SARITA SARVATE**  
Pacific News Service

When my phone rang the other day in the middle of the afternoon, I was alarmed. For a parent like me, a message from school can only mean one thing: my child is sick. But the news was even worse.

"Your son has been suspended," the principal told me. My son had stolen a substitute teacher's sunglasses, she explained; there were witnesses to the crime.

I pleaded for mercy. "We will pay for the sunglasses, we would accept another punishment, but please, please, don't keep him out of school."

The decision, she said, was already made. My son seemed deeply wounded by the accusations. Was it plausible that he had stolen a pair of sunglasses that even the principal admitted were not in his possession? My son's father and I had entrusted him with all sorts of responsibilities and never found him lacking.

So his father and I stayed home from work the next morning, showed up at the principal's office and refused to leave until we had been heard.

Two hours later, we received the litany of charges against our child, charges so lacking in substance that any court in the land would have thrown them out in a matter of minutes.

It seemed the sunglasses had fallen from the teacher's desk. Our son had picked them up when a lens had popped out. At the instigation of the other children, the teacher had called the office.

Subsequent events were unclear. What happened to the sunglasses? No one knew. Did the other children hide them in mischief and accuse our son? It was possible.

The principal handed us the suspension notice. Written all over it were sections of the education code. A box titled "stole private property" was checked.

We pointed out that according to the principal's own version of events, the most our son could be blamed for was damaging private property, a charge not even listed on the sheet.

"He lied. He denied taking them," the principal fired back. "Can you blame him?" We exclaimed in unison. "He was terrified." We explained that the glasses had accidentally broken and our son had panicked. "When the CEO of Enron lies, he is offered First Amendment protection," my son's father, a reserved Englishman, said with rare vehemence. "But when a child denies his guilt, he doesn't get Miranda rights?"

The principal explained that she wanted to make an example of our son for the benefit of the substitute teacher, whom she was hoping to impress.

It was clear that in the principal's world, our children existed to serve the teachers, and not vice versa. We asked for a hearing to establish the facts. We begged to speak to the substitute, but

were told no one knew how to contact him.

An internal investigation had already been conducted, we were told. The notice was proof that our son had been judged, condemned and read his sentence.

When I arrived at work that afternoon, a colleague with children said, "School is the only place where the due process of the law doesn't apply. If administrators decide to make an example of your child, they can unilaterally do whatever they want. Even in the military, suspects have more rights."

I marveled at his perceptiveness, since I had told him only that I had a meeting at school.

The incident is behind us now, but questions remain.

Why do our textbooks tell our children that a person is innocent until proven guilty? That a person accused of a crime has the right to a defense? At school, in real situations, they learn the opposite.

Do our schools criminalize children unnecessarily? Does that lead some to such distrust of the world and loss of self-esteem that suspicion of misbehavior and even crime become a self-fulfilling prophecy?

I came away with a new lesson from my son's suspension: In the world of schools, children may get harsh instruction in life. A vulnerable individual—in this case a child—may become a pawn in the games of those who are more powerful. The child could learn he's presumed guilty, with little chance to prove he is innocent. ☹

*The Alarm! Newspaper* is currently seeking youth writers to fill this space weekly. We welcome and encourage you to write on a wide range of topics, but please note that this is mainly an opinion column. We want to know your take on the things, your experiences and stories.

We accept entries written in English or Spanish, whichever language you are the most comfortable with. Entries should be no longer than 750 words, with exceptions. We prefer that you contact us in advance if you are planning to write a article. One week's notice would be helpful, and might increase your chance to get a space in the paper.

To find out more call Halie Johnson at 429-NEWS. Or email [youth@the-alarm.com](mailto:youth@the-alarm.com) with your name, phone number, or some other way we can get in touch with you. Please included the topic you are interested in covering in your article as well.

## Armed Forces recruitment in the schools

By **TRAVIS WORKMAN**  
*The Alarm! Newspaper Contributor*

As a substitute teacher for the Watsonville public schools, I have had the opportunity to talk with students about issues such as military recruitment, the prison system, and police harassment. Some of the most interesting discussions have been with students at the Academic Vocational Charter Institute. The students at this continuation school, located in the Pajaro Valley Unified School District offices, have been expelled or have dropped out of one of the local high schools and are ostensibly working towards their high school diplomas. Most students, however, seem to be merely biding their time until graduation.

Military recruiters are a consistent presence at local high schools in general. Each of the four main branches of the armed forces sends recruiters to each Santa Cruz County high school once a month. At AVCI this presence is magnified due to the small size and vocational focus of the school. The school administration allows the recruiters to give the ASVAB (the armed forces entrance examination) to every student. In addition, the recruiters can take students out of class to discuss their test scores. As a result, a much larger percentage of students consider or decide to enter the military than at other area high schools.

When asked about his decision to enter the military, one student stated that he wanted a house of his own, something that, he believed, would remain impossible if he were to get a civilian job. This response and the intensity of recruitment at this school—where the intention is to fit students for moderate income jobs—supported a presupposition of mine that the

main reason people join is to make more money than they could otherwise. In Santa Cruz County, where an economic division exists between the north and the south, I assumed that more students from south county enlist than those from wealthier communities in the north. However, Sgt. Rodriguez at the Army recruitment office in Capitola stated that percentages vary every year. Approximately 25% of his office's recruits come from Watsonville—a high percentage, but proportional to the population. He said that although Watsonville is a "good area" for recruitment, recruits come from all income brackets and levels of education. In fact, a higher percentage of county Army recruits this year have come from Harbor and Soquel high schools, whose students tend to come from families in higher income brackets. Still, my one student's comment indicated what for him was a truism: that as a student who feels unqualified for college and does not want to work at a minimum wage job, the military seems to be the only good option.

The economic possibilities in the military seemed to motivate many of my students. But I would argue that other complex factors are also at work drawing these students towards the armed forces. In my conversations with future soldiers at AVCI, I was struck by the mystique that state violence had for them. Police and military violence was not a "necessary evil," but an exciting prospect. When asked how he would feel if he were told to fight and kill, even if he did not agree politically or ethically with his government, one student answered, with an excited smile, that his time in the military would be better if he had a chance to kill.

The excitement of the idea of violence in itself, without any apparent connection to ethical or political issues, is a phenomenon I witnessed in more than one student. At Sunrise, another continuation school in Watsonville, a teenage student who affiliated himself with the Norteño gang took pleasure in an Internet video game in which he was an FBI agent raiding a house in order to arrest ecoterrorists. Although in reality he might find himself on the other side of a police raid, the thrill of shooting or arresting the virtual terrorists blinded him to the political content of the game. At AVCI, future soldiers amused themselves by logging on to a web-site with supposedly undoctored photographs of extreme violence. When they clicked on a link marked "Jenin," completely unaware of where this place is and why it is important, they were fascinated by photographs of decapitated and mutilated Palestinian bodies. Young people are encouraged, as we all are, to participate in and view state violence as a form of entertainment, which is an easy and by no means unprecedented form of conscription.

Some teachers and administrators reinforce the media, the police, and the military by criticizing students when they should be defending them, and vice versa. During a discussion about the military, one student shared a story about being harassed by the police. He was standing near his own house with two friends when he was frisked by police, put up against a wall, and searched. He later found out that a neighbor had reported that gang members were in the area. I was about to sympathize with the student when another teacher immediately said, "It's your haircut, you look like a gang

member. You should change your hairstyle." The student seemed both amused and angered by the teacher's ignorance, and refused to discuss the incident with me further. Meanwhile, the teacher turned to the students who have been recruited and commented on what good soldiers they were going to make.

The teacher not only shut down an important discussion about police harassment, but drew a clear line between the "criminals" and the soldiers. This rigid division is, of course, imaginary. Although 80% are at least considering the military, some students at AVCI seem to have realized that there are other choices besides soldiering and being criminalized. These students have either resigned themselves to a minimum wage or are studying for civilian trades. However, the teacher's vulgar comment is revealing if one considers the possibilities for those students who would like to refuse wage labor. Students at this school are presented with a dilemma. They can learn the technical skills required for a lower middle income wage. Or, if they refuse this work, they are likely to find themselves on either side of state-sponsored violence. ☹



# The Brazilian landless movement

□ An interview with Wanusa Pereira dos Santos by Vincent Lombardo

An area of farmland half the size of India lies uncultivated in Brazil because its owners treat it as a financial investment. Meanwhile, twenty million Brazilian rural peasants are landless. In the past 12 years, more than 1,500 people have been killed as a result of land conflicts in Brazil. While the Brazilian Constitution gives its government the power to purchase unused land for redistribution to the landless poor, officials have been reluctant to take action.

But one organization does act on behalf of the landless. Since 1984, Brazil's Landless Workers Movement (Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra or MST) has carried out a veritable 'land reform from below' by peacefully occupying unused land and establishing cooperative farms and building houses, schools and clinics. The MST has won land titles for nearly 300,000 families in 1,600 settlements so far, and 70,000 encamped families currently await government recognition.

Wanusa Pereira dos Santos, a 25-year-old MST leader from the state of Espírito Santo, visited Santa Cruz on May 15 as part of a four-month visit to the US in search of political support for MST's struggle in Brazil. Santos is a member of the MST's National Committee on Political Education.

**V: How did the MST begin?**

**W:** The MST emerged in 1984, which was a period of much reorganization in city and rural based movements, because it was the end of the twenty-year military dictatorship. Before [the dictatorship ended], there were isolated, rural, land-based movements. Through the initiative of the pastoral land commission, which is connected to the Catholic Church, they organized the first national meeting of landless people. Out of this emerged MST, and at this meeting they chose their primary tactic to be the occupation of land to pressure the government to carry out land reform. We were first organized in 13 states, and now we are organized in 23 of the 27 Brazilian states.

**V: What's the solution to the Brazilian land crisis?**

**W:** The largest social inequality in Brazil is the enormous concentration of land [ownership]. So to resolve this conflict, the government should carry out a true agrarian reform, which we define as the deconcentration of land and the democratization of land ownership. We feel the land should be redistributed to people who will live and work on it. We'd like to see funds available to small farmers so they can stay in the countryside.

The government itself is responsible for agrarian conflict in Brazil. Through legislation they have concentrated more and more land into the hands of the few. To give you an idea, in the past 8 years, 800,000 small and medium sized farmers have lost their land. This happened as a result of changes dictated by the policies of economic globalization. With every policy implemented by the Cardoza government they create more and more landless families.

**V: The World Bank, in cooperation with the Brazilian government, is pushing a privatization plan known as the 'Land Reform and Poverty Alleviation Pilot Project.' Describe for us what this project is.**

**W:** It's a concept called Market Based Land Reform. This project is substituting the land reform that already exists in the Brazilian constitution. We have very progressive legislation in our constitution that says large land-holdings should serve some social function and if not, the land should be redistributed. This takes the responsibility off the government to uphold land reform and puts it into the market. So the logic is if you want land you should buy it.

[Market Based Land Reform] has been implemented in Brazil over the last five years. This is a direct attack on the MST and our ability to reach billions of people through our mobilizations. What this does is treat the land question as an individual issue where an individual can apply for land by registering

through the mail or creating an association, but that draws away from the collectivity of the movement.

**V: What are the results of these last five years of this Market Based Land Reform?**

**W:** This is a great thing for the large landholders. What happens is small and medium-sized farmers buy land directly from the owners who set whatever prices they want. The lands are sold for very

“ The government itself is responsible for agrarian conflict in Brazil. Through legislation they have concentrated more and more land into the hands of the few. ”

high prices, and are of very poor quality and not very productive. The selling happens whenever the land-owner wants it to. So, for example, if he needs money to invest in the stock

market then he'll sell some land. As a result, small farmers are taking out what is called a land bank loan. They soon find that they aren't able to pay the taxes or keep up with the loan payments. The logic of the market is profit, so it becomes impossible for the small farmers to keep up.

The question of land in Brazil is a social, political, and economic one. Even if the World Bank sends all the money in the world to Brazil, it will not solve the problem of close to five million landless families. What this World Bank initiative does is give one more false impression of what the government is providing for their people. Farmers are entering into the program and they're not able to produce on their lands because there are not enough resources available to make it viable. The government will then say this model of small and medium-sized farming doesn't work anymore. Market-based land reform is a tool of the federal government.

**V: The World Social Forum, which takes place in Sao Paulo, Brazil, is the 'alternative' summit to the annual World Economic Forum. What is MST's role in this gathering?**

**W:** MST is in the group which coordinates the World Social Forum (WSF). We understand the WSF to be a response to economic globalization. So, the characteristic of the WSF is the diversity of ideas. We have reformists and social democrats, all the way up to groups of the far left. This is a good space for us to articulate ourselves in the movement against economic globalization. We understand that the WSF itself is not going to be able to combat economic globalization, rather [it will be] a place to plan our united international movement, a place to exchange ideas and synthesize our strategies.

The MST participated in the encampment of Via Campesina, a network of rural farm workers movements from around the world. This encampment was a very important achievement for us, because we could never have had 2,200 peasant leaders in one space. We advanced our discussion about the global campaign for land reform and our global strategies.

The things that happened during the WSF, for example, the march against FTAA, which brought together 60,000 people, were very significant, in and of themselves. At this years' WSF we were able to discuss and advance further our plan against the FTAA. The WSF will be happening again next year in Porto Alegre Brazil and MST will be there very strongly in support of this very important space for discussion.

**V: You took part in the Poor People's Economic Rights March at the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. How did those demonstrations, here in the US, contrast from protests you've attended in Brazil?**

**W:** In Brazil we are living in a historical moment that is very different from this moment in the US. Therefore, social movements also have different characteristics. It is, therefore, impossible to make comparisons, as such, but it is possible to highlight some different characteristics. In Brazil, we have social movements, labor movements, landless movements and popular movements organized at

the national level.

Here, in the US you have a lot of organizations and different groups and social movements, but they are isolated; they don't have a headquarters to bring them all together. In the US there are a lot of mobilizations and actions at the local level on specific issues, but there tends to be lacking a macro-analysis and therefore, macro-actions.

In my evaluation there is a large potential for a mobilization here. The past fifteen years of economic globalization has intensified poverty and misery in the US. There were about 1,000 people participating in the march at Salt Lake City. This is a sign that there is much potential to bring together a large amount of people, here. There are some groups in the US which are trying to overcome this tradition of working on specific, localized issues, for example the Poor People's Economic Rights Campaign which organized the march in Salt Lake City and others who are trying to articulate themselves with this continental campaign against the FTAA. The present moment is very different here in the US from our reality in Brazil, but in my evaluation, groups need to begin to come together more in the US.

**V: Aside from land reform, what are some other projects the MST is involved in?**

**W:** MST has three major objectives. The first is the struggle for land, which is the immediate fight for a piece of land so families can work and live a life. This is the process of land occupation that we call the achievement of settlement communities. Once families are settled onto land they continue to struggle for land reform and for the transformation of society. We understand that, for true agrarian reform, the government must have other policies for human development. This is why our struggle for agrarian reform is a struggle against economic globalization. What we want is land reform, but this also means the end of poverty in Brazil and the end of social inequality so what we've tried to develop in our settlement communities is a new culture. Within

“ What we want is land reform, but this also means the end of poverty in Brazil and the end of social inequality so what we've tried to develop in our settlement communities is a new culture ”

our communities, we create a space where people relate to one another not through exploitation, or on a market-type value system but through humanist values.

As we fight for a better society, we also create that society and that culture within our own communities. So to fight for agrarian reform isn't only to resolve the problem of the rural poor. MST's struggle is for a more just and egalitarian society in general. ☛

*The Friends of the MST is an organization of individuals set up with the objective of providing material support for the efforts of the Brazilian Landless Workers Movement to achieve social and economic justice while securing respect for human rights. The Friends of the MST is a fiscally sponsored project of Global Exchange. For more information or to get involved in this campaign, contact Dawn Plummer at [www.mstbrazil.org](http://www.mstbrazil.org) or [dawn@mstbrazil.org](mailto:dawn@mstbrazil.org)*

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## Lisi's Summer Raspberry Plum Cobbler

By LISI (the craftiest kitchen witch there ever was)

The cobbler is named for it's cobble-stone look. This recipe consists of two parts: a sweet summer fruit and berry filling (which can be substituted for your favorite combination if you choose), and a cobbler-like scone dough crust. There is also a variation on the crust recipe...a blueberry scone if you like.

Preheat oven to 400 degrees fahrenheit

### Scone Dough

- 2 cups flour (whole wheat or spelt flour works fine)
- 1 tbsp baking powder
- 1 egg or equivalent egg replacer (animal-free, and found in you local health food store)
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 2-4 tbsp chilled margarine
- 3/4 cup regular or soymilk, water works too

### Filling

- 6 cups fresh raspberries
- 4 cups fresh plums (peeled, pitted and sliced)
- 1/2 cup turbinado sugar or to taste
- a pinch of cinnamon
- 2 tbsp cornstarch

### Mixing instructions for scone dough

1. In large bowl, sift together flour, baking powder, salt and sugar
2. Cut in margarine until it resembles crumbs
3. In another bowl mix milk, egg, and add to the flour mix
4. Mix just until incorporated

### Mixing instructions for filling

1. In medium mixing bowl, combine fruit, berries, sugar, cinnamon and cornstarch
2. Spread fruit and berry mix into an 8"x11" pan
3. Dollop spoonfuls of the scone dough evenly over the top of mix

Bake 25-35 minutes, until golden and bubbly  
Cool and serve with soycream or ice cream

### Blueberry Scones

Same as scone dough instructions above, just add 2 cups blueberries rolled in flour. Fold the floured blueberries into the mixed scone batter being careful not to squish them. Bake dollops on a cookie sheet for 25-35 minutes, or until golden on top.



If you like what you see, let us know, write us a letter, tell your friends, advertise and buy a subscription. Be part of what we're doing. We're a community-based newspaper for you. If you think it sucks, tell us how much, give suggestions, tell us to go away.

—The Alarm! Collective

## Memorial Day

SCHWAB from Page 7

day that "our country has set apart to remember what was gained in our wars, and all that was lost." These days, we do not need to think far back to remember "our war". And these days, while what we are gaining is at best hypothetical, what has already been lost is all too concrete. New legal statutes infringe deeply into our civil liberties, and the massive restructuring of the FBI, made public four days after Memorial Day, re-focuses that administration's objectives on "intelligence gathering," promising only to streamline (and increase) the centralized surveillance of our domestic population.

But back to that Ethiopian Obelisk in Rome. Since the lightning strike, we will have to wait indefinitely to see that monument of Fascist imperialism returned to its country of origin and thereby finally dismantled. Like that obelisk, our own repressive nationalism is now deemed by those who run our government to be "too fragile to move." It is unclear how long we will have to wait until we believe that our sense of national security is once again stable enough to endure critique. For the time being, it seems that the Cold War has given way to a new acquiescence in the face of old forms of authoritarianism, and if we are to commemorate on Memorial Day, it must include the rapidly shrinking presence of critical dissent.



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# Community Calendar of Events

Send calendar submissions to  
calendar@the-alarm.com or mail hard copies to:

**The Alarm! Newspaper**  
**ATTN: Community Calendar**

**P.O. Box 1205**  
**Santa Cruz, CA 95061**

Please include the date, time, title of event,  
description, and contact number.

Submissions are due Tuesday at 5pm for that  
Friday's edition.

## WEEKLY Events

**Monday-Friday 1:00 PM** Democracy Now! with Amy Goodman. FRSC 96.3 FM.

**Monday-Friday 5:00 PM** Free Speech Radio News. FRSC 96.3 FM.

**Monday-Friday 5:30 PM** Earth First! Radio. FRSC 96.3 FM.

**Monday-Friday 6:00-7:00 PM** KPFA Evening News. On 88.1 KZSC.

**Monday 6:00-7:30 PM** Survivors of Incest Anonymous. Women's meeting Survivor's Healing Center. 2301 Mission St. Santa Cruz. Call 477-4165.

**2nd & 4th Tuesdays 2:30 PM** Drop-in women's support group. At Mtn. Community Resource Cntr. 23 Main St. Ben Lomond.

**Tuesdays 5:00 PM** Youth Coalition SC, RCNV, 515 Broadway.

**Tuesdays 6:30-9:30 PM** Deep Feeling; Anger and Grief Group. Men's group. At This Healing Space 1500 Graham Hill Rd. #A. Call Roy Carl Schlotthauer 475-9298.

**Tuesdays 7:00 PM** Santa Cruz Peace Coalition, RCNV, 515 Broadway.

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

**Tuesdays 7:30 PM-9:00 PM** Survivors of Incest Anonymous. Men's meeting. Survivor's Healing Center. 2301 Mission St. Call 477-4165.

**1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7:00 PM** Earth First! meeting. 509 Broadway.

**Tuesdays and Wednesdays 3-6:15 PM** Free HIV testing at the Drop-in Center. 412 Front St.

**Tuesdays 9:00 AM and Wednesdays 8:30 PM** Making Contact. FRSC 96.3 FM.

**Tuesdays and Fridays 12-1:00 PM** Domestic Violence support group. 303 Walnut Ave. For info call 426-3062.

**Wednesdays 6:30-9:30 PM.** Deep Feeling; Anger and Grief Groups. Coed group. This Healing Space 1500 Graham Hill Road #A. Call Roy Carl Schlotthauer 475-9298.

**Miercoles/Wednesday 7:00-8:30 PM** Drop-in domestic violence support group, grupo de apoyo para sobrevivientes de la violencia domestica. In English y en español. Childcare available. Hay cuidado de niños. Women's Crisis Support 1658 Soquel Dr. Suite A.

**Wednesdays 9:00 AM and Fridays 6:05 PM** Counterspin by Media Watch and FAIR. FRSC 96.3

**Wednesdays 12-1:00 PM** Brown Bag Lunch. Women professionals, writing group, speakers. 303 Walnut Ave. For info call 426-3062.

**Wednesdays 7:30-9:30 PM** Creative writing circle. Contact Karen for location and info 469-0360

**Thursdays 6:00-8:00 PM** Spanish and English Conversation Class, 1st half in Spanish, 2nd in English. At the Live Oak Grange 1900 17th Ave. Call Ben Golder for info 462-6592.

**Thursdays 6:30-9:30 PM** Deep Feeling; Anger and Grief Groups. This Healing Space 1500 Graham Hill Rd. #A. Call Roy Carl Schlotthauer 475-9298.

**Thursdays 7:30 PM** - Free Mumsia & All Political Prisoners at Oakes 101, UCSC

**Thursdays 7:00-8:30 PM** Young Warriors. Young women's leadership program. Drop-in support also for survivors of violence. 303 Walnut Ave. Call 426-3062 for info.

**Thursdays 7:00-8:30 PM** Wise Guys. Drop-in support group for young male survivors of violence. 303 Walnut Ave. Call 429-3062 for info.

**Thursdays 7:00 PM** Drop-in domestic violence support group. 303 Walnut Ave. For info call 426-3062.

**Fridays 5:00 PM** - Peace Vigil at Watsonville Plaza facing Main Street.

**Fridays 5:00 PM** - Peace Rally at the intersection of Ocean and Water Streets

**Fridays 8:30 PM** (through June 21) Movie Madness. Ages 12-18. Santa Cruz Teen Center 125 Laurel St.. Call 420-6235.

**Sundays 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM** Survivors of Incest Anonymous. Coed meeting. Walnut Avenue Women's Center, 301 Walnut Ave. Call 477-4165.

## FRIDAY 5/31/02

**7:00-9:00 PM** The Lets-Have-Fun-With-Collage Workshop-Party. Nuff said. At the Big Yellow House, 742 N. Branceforte Rd. Call Lee for info 515-4483 x 1217 or visit [www.bigyellowhouse.org/events](http://www.bigyellowhouse.org/events).

## SATURDAY 6/1/02

**9:45 AM-5:00 PM** (4-5 Guest event) The Power of Being Real: A Workshop for Teens. \$20 Registration fee, breakfast, lunch, evening snack incl. At Loudon Nelson, 301 Center St. Call Jesse 915-3492.

**10:00 AM-6:00 PM** Student Print Sale. Baskin G-101, UCSC.

**11:00 AM-5:00 PM** Rummage Sale to Benefit the SLV Teen's Center. 6433 Graham Hill Rd. Call 335-9760.

**11:00-5:00 PM** Strawberry Festival. Food, raffle prizes, magicians, music by Good Medicine Band, Rick Edny Band, Ben Laney, Dancer performers. Proceeds will benefit the Walnut Avenue Women's Center. 303 Walnut Avenue.

**9:00 PM-10:30 PM** D.J. Dance - Hip Hop Matrix. Ages 12-18. Santa Cruz Teen Center 125 Laurel St. Call 420-6235.

**7:00 PM-10:00 PM** Open Performance Stage. Ages 12-18 free, adults welcome \$5. Santa Cruz Teen Center 125 Laurel St. Call 420-6235.

**8:00 PM** "Get Off Your Ass and Do Something." Featuring Michelle Tea, Marcus Rene Van, Thea Hillma and Melize Bañales, and music by the Preteens, Tenth of Always and others. At the Vets' Hall. Donation of \$6-9 requested.

**TBA** Dyke March & Performance. Please call for info: 761-9652.

**7:00 PM** Guatemalan Legacy and Resistance in the Face of Globalization. Featuring Raul Najera and Ricardo Merida. At the Santa Cruz Resource Center for Nonviolence, 515 Broadway. Call 423-1626.

**7:00 PM** Grupo Folklorico Los Mejicas, Folk Dance Performance, Theater Arts Mainstage, UCSC.

## SUNDAY 6/2/02

**11:00 AM** Santa Cruz Pride 2002 Parade and Celebration, at Pacific Avenue and 12:00-5:00 PM at San Lorenzo Park.

**2:00-4:00 PM** Writer's Workshop. Wats. Public Library. 310 Union St. For info contact Jessica Lloyd-Rogers 454-1669 or email [mavericklearner@yahoo.com](mailto:mavericklearner@yahoo.com).

**7:00 PM** Classical Music of India. \$35 adult, \$15 student. Flint Center, 21250 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino. For info call Moon Rinaldo, 459-4058.

## WEDNESDAY 6/5/02

**7:30 PM** Jim Page in concert. At the Santa Cruz Resource Center for Non Violence, 515 Broadway. \$10

## THURSDAY 6/6/02

**5:00 PM-10:00 PM** UCSC Community Studies 1 day Student Film/Media Festival. At the Rio Theater.

**7:30 PM-10:00 PM** The Art of Living/SOAR. Ceremony, cultural, meeting, class/workshop. Oakes College Room 223.

## FRIDAY 6/7/02

**6:30 PM** Celebrate Being Human featuring local activist poet Guarionex Delgado reading from his book *Being Human: Poems of Resistance and Renewal*. With street theater, music and salsa dance instruction. At Loudon Nelson, Room 3. \$5 donation, benefits the Resource Center for Nonviolence. Call 423-1626.

**7:00-11:30 PM** Graduating Film/Media Senior Screening event. Media Theater at UCSC.

## SUNDAY 6/9/02

**ALL DAY** Jacob's Heart Benefit. To benefit children with cancer and their families. Georgia Ann Brown's Studio 7067 B Soquel Dr. Call 685-3650 or 477-0690.

Check out the Santa Cruz Peace & Justice Calendar ([www.peacejusticeneeds.org](http://www.peacejusticeneeds.org)) and Free School Santa Cruz ([www.dobius.com/freeschool](http://www.dobius.com/freeschool)) for more events. Also, see the Free Radio Santa Cruz schedule at [members.cruzio.com/~frsc](http://members.cruzio.com/~frsc). Special thanks to Paul Franklin and the Peace and Justice Calendar and Marty Herrmann for assis-

# SURVEY SAYS

*In order for The Alarm! to be a quality community paper we need your input. We are in the process of outlining our intent, but we want to know your thoughts. The results of these questions, your input, will assist us in further decisions and allow us to reflect on the pros and cons of this issue. Please feel free to attach additional thoughts, or perhaps send us a letter for publication. We appreciate the time you take to complete this and look forward to hearing from you.*

Where in SC county do you live?

Where did you pickup this copy of the Alarm!?

Why did you pick up the paper?

Have you seen any of The Alarm! newspaper coin boxes? If yes, where?

Do you read the other local weeklies?

Do you buy or subscribe to any dailies?

How often do you buy a paper out of a coin box?

What was the best aspect of the paper, for you? Why?

What was the worst aspect? Why?

Are you familiar with bilingual publications or monolingual (in Spanish) publications? What are your thoughts on these publications?

Do you think that The Alarm! should be a bilingual paper? Please explain.

Additional Comments:

*The Alarm! Newspaper*  
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Santa Cruz, CA 95061