



**KEN SARO WIWA:
TEN YEARS AFTER THE EXECUTION**



**REMEMBERING
THE STRUGGLE PAGE 8**



**SPECIAL POSTER
PAGE 6 & 7**



Fault Lines

NEWSPAPER OF THE SF BAY AREA INDEPENDENT MEDIA CENTER

VOLUME 2: ISSUE 2

www.indybay.org

NOVEMBER 2005 FREE



BLEAK TIMES FOR FREE TRADE

NOVEMBER 4, 2005: MAR DEL PLATA, ARGENTINA

Prospects for establishing the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) crumbled when heads of state from all 34 countries in the western hemisphere, except Cuba, ended the Fourth Summit of the Americas in the seaside resort of Mar del Plata. Venezuela's outspoken President, Hugo Chavez, led other skeptical leaders- including those from Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, and Paraguay- in resisting the hemisphere-wide trade bloc. As in past trade negotiations, the U.S.'s refusal to dismantle protectionist agricultural policies while simultaneously advocating those same reforms throughout Latin America, led to the summit's failure. President Bush traveled to Argentina in an attempt to revive trade talks first initiated by his father, Bush Sr., and continued by the Clinton administration. He was greeted by massive popular demonstrations that raged outside the Summit guarded by 10,000 security forces. The Madres de Plaza de Mayo (above right), who first organized in the late seventies when their sons and daughters were abducted and murdered by the then US-backed Argentine Junta, joined the protests in Mar del Plata with trade unions, anarchists, landless peasants, and piqueteros all opposed to corporate free trade and US imperialism. PHOTOS BY NICOLÁS SOLO - ARGENTINA.INDYMEDIA.ORG

SF WI-FI: MORE THAN JUST GOOOOOOOGLE

BY EVAN HENSHAW-PLATH

It was all over the news last month, Google offers to provide free wifi internet access to all of San Francisco. Where did this offer come from? What's the catch? Who else other than Google made an offer and how were their offers different?

The idea that the City of San Francisco should get in to the game of providing internet access has been around for a while. The PUC (Public Utilities Commission) is currently engaged in a \$300,000 project to investigate a municipally owned broadband ISP. But the wireless project which got the headlines didn't come out of the PUC project. Rather it grew out of Mayor Newsom's Project Homeless, the non-profit which provides 'care not cash' to the city's homeless population. Project Homeless had a digital divide program which was supposed to provide for computer access to the city's homeless population. Nevermind that most homeless in San Francisco get online via the already existing public libraries. Project Homeless's work grew in to Newsom's new pet project Tech Connect, a city run project to bring wireless to the whole city.

... see Google on page 22

AN ALTERNATE MODEL



**Champaign-Urbana
Community Wireless
Network: PAGE 5**

Suburban Firestorm UPRISINGS IN FRANCE ECHO PAST, EXPOSE INEQUALITY

BY KATRINA MALACHOWSKI

Since October 27, over 8,400 vehicles have been torched in more than 270 cities across France in the country's worst manifestation of social unrest since the student uprisings of 1968. After enduring 12 days and nights of sustained guerilla-style arson attacks and a steady rain of Molotov cocktails lighting up stores, schools, buses and public fixtures, on November 9 the increasingly panicked and fractured Chirac regime declared a temporary state-of-emergency in riot-stricken areas - the first time the law has been invoked in 50 years.

The 1955 law, originally drafted to suppress violent protest during Algeria's war for independence from France, allows state-appointed governors to "forbid the

movement of people and vehicles in places and times fixed by decree," ban "meetings likely to provoke or fuel disorder," and allows the authorities to "order house searches at any time of the day or night." In 1961, this law was used to impose cur-

ANGRY OVER EXCESSIVE UNEMPLOYMENT, POVERTY, CRIME AND MUNICIPAL FUNDING CUTS, RIOTERS ORGANIZED TO CHALLENGE FRANCE'S THINLY VIELED RACISM AND CLASSISM

few on Algerians, leading to mass demonstrations and the fateful night of October 17, 1961 when police killed as many as 200 people in what became known as the Paris Massacre. Though reinvoking this law is considered by many the government's most drastic and effective maneuver to contain

the civil insurrection to date, the violence has yet to subside.

The night of November 12, public gatherings were banned in Paris between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m., after tips that Internet blogs were calling for "violent actions." Mass action was prevented in the capital, but that night 502 cars were burnt across France. The following evening, two schools were torched and 374 more cars were destroyed.

November 6 brought the first fatality, when Jean-Jacques Le Chenedec (61) was beaten to death while trying to extinguish a trash can fire. 30 policemen were also injured - three seriously - when rioters in the Southern Parisian suburb of Grigny fired on police with pistols and shotguns.

... see France Fries on page 22

MR. BUSH'S NIGHTMARE BUSH ADMINISTRATION FACES TOUGHEST MONTH

BY IMMANUEL WALLERSTEIN

Everything went wrong for George W. Bush in October, 2005. Some called it "the perfect storm." It seemed to take Bush by surprise and left him like someone buried in the mudslide, still alive but struggling hard to extricate himself. It looks unlikely that he will be able to do so. Let us review all the fronts on which Bush suffered political setback.

First, Iraq. The U.S. casualty rate passed 2000, and this was noticed even in Middle

America among those who initially supported the war. Many now feel was a mistake. Bush's approval rate fell to under 40%, extremely low even for a president in his second term (when ratings often fall). The elections to ratify the Iraqi constitution didn't really help. True it passed, but over very heavy Sunni opposition. No one believes that this constitution can be the basis of a long-term stable, legitimate government, or that this government would really survive a U.S. pullout. ...continued on page 3



GOV GETS FINGER

California Voters Terminate True Lying Kindergarten Cop Conan

MORE INSIDE



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published by:

**The SF Bay Area
Independent
Media Center -
www.indybay.org**

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About Indybay

The San Francisco Bay Area Independent Media Center is a non-commercial, democratic collective of Bay Area independent media makers and media outlets, and serves as the local organizing unit of the global Indymedia network.

Fault Lines

Mission Statement

Fault Lines, the newspaper of the San Francisco Bay Area Independent Media Center, aims to give all communities the opportunity to actively participate in a collective process of media production and distribution. By operating with transparency, this newspaper hopes to achieve the goal of allowing the public, not corporate conglomerations, to set the agenda for news coverage. Our mission is to train and empower marginalized voices. This publication was created to be used as a tool for radical change in our communities by exposing the stories and raising the issues that the media plutocracy seeks to suppress. We are the people, we are the media and we are dissenting from the ground up.

Get Involved

The IMC has an open door. You can write for Fault Lines, film events and rallies, self-publish articles to the web, take photos or just help us run the office. As an organization relying entirely on volunteer support, we encourage all forms of participation.

The print working group reserves the right to edit articles for length, content and clarity. We welcome your participation in the entire editorial process.

Fault Lines Volunteers

Sakura Saunders, Katrina Malachowski, Liam O'Donoghue, Ali Tonak, Hunter Jackson, Kelah Bott, Tim Simons, David Morse, Carwil James, Bradley Allen, Kimber Hall, Tim Simons, Guillermo Herrera, Jake Kelly, Jared Power, David Ochs Keenan, jankyHellface

Fault Lines Thanks

Media Alliance, The Independent (NYC IMC), Street Level TV, Enemy Combatant Radio, Street Sheet, Station 40, CorpWatch, Cristina Kim, Elizabeth Sy and lushorchid, Lani R, Nicole Mueller, Zulah, Chris Lem, ABCo Artspace, Jamie Hurlbut. Respect.

We'd also like to thank everyone who has donated to Fault Lines, those who have subscribed, and the organizations and small businesses that have advertised within these pages. Your support helps make this happen.

FRANCE FRIES

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

The riots were sparked by the accidental deaths on October 27 of two teenage boys in the Parisian suburb of Clichy-sous-Bois: Bouno Traore (15) and Zyed Benna (17), of Mauritanian and Tunisian descent, respectively. The two were electrocuted in a local electric relay sub-station, hiding from a police sweep in solidarity with their friend Muttin Altun (17), of Kurdish descent, who allegedly did not have papers. The three were trying to avoid the sort of routine and often lengthy police harassment which has long typified the selective persecution of the poor and dark-skinned in the neglected North African and Arab neighborhoods outside Paris.

Paris' banlieue, or suburbs, are dilapidated housing projects mostly populated by first and second-generation Northern African immigrants of former French Colonies. After World War II, France's rebounding economy and need for cheap labor led to a radically liberalized immigration policy for its once-colonial subjects abroad. To house the flood of new immigrants, the government hastily built a network of towering, 'temporary' tenement houses on the edges of Paris. Fifty years later, almost half the population in the dilapidated banlieue is under 25 and unemployment is as high as 40% in some areas, fostering waves of petty crime in turn fueled by economic desperation and mounting social unrest. A study carried out earlier this year found that résumés sent out with traditionally French-sounding names got responses 50 times higher

than those with North African or African names.

Already angry over excessive unemployment, poverty, crime, and municipal funding cuts, and pushed further by a heavy police response including the recent tear-gassing of a mosque, rioters organized to challenge France's thinly veiled racism and classism. French youth nimbly used text messaging and the internet to track police presence and coordinate arson attacks. In a measure of the government's concern over these newly emerging techniques of mass mobilization, two teenage bloggers were placed under arrest for suspicion of inciting violence.

Meanwhile, in the city of Evry, a suburb south of Paris, police discovered a small Molotov cocktail factory. Six teenagers were arrested as they left the building, in which police recovered 50 Molotov cocktails ready for use, 100 empty bottles and 60 liters of gasoline. During attacks, children



as young as 11 were seen throwing home-made bombs.

In Seine St. Denis to the north, 8 police officers were suspended after two of the officers beat a young man they had detained while 6 others watched. The Interior Ministry said the youth sustained injuries to the forehead and foot.

More than 2,600 people have been arrested so far, and 'fast-track' trials have sentenced over 100 adults and more than 30 minors to prison or detention centers. On November 9, Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy issued an order to deport 120 foreigners convicted of rioting. Far-right former Presidential candidate, Jean-Marie Le Pen, suggested that any naturalized French rioters be stripped of their citizenship.

State-owned television stations, France 2 and 3, stopped reporting the number of burnt cars per night- television executives claimed it was to prevent further violence. For uncensored indymedia coverage of the events, check

- www.paris.indymedia.org
- www.grenoble.indymedia.org
- www.indybay.org



GOOGLE'S GENEROUS OFFER: Free wi-fi to SF homeless!!! CONTINUED FROM FRONT

To start the project the city solicited proposals and comments from both community organizations and companies. The process has been fraught with problems yet many local media activist NGO's such as Media Alliance, the Internet Archive, and SFLan participated in the process addition to some large corporations such as Motorola, Earthlink, Google, and Cisco. The scope of the comments were broad and companies and community groups proposed many solutions to providing wireless connectivity to the city.

How the networks would be built, who could use them, who would pay for them, and other questions were answered differently by every proposal. The proposals ranged from scary, Motorola proposed funding the system with grants from the Department of Homeland Security and using the wireless network to build out a network of surveillance cameras to record and monitor public spaces in the name of fighting crime and terrorism. Many of the proposals such as Earthlink's were focused on simply extending the ISP infrastructure so that citizens of the city have a third affordable way of getting online beyond DSL and Cable Modems. Each subscriber would pay \$20 a month for the right to use the system.

Google offered to provide access to everybody with a captive portal, meaning you had to wade through google ads before you got to the internet, and the bandwidth was capped at 300kbs rather than the full 1 or 2 mbs which is possible. Google provided very few details and only released to the public an executive summary of their full proposal.

SFLan, San Francisco's long time community wireless group, has been setting up nodes and building out a mesh (decentralized) network for years. It's a community lead group who has been working to provide free and open internet access to the city. The SFLan proposal differs from others in a few critical ways. With their proposal the city would own all the equipment and the network. Companies would be permitted to provide services over the network, but it would be city owned and controlled. All the technology would be based on free and open source software. Most importantly the network would be neutral to traffic. Many ISP's today, including Comcast and SBC are fighting against the use of peer-to-peer (p2p) file sharing software for music and movie downloads and voiceover ip (voip) where people are able to make cheap internet phone calls. The SFLan proposal clearly rejects a closed and

private wireless system for San Francisco. To fund the network SFLan proposes the city issue a bond measure rather than rely on company investments to reap subscriber fees or advertising revenue.

The Tech Connect project started out and continues to be a high profile project to boost Newsom's political career. It does not solve the basic needs of providing computers and internet access to the city's disadvantaged. Extending the libraries computer lab hours and facilities would have done that. What the project does open is the potential that San Francisco can have a municipally owned and controlled open communications system for all the people who live here. Some of the proposals under consideration would turn the city into a surveillance nightmare, others would provide a 3rd company to compete with SBC and Comcast, but some such as the SFLan proposal would be a positive step for the city.

On November 9th the Tech Connect issued a formal RFP (Request for Proposals) of companies and community organizations to build a new wireless network for San Francisco. A victory for the city would have to involve the use of free software, open standards, and community control.

YOU ARE THE MEDIA!

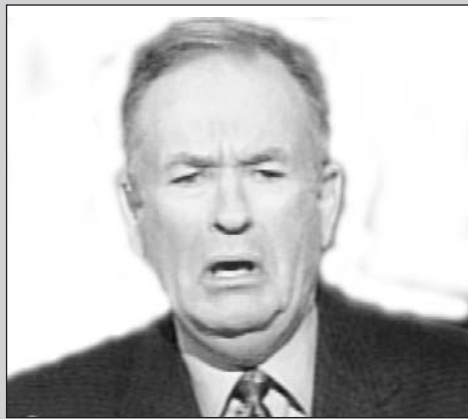
FAULT LINES ENCOURAGES OUR READERS AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY TO GET INVOLVED IN MAKING MEDIA. OUR GOAL IS TO TRAIN AND EMPOWER MARGINALIZED VOICES TO RECLAIM OUR LINES OF COMMUNICATION AND SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER. If you want to write an article, review, or news blurb for Fault Lines, please contact the editors at faultlines@riseup.net to begin a collaboration and get our submission guidelines. Submissions of relevant and timely photos and artwork are encouraged as well. Your feedback about what we are (or are not) covering is necessary in creating a news source that truly is a voice of the people. Suggestions regarding our design and readability are also greatly appreciated.

In an age when information and news are so tightly managed and controlled by the corporate media, industry and government, a free, independent and alternative press is essential for any hope of creating a just world.

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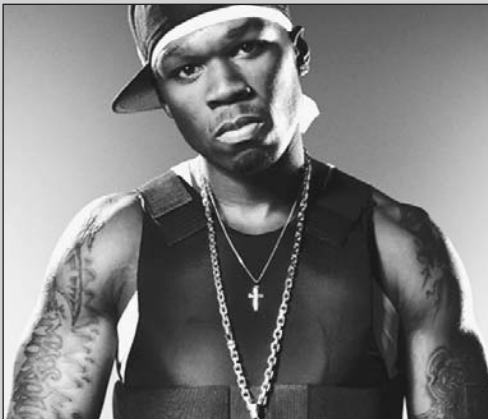
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Verbal Ammunition // DEMAGOGUES SAY THE DARNDDEST THINGS



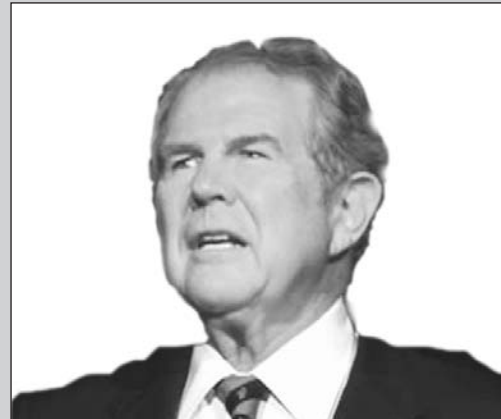
"Listen, citizens of San Francisco, if you vote against military recruiting, you're not going to get another nickel in federal funds. Fine. You want to be your own country? Go right ahead . . . If al-Qaida comes in here and blows you up, we're not going to do anything about it. We're going to say, look, every other place in America is off limits to you, except San Francisco. You want to blow up the Coit Tower? Go ahead."

-From the November 8th broadcast of Fox News' "The Radio Factor with Bill O'Reilly"



"Being gay isn't cool - it's not what the music is based on. There's always been conflict at the center of hip-hop, because it's all about which guy has the competitive edge, and you can't be that aggressive if you're gay. I mean, some rappers are fruity, but they don't say they're gay out in the open."

-50 Cent in the November issue of Spin



"If there is a disaster in your area, don't turn to God, you just rejected Him from your city . . . And don't wonder why He hasn't helped you when problems begin, if they begin. I'm not saying they will, but if they do, just remember, you just voted God out of your city. And if that's the case, don't ask for His help because He might not be there."

-Pat Robertson scolds a Pennsylvania town following their vote to dismiss their school board for supporting "intelligent design"

Corporate War Profiteering: It's Finger-Lickin' Good

"Mmm . . . Rummy, this Iraqi blood is delicious!"



...Mr. Bush's Nightmare continued from front page

Then, there are the indictments. Note the plural. House of Representatives Republican Majority Leader Tom Delay is facing charges of money-laundering for electoral gain, and has had to step down. His close political ally, lobbyist Jack Abramoff, has been indicted for fraud. And above all, the very powerful I. Lewis Libby, Chief of Staff to the Vice-President and Assistant to the President, has been indicted on five charges of obstruction of justice, perjury, and making false statements. This

indictment is of course closely related to the Iraq War, since the issue was Libby's attempt to discredit Joseph Wilson by "outing" his CIA secret agent wife. Wilson had been sent on an official mission to Niger and later publicly related the non-existence of proof that Saddam Hussein has been buying uranium there. To be sure, Karl Rove has not yet been indicted for his involvement in the same project to discredit Wilson, but the Special Prosecutor made it quite clear that this remains a real possibility. Looming on the horizon is an

enquiry into the financial misdeclarations of Senator Bill Frist, the Republican Majority Leader, concerning stock sales. And we should remember that indictments lead to trials some time later, in time to remind everyone of misdeeds after the initial publicity has died down.

Next came the Supreme Court appointment fiasco. Seeking to avoid a knockdown battle in the Senate over the Supreme Court nomination, Bush chose his lawyer, Harriet Miers. He was immediately pounced on by his most conservative supporters, who doubted her conservative credentials. Bush said "trust me," and they said "we don't trust you, because the only thing that concerns us is undoing the right to abortion, far more important to us than supporting George W. Bush, and we're not sure about Miers."

They forced her withdrawal, a humiliation for Bush. He has now had to nominate a person they want, Samuel Alito, and he will thus get the Senate battle he wanted to avoid. Whether Alito is confirmed or not, the political bottom line was stated by former Senator John Breaux of Louisiana, a quite conservative Democrat, who noted the consequence for Republicans in Congress: "It means the fear factor is gone."

And then, to top it off, the President of Iran chose this moment to thumb his nose at the United States by publicly calling for the destruction of Israel as a state. To be sure, this has been Iranian official policy for almost three decades, but restating it now

so flagrantly was simply saying to Bush, "I dare you to do something about it." Meanwhile, in Israel, the very temporary truce between the Palestinians and the Israeli government seems to have collapsed.

Can Bush do something to recuperate? Well, obviously, he is trying in the Alito appointment. But even if Alito is confirmed, the credit will not go to Bush. Can Bush invade Iran? Most obviously not. And getting a U.N. Security Council resolution to sanction Syria, if he can, is small potatoes. If one goes through the list of what went wrong in October, every item will continue to plague Bush: mounting casualties in Iraq, political instability in the Iraqi government, judicial trials that in every case implicate his government, a fierce social battle over the Supreme Court, and Iranian (and North Korean) open defiance.

Even political friends are getting off the sinking ship. Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, one of Bush's few fervent allies in Europe, but himself in trouble in his coming elections, chose this moment to announce very publicly that he had fruitlessly tried to persuade Bush not to invade Iraq. And Senator Trent Lott, former Republican Majority Leader, opined that Bush needs "fresh faces" among his immediate aides and the cabinet.

Within the Republican Party, the reaction of persons up for election has been to take their distance from Bush. Once upon a time, not too long ago, everyone wanted Bush to campaign for them. Now candidates are careful not to invite him to do this. Bush's ability to be the leader, nationally or internationally, is critically damaged, perhaps irreparably.

More Immanuel Wallerstien commentaries available at: <http://fbc.binghamton.edu/cmpg.htm>

Court Allows Treesitters to Sue for Invasion of Privacy, Forcible Entry

Former Northern California treesitters who are counter-suing in a lawsuit brought by Pacific Lumber (PL) won a ruling in Superior Court October 18 that will allow them to pursue allegations of invasion of privacy and forcible entry. The two claims are in addition to nine others including assault, battery, false imprisonment, and civil rights violations, which have previously survived objections by PL. PL's objections to the activists' allegations of trespass were sustained.

PL claims to be the lawful owner of the old-growth redwoods from which the activists were forcibly removed in the spring of 2003, but following the October court hearing, such ownership remains in question. Attorneys for PL had requested that the court acknowledge their alleged ownership, but failed to produce any documents to support their claim. Most of the trees were cut following removal of the activists.



The hearing also included arguments over controversial "head cam" video footage that was shot by hidden cameras mounted on the helmets of PL-hired "treesit extractors"

during the tree-top removal of activists. The court denied lead extractor Eric Schatz from blocking activists' access to the footage, though they are barred from copying or distributing the videos.

The Court also ordered Schatz and other extractors to respond to discovery questions seeking additional evidence such as the identity of those who provided metal handcuffs used on activists as they were lowered from trees. Extractors were further ordered to produce receipts, memos, and other documents associated with climbing and recording equipment, as well as treesit-related communications between Extractors and Humboldt County Sheriffs.

The case is called *Pacific Lumber et. al. vs. Remedy et. al.*

www.indybay.org/environment/

PHOTO: Lodgepole www.wesavetrees.org

GAS FLARING DECLARED ILLEGAL IN NIGERIAN COURT

On November 15, a court in Nigeria declared the flaring of natural gas illegal. This ruling was made in a case brought against Royal Dutch Shell, by the Iwerekani community of the Niger Delta and will allow residents of this oil-rich regional to sue oil companies.

Gas flaring is responsible for clouds of toxic smoke, which contributes to greenhouse emissions, creates acid rain, and is a major pollutant. Gas flaring has been practiced in the Niger Delta since the 1950's. Shell has one month to challenge the ruling

SFPD ARRESTS PALLBEARERS AT BAYVIEW FUNERAL

I recently attended two funerals of homicide victims Cherie Black and Danté Rollins. Sadly, the San Francisco Police Department chose the time when attendees' emotions were at their highest to make arrests.

A sheriff's bus was outside Cornerstone Baptist Church where Cherie's funeral was held, and multiple arrests were made as mourners exited the sanctuary. Some of the pallbearers at Danté Rollins's funeral were arrested at the repast, still wearing their white tuxes.

I view this as total disrespect of the Black community, as funerals for shooting victims are painful enough to endure without having to witness fellow mourners being carted off by law enforcement. I can just imagine what that did to the children who were on hand to see the arrests. This shows total lack of compassion when it comes to our pain and grief.

— Cäti Okorie (Bayview)



THE NINTH WARD REBUILDS

The Common Ground Collective, based in the Algiers neighborhood of New Orleans, is a group comprised of local and outside volunteers who responded to the call of Black Panther veteran organizer Malik Rahim days after hurricane Katrina hit.

The city and state governments have attempted to purchase land from the area's residents for decades in order to expand the Industrial Canal and allow a cruise ship line to build its hub in the region. The Ninth hasn't received any aid or cleanup efforts from any state, city or non-profit agencies.

Local realtors and big businesses are pushing to have the entire area bulldozed so that the city can get a "new face." Garbage, decaying animals and other debris remain untouched while other areas in the city are receiving services.

Common Ground volunteers are currently placing information sheets on every door of the Ninth Ward urging residents to return home, organize, help each other and resist the city's efforts to destroy their community for profits. Common Ground is addressing the city's lack of garbage and trash pickup by removing the trash from the neglected Ninth and placing it in the neutral area of main boulevards away from homes, thus forcing the city to do trash pickup.

Working Hard on the Boulevard

Day Labor Program Fights to Keep Workers Off the Streets

BY MONICA LOZANO

TRANSLATED BY JOEL MEDIN



Since the 1970s, hundreds of mostly Latino immigrants have gotten work in San Francisco by standing on the street at unofficial hiring sites where employers hire them to work for a day or more doing jobs such as moving, construction, painting, and landscaping. These workers, commonly known as day laborers (or *jornaleros* in Spanish), are concentrated along Cesar Chavez Street in the Mission District. Early every morning hundreds of them can be found lining the street as they wait eagerly for the chance to work.

In 1991, the San Francisco Day Labor Program was created with the dual goals of getting the men off public streets and protecting them from exploitation through the utilization of a registration system for both workers and employers. The Program was set up in two unheated trailers in Franklin Square Park, more than a mile from

the traditional street-side hiring zone. As a result, only a fraction of the workers use the Program; the rest remain on the street, much to the chagrin of neighbors nearby.

Since taking over the Program in 2000, La Raza Centro Legal, a local immigrant rights organization, has been working to secure a new site for the Program closer to Cesar Chavez Street. The next year, after much opposition from residents in the area who wanted the day laborers out of their neighborhood, La Raza found a site right on Cesar Chavez. But complications in securing the necessary permits to renovate the building prevented the Program from moving, even though they have been paying rent on it since 2001.

On October 23, the new hiring site finally opened at 3358 Cesar Chavez Street. The following is an article written by a Mexican immigrant and member of La Raza Centro Legal's Women's Collective, a component of the Day Labor Program that organizes domestic workers, about why immigrants work as day laborers and the need for the new center.

As a day laborer from an impoverished background, I am in this country because of NAFTA and neo-globalization, along with the monopolies, those enormous companies that have done away with the small industries and small businesses. Even normal businesses have gone bankrupt and have been forced to fire employees and laborers, each time making the underdeveloped country poorer.

Our natural resources continue their devaluation and after they are processed in the developed nations they return to the underdeveloped nations much more expensive. This ensures that our products and services cannot compete in price with those of the capitalist nation. This causes the people to immigrate to the richer nation.

Poverty, hunger, and the absence of economic alternatives to provide for our children and our elders obligate us to emigrate to another country, where we encounter injustice, discrimination, and abuse.

We are here to sell the only resource that is left to us, "the fruit of our labor," which is

the only option left to us in our struggle for survival. This is why we must unite and turn our activism into organizations like the Day Labor Program where we have spent 15 years fighting for the rights of the laborers, a dignified salary, and the respect accorded to all—the right to be treated as human beings without discrimination.

By obtaining a proper office we gain the respect that we need. Our own space will serve as the point of meeting for the staff to better provide the day laborers with more dignity, security, cleanliness, safety, and protection from the elements, like cold, rain, etc. . . .

An office will help with hygiene and provide the privacy of a clean bathroom, because the bathroom in the park cannot be kept clean due to it being located in a place of recreation. The physiological necessities of humanity require privacy and cleanliness to avoid illnesses.

With the building we as day laborers have a private and proper space to receive calls from employers, to be received by per-

sonnel staff, and for volunteers who wish to help their community.

An office building affords us our own space so that we may receive training for work of a higher quality of labor. With an office space we can acquire didactic materials to train the day laborers. For example, computers may be kept within an office space to the benefit of the employer as well as for the laborer.

It is a place for meetings and workshops, to plan how we can better ourselves and go out and volunteer. We have the liberty to carry out our activities, such as taking English classes, without fear of interrupting others' activities like the sporting events and social gatherings in the park.

The building signifies having more privacy and not being interrupted during our own proper activities.

The San Francisco Day Labor Program is located at 3358 Cesar Chavez Street. More information can be found at www.lrcf.org.

Artwork provided by the SF Day Labor Program.

Alternative Nodes

BY CHAMPAIGN-URBANA COMMUNITY WIRELESS NETWORK

In light of the discussions over a free wi-fi network in San Francisco we would like to present an alternative approach to wireless networks as it is being practiced in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois.

The Champaign-Urbana Community Wireless Network (CUWiN) is a world-renowned coalition of wireless developers with a mission to "connect more people to Internet and broadband services; develop open-source hardware and software for use by wireless projects world-wide; and, build and support community-owned, not-for-profit broadband networks in cities and towns around the globe." CUWiN is a non-profit organization headquartered in the small town of Urbana, Illinois; yet it has received considerable national and international attention during

its half-decade of successful open-source software development.

In Spring 2000, a group of software programmers, radio techies, system administrators, and community activists began discussing ways to set up a community-operated wireless network using widely-available, off-the-shelf hardware. After two years of intensive work, on November 18, 2002, CUWiN's deployed its first



multi-hop, bandwidth-sharing wireless cloud – creating Internet access from multiple locations sharing a single broadband connection. Within two years, this technology became known as "mesh" wireless networking. This prototype deployment brought CUWiN's first major press coverage and created opportunities for over two-dozen new organizations to partner with the project. The CUWiN development team also quickly realized that in order to scale up the system, major changes would have to be made.

In 2004, CUWiN received a development grant from the Information Program of the Open Society Institute to improve the networking software and prepare the software



JACQUES-JEAN TIZIOU JJTIZIOU.NET

Volunteers gathered in Champaign-Urbana to build a wireless node for a mesh internet network. These nodes allow people to share a single broadband connection.

Before We Forget Arnie's Vanity Election, Some Unfinished Business

By Don Monkerud

Governor Arnie Schwarzenegger promised the November 8 election would be "judgment day" for his opponents. Voters spoke, sending all of his propositions down to a crushing defeat, and on Friday Arnie accepted "full responsibility."

While Arnie runs away to "polish his image" with 80 business owners and lobbyists paying for his vacation in China, there's still some unfinished business before things can return to normal - money. The *L.A. Times* estimates that the special election, which could have easily waited until June, cost California taxpayers \$55 million. In real terms, the fiasco cost much more; the *L.A. Times* estimates that \$225 million was spent to influence the outcome of the election.

In October, the *Capitol Journal* declared, "a large majority of voters continues to disapprove of Schwarzenegger's job performance and thinks California is headed in the wrong direction." His true-believer aides claim that although voters rejected his initiatives (in the latest *San Jose Mercury News* poll, 75 percent of voters say they would not re-elect Arnie), they support his call for reforms. Don't expect an apology from Arnie, who provoked his opponents by calling them "girlie men" and threatening nurses by "kicking their butts." He only concedes that voters want him to "work it out at the Capital" and offers no reconciliation. Expect the partisan rancor created by Arnie in the election to linger for some time.

Dan Walters, a columnist for the *Sacramento Bee* and an Arnie cheerleader, predicts Arnie will bounce back because it took him 12 years to recover from a terrible first movie before filming the moneymaking "Conan the Barbarian." Walters urges Arnie to drop his tough guy image, move to the middle and rebuild his popularity, but his communications director, Rob Stutzman, told the *New York Times* that Arnie would continue to "govern from the right," and raise money "in the business world."

Here's a different proposal: Arnie should pay back Californians the \$55 million the special election cost. In 2000 and 2001, he made \$57 million and his net worth is estimated at between \$200 million and \$1 billion, including the special "moonlighting for millions" deal with muscle magazines that he set up while governor. Arnie can easily afford the expense, resign as governor, and get on with preening his ego in the business world.

Californians were reluctant to endorse the special election from the beginning. Even Maria Shriver told her testosterone-pumped husband not to pursue the special

election. But Arnie, emboldened by business interests that chafe under regulatory control, desperately sought to push through "reforms" to undermine Democratic power and give businesses lower wages, poorer working conditions, lower taxes, and less environmental regulation.

Arnie won the recall election by claiming Gray Davis was under the influence of "special interests," but he raised twice the money in his first two years that Davis raised in four years. Davis's "special interests" represented many working people, while Arnie's supporters represent corporations and investors, including mortgage lender Ameriquest Capital (Arnie's largest donor, at \$1.58 million, since 2003), Univision, and oil investor T. Bone Pickens - all of which are also Bush's moneybags - as well as California Business Properties, Public Storage, Dreyer's Ice Cream and DHL.

Arnie was sadly out of touch in his vanity election: He carefully controlled attendance at his political rallies and mainly addressed loyal ideologues - big business, GOP stalwarts and reactionary right-wing talk-show groupies. His administration hasn't been any better as he cozied up to the California Chamber of Commerce, attacked consumer or union concerns as "job killers," and pushed California government to the right.

Although Arnie drained some potential donations to defeat the increasingly reactionary and out-of-touch GOP in the upcoming national elections, he galvanized unions and progressives to a degree seldom seen in California. According to the *Sacramento Bee*, "The national story of Tuesday's election was how California's public-employee unions demonstrated that labor, if sufficiently unified and motivated, remains a powerful force in American politics."

The election also called into question California's out-of-control initiative process, which has fallen prey to wealthy crackpots, entrepreneurs, and business interests to push through expensive campaigns that benefit only themselves. Rarely can consumers or workers afford the process originally created to protect the people from their government. The initiative process is no substitute for governing, and some predict that a vote-weary electorate may support initiative reform.

Lastly, the election proves Lincoln's proverb, that "you can fool all the people some of the time and some of the people all of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time." California's boy-toy, action-figure hero governor is a fop.

for transfer to other communities around the globe. In July, 2004, the Center for Neighborhood Technology began using CUWiN's software in North Lawndale (near Chicago) and several other locations to help bridge the digital divide. CUWiN technologies are now used in roughly a dozen different locations, and the CUWiN deployment rate continues to accelerate.

Even more excitingly, CUWiN's software is currently being looked at by over 50 different organizations worldwide; and, as the software stabilizes, CUWiN anticipates incredible growth in the number of communities who will use this technology to bring Internet service and intranet applications to their residents.

As of this writing, the CUWiN project has over 200 members and 65 developers, and has deployed systems in multiple locations around Illinois, across the United States, and internationally. The City of Urbana recently allocated funding to wire-



Choke on this Gov'na!

On Election Day, California Refused to Swallow the Republicans' Agenda

Prop. 73: Would have created a waiting period and parental notification before termination of a minor's pregnancy.

Prop. 74: Would have made new teachers wait five years before achieving permanent status, and would have made firing permanent teachers easier.

Prop. 75: Would have required public workers' unions to get written permission yearly from each member before their dues money could be used for political activities.

Prop. 76: Would have given the governor significant unilateral powers to cut the budget, overturning voter-approved Prop. 98 to guarantee minimum funding for education.

Prop. 77: Would have placed responsibility for redistricting in the hands of a panel of retired judges.

FRESNO #1 IN POVERTY

A study released by the Brookings Institution rates Fresno with the highest concentration of poverty in the nation. New Orleans is second on the list.

Fresno may be home to some of the highest-grossing agriculture fields in the country, but according to a new study it also has the nation's highest concentration of poverty.

The Brookings Institution study looked at extremely poor neighborhoods where high crime, poor housing and a lack of good quality education negatively affects the quality of life and encourages financial hardships.

According to the study, much of the blame can be attributed to decades of poor planning with new homes being built in the suburbs beyond the reach of low income households.

Rounding out the Top 5 cities of this list: New Orleans, followed by Louisville, Kentucky, Miami and Atlanta.

FOX IN THE DOG HOUSE



Fox defends his dignity

Venezuela has denied the Mexican government's demand for an apology over comments Venezuela's president, Hugo Chavez, made about Mexico's president, Vicente Fox.

Fox initially criticized Chavez's 'counter-summit' at the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) summit in early November.

Mexico was then offended by Chavez's description of Fox as a 'puppy of the empire' - an allusion to Fox's submissiveness to Washington in FTAA negotiations. Chavez is strongly opposed to the agreement, which he sees as an arm of US imperialism.

The incident escalated last Sunday when Chavez used his weekly radio and TV show to criticize Fox again. Referencing a Venezuelan folk song about a thorny tree, Chavez told Fox, "Don't mess with me, or you'll get pricked."

The Mexican foreign ministry responded with a communiqué that gave Caracas an ultimatum to apologize, or face expulsion of its ambassador.

Venezuela's foreign minister Alí Rodríguez then announced that ambassador Vladimir Villegas was being withdrawn, and read a communiqué that rejected Mexico's ultimatum as "senseless aggression" and said that the whole situation was "entirely the responsibility of Mr. Fox."

Mexico then recalled its ambassador to Venezuela. Fox later told CNN he didn't rule out fully cutting off diplomatic relations with Venezuela if things continued. He then downplayed the potential economic impact of a diplomatic falling-out, saying, "If Venezuela thinks they should not trade with anybody, except (in) oil, well fine."



Volunteer, Katie Kenlan, carries the wifi node and antenna to the top of the Library in downtown Urbana.

less the downtown area. This may represent one of the first times that a municipality has deployed an open-source, open-architecture wireless solution. Today, CUWiN's technologies are being utilized for everything from disaster recovery in Algiers (New Orleans) to networking schools in Apirede (Ghana). With an impressive history of successes, the biggest question now facing the CUWiN project is whether altruistic organizations and individuals will step forward to support the mission and continued development of a free, open source wireless networking solution, or whether we will all be relegated to using overpriced, sub-standard broadband services.

For more info, check out <http://cuwireless.net> and www.ucimc.org

Photos by Jacques-Jean Tiziou: <http://jitziou.net>



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Remembering Ken Saro-Wiwa and the struggle for justice in Nigeria



BY IKE OKONTA

In life, Ken Saro-Wiwa, the Nigerian writer and minority rights activist, was an elemental force. Like the sun that illuminates all that it touches, Saro-Wiwa's work beamed a powerful searchlight on the crummy corners of the Nigerian state, illuminating the sordid acts of injustice and oppression that have been visited on the poor and the powerless in the country since it was cobbled together by imperial Britain in 1914.

It was a light that the wealthy and powerful found discomfiting, and they resolved to extinguish it. Ken Saro-Wiwa was saying things they did not want to hear, even if all of it was true. Even more worrying, he had mobilized his people, the Ogoni, a small ethnic group in Nigeria's Niger Delta where Royal/Dutch Shell and several other transnational companies had been producing oil for four decades without giving them any of the proceeds, to stand up and insist that enough was enough.

This was in the early 1990s. Ken Saro-Wiwa had written a small pamphlet in 1990 in which he spelled out the grievances of the Ogoni against the Nigerian state and Shell who were exploiting several oil fields in the area and had subjected the farmlands and fishing rivers of local people to devastation. Saro-Wiwa also spelled out how these grievances might be ameliorated, informed by a regime of rights that have been observed only in the breach since the turn of the 20th century. The Ogoni had been reduced to subjects by the British with the advent of colonial rule, an unhappy state of affairs that had been perpetuated by subsequent Nigerian governing elites. They wanted to reclaim their rights as citizens. This pamphlet, which has since attained iconic status in the international environmental and human rights community, is the Ogoni Bill of Rights. A few months after it was published, Ken Saro-Wiwa and other Ogoni worthies banded together and established the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People (MOSOP), a grassroots political organization they planned to use as a vehicle to achieve all the demands and

LIKE THE SUN THAT ILLUMINATES ALL THAT IT TOUCHES, SARO-WIWA'S WORK BEAMED A POWERFUL SEARCHLIGHT ON THE CRUMMY CORNERS OF THE NIGERIAN STATE, ILLUMINATING THE SORDID ACTS OF INJUSTICE AND OPPRESSION THAT HAVE BEEN VISITED ON THE POOR AND THE POWERLESS IN THE COUNTRY SINCE IT WAS COBBLED TOGETHER BY IMPERIAL BRITAIN IN 1914.

goals in the Ogoni Bill of Rights. On January 4, 1993, MOSOP and the Ogoni people marked the United Nations day of the world's indigenous peoples with a peaceful march that saw 300,000 children, women and men in the streets of Bori and other Ogoni towns and villages singing songs of protest. The Nigerian subsidiary of Shell was declared *persona non grata* and its workers in Ogoni were peacefully expelled from the oil fields. The Nigerian military government was also asked to account for the 30 billion dollars worth of oil taken from the Ogoni oil fields since 1958, and to recognize the demand of the people for a measure of political and economic autonomy within the Nigerian federation.

This was the beginning of MOSOP and

Ken Saro-Wiwa's travails. Nigeria's political elites had, since the oil boom of the early 1970s, considered the oil fields of the Niger delta as a private fief, for them to do with as they saw fit. A raft of decrees and



laws had been passed taking over the oil-bearing land of local communities in the area and transferring it to the central government in Abuja, Nigeria's capital. Shell and the other oil companies had been encouraged to barge into this land to mine oil without paying adequate compensation to the rightful owners. Billions of dollars had poured into the coffers of these elites and their accomplices in Shell while the Ogoni, the Ijaw and the other minority groups pined away in poverty and neglect, denied such basic amenities as water, power, roads, schools, and hospitals.

Ken Saro-Wiwa threatened this cozy arrangement between Nigeria's corrupt power elite and the oil companies, and they became determined to do away with him. Beginning in mid 1993, a special military task force was established by the military government, and with the active cooperation of senior Shell Nigeria officials, proceeded on a campaign of terror, mayhem, and mass murder in Ogoniland. MOSOP elements were identified, isolated, and murdered or maimed. Women were raped. Homes were looted and razed to the ground. In all, 102

Ogoni villages were plundered and their inhabitants either murdered or driven out into the forests.

In May 1994 Saro-Wiwa was arrested by the government on trumped up charges of murder. Several other

MOSOP members were detained along with him. After a judicially flawed trial that was widely condemned by human rights groups and opinion leaders world-wide, Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other MOSOP leaders were hanged in a Nigerian prison in the morning of 10 November, 1995.

In November 2005 it will be ten years since Ken Saro-Wiwa and the Ogoni Eight were murdered in cold blood by the Nigerian military junta and dumped into unmarked graves. Their intent was to remove the writer and activist from political contention in the Niger delta, and also rid Shell of its most powerful critic. But Saro-Wiwa dead has become even more of a potent force in the burgeoning campaign for minority rights, corporate social responsibility, and environmental protection than when he was alive. He has joined the eter-

nal greats beautified by their selfless service to humanity, even at the cost of their lives.

Still, the present Nigerian government, and the oil companies to which it is in hock, are working feverishly to undermine the legacies of this moral and political giant, in the Niger delta and elsewhere in the country. A fresh wave of communal and civic unrest is sweeping through the delta as youth, women and communal leaders join their counterparts in other parts of the country to demand an end to authoritarian rule and the regime of impunity that has enabled the transnational oil companies to plunder the resources of local people and despoil their environment.

The government took delivery of yet

A FRESH WAVE OF COMMUNAL AND CIVIC UNREST IS SWEEPING THROUGH THE DELTA AS YOUTH, WOMEN AND COMMUNAL LEADERS JOIN THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY TO DEMAND AN END TO AUTHORITARIAN RULE AND THE REGIME OF IMPUNITY THAT HAS ENABLED THE TRANSNATIONAL OIL COMPANIES TO PLUNDER THE RESOURCES OF LOCAL PEOPLE AND DESPOIL THEIR ENVIRONMENT.

another batch of fast attack boats from the United States in early September and has deployed them to the delta, ostensibly to check the activities of oil smugglers. But local activists say there has been a marked increase in military deployments in the region of recent, coinciding with the mass mobilisation of civic and political groups in the delta to frustrate the ruling government's plot to perpetuate itself in office beyond 2007 when fresh presidential and local elections are due.

The increased military presence in the region, and the recent spate of detention of local leaders, is President [Olusegun] Obasanjo's way of retaliating against those in the region he now characterises as 'subversive elements'. It is, however, unlikely, that these strong-arm methods will suppress the clamour for democratic accountability, self-representation, and proper consideration for the environment in the region. Saro-Wiwa was hanged in order that Shell might return to its oil wells in Ogoni. But the Ogoni have refused to back down, and the oil company is still *persona non grata* in the area 12 years after it was peacefully expelled from the Ogoni oil fields. The present wave of military intimidation will not achieve the result Nigeria's authoritarian leaders desire: unchecked plunder of the oil wealth of the delta communities. Saro-Wiwa's words have embedded firmly in the political soil of the Niger Delta.

Ken Saro-Wiwa was a writer and a man of ideas. He believed that the written word was potent, and that good ideas would endure no matter the travails and obstacles placed on their path. Saro-Wiwa was right. Ten years after he was brutally cut down, his word and ideas are as potent as when he first uttered them in the early 1990s.

Dr Ike Okonta is a Junior Research Fellow in the Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford. He's co-author of 'Where Vultures Feast: Shell, Human Rights and Oil' (Verso: London, 2003). He writes a weekly column for the Lagos daily, *This Day*.

Free Radio – Liberating the Commons

Continuing the movement for free speech in broadcasting

BY STEPHEN DUNIFER

As a direct, free speech challenge to the regulatory structure and statutory authority of the FCC, Free Radio Berkeley took to the airwaves on April 11, 1993. Seeking to break to the corporate stranglehold on the broadcast spectrum, Free Radio Berkeley's efforts soon began to inspire others to adopt the strategy of direct action, both domestically and abroad.

Grounding itself in the direct action tactics of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) and using the combination of legal action and street heat of the Civil Rights Movement, the Free Radio Movement began a series of protracted battles and skirmishes with not only the FCC itself, but the unseen hand behind the FCC, the National Association of Broadcasters. Representing the multi-billion dollar broadcasting industry, the NAB is without a doubt the most powerful lobbying organization in the United States.

When the FCC's initial attempt to silence Free Radio Berkeley with a preliminary court injunction failed in January, 1995, the NAB declared open war on micropower broadcasters, urging its members to report any unlicensed broadcasting to the FCC. Wrongly or rightly, hundreds of people interpreted the rejection of the preliminary injunction against Free Radio Berkeley as a green light to put their stations on the air.

During the year prior to the first broadcast of Free Radio Berkeley, legal strategy was being developed and fine-tuned to respond to the likely response and intervention by the FCC. Attorneys from the National Lawyers Guild Committee on Democratic Communications (NLGDCD) had prepared initial briefs to defend Mbanna Kantako, the founder of Black Liberation Radio in Springfield, IL. With these arguments enlisted to support Free Radio Berkeley, the NLGDCD continued to refine the legal arguments and conduct further research. Drawing on a variety of sources, including case law and international covenants, the attorneys put together an impressive legal argument for micropower broadcasting and Free Radio.

One key thesis maintained that if the government was going to restrict Free Speech activity it had to do it in the least restrictive means possible, otherwise the government was acting unconstitutionally. By prohibiting community broadcast stations operating with 100 watts or less of power from being on the air, the FCC was restricting Free Speech. Further, by creating a regulatory process requiring an extremely high cost for compliance in applying for a broadcast license, the FCC created such an artificially high barrier in which only the wealthiest could take part. Citing Article 19, section 2 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, "Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice," NLGDCD attorneys finished off with an appropriate capstone to their work. When Free Radio Berkeley went on the air, the FCC was unaware a legal bear trap had been baited, awaiting their first step.

To avoid being shut down by the FCC, Free Radio Berkeley began broadcasting from the Berkeley Hills every Sunday evening for 3-4 hours. Operating with battery-powered transmitters and broadcast equipment carted

about in an external frame pack, FRB carried on in true guerilla fashion for a period of several years until the denial of the preliminary injunction placed the situation under jurisdiction of the court and out of the FCC's hands. Within 6 weeks of the initial court hearing Free Radio Berkeley emerged as a 24/7 community broadcast station situated in a stripped out bathroom on the second floor of a house on the Oakland/Berkeley border.

Not prepared to deal with a burgeoning swarm of guerilla radio activity, the FCC and NAB relied on the sledge hammer approach, a tactical misstep that only served to raise the stature of Free Radio in the court of public opinion. Of the many articles appearing in both the mainstream and alternative press, nary a discouraging word was said about Free Radio.

On the legal front, despite winning

every procedural issue, Federal Judge Claudia Wilken issued an injunction against Free Radio Berkeley after the FCC submitted its second motion for summary judgement. But, despite the silencing of Free Radio Berkeley in June 1998, the Free Radio movement continued. Court cases involving other micropower stations such as Steal This Radio in NYC did not result in the vindication of Free Radio. From the very beginning it was understood the probability of success in the Federal Court system was low. However, by being present in such high-visibility venues, the status, credibility and visibility of the Free Radio Movement reached a height unobtainable by other means.

Faced with an ungovernable situation and enforcement nightmare

created by the Free Radio Movement and increasing public pressure, the FCC was forced to take some sort of action. Eventually, in January 1999 they issued a rule making process establishing a very limited low power FM broadcast service (LPFM). Viewed by many within the micropower community as a form of damage control and a divide and conquer strategy, this LPFM service only allowed the establishment of low power stations in rural communities due to overly stringent channel spacing requirements.

Even given the limited nature of LPFM it was immediately opposed by both the National Association of Broadcasters and National Public Radio. As a result of intense lobbying efforts by both, Congress passed a bill (ironically titled The Broadcast Preservation Act of 1999) to severely curtail an already limited service. The NLGDCD responded to the initial LPFM rule making proceedings and has been instrumental in assisting with the LPFM application process. Former micropower broadcasters formed the Prometheus Radio Project to aid LPFM applicants, organize "barn raisings" to put community stations on the air, lobby for expansion of the LPFM broadcast service and oppose further media consolidation by direct legal intervention.

In spite of the legal low power route being offered to communities seeking to establish a low power broadcast station and aware of the legal risks involved, individuals and communities continue to establish Free Radio stations. Not satisfied with the crumbs swept from the FCC regulatory table and wary of pitfalls and compromises associated

with being licensed, proponents of Free Radio continue their struggle to liberate the broadcast commons from corporate domination and control.

Within the first year after the initial broadcast of Free

Radio Berkeley, it became clear that the Free Radio Movement was part of a much larger global endeavor. Community radio is rooted in the struggles of people for a just and humane existence. Whether it was Bolivian tin miners establishing radio stations in the late 1940's as

part of a campaign to improve working conditions, Radio Rebelde's role in the Cuban Revolution, Czech citizens creating clandestine radio stations after the crushing of the Prague Spring in 1968 by the USSR, or the supportive role of community radio in the recent uprising by indigenous people in Bolivia to reclaim their natural resources – community radio has always been a tool of expression and organization.

After the first coup against Haitian President Jean Bertrand Aristide, Free Radio Berkeley supplied transmitters to peasant organizations fighting against the coup. Transmitters also went to both the Chiapas jungle and the urban streets of Mexico City. International efforts by Free Radio Berkeley were first formalized as International Radio Action Training and Education (IRATE), and later Transmitters Uniting the Peoples of the America (Project TUPA). Overall, the goal is to establish regional transmitter manufacturing and training facilities throughout the Americas, and create a Free Radio Federation of the Americas that will work to secure and maintain the right to communicate by the peoples of the Americas. With the broadcasting operation shut down by a federal court injunction, all the energies and resources of Free Radio Berkeley were turned toward empowering people and communities with the tools, knowledge, technology and ability to build and create their own radio stations, both domestically and internationally.

Only locally organized and controlled community broadcast stations have the power to speak to the needs of

the community, allowing people to share their news, information, culture, artistic expression and needs with one another. The power of the internet to link community broadcast stations with one another on a global level through Independent Media Centers and other related endeavors leads to the creation of a meta-community

which is both global and local in its reach and scope. Such collaboration rips the mask from the face of neo-liberalism, exposing it to be nothing more than the worldwide theft, exploitation and destruction of the entire commons.

Project TUPA is in need of volunteers to help with the various projects. Contact: Free Radio Berkeley, 1442 Walnut St. #406, Berkeley, CA 94709 - freeradio@riseup.net Phone: 510-625-0314. www.freeradio.org, www.radiotupa.org

This article is excerpted from a longer article written for Context magazine published by the UCLA Center for Communications and Community- www.uclacc.ucla.edu. It should appear in that publication later this month.



RADIO RESISTENCIA IN PORTO ALEGRE BRAZIL



PROJECT TUPA FOLKS DEMONSTRATING RADIO AND TV TRANSMITTERS IN VENEZUELA.



FIELD RECORDING TRAINING AT A PROMETHEUS BARNRAISING IN TANZANIA, AFRICA.

Stayin' True Zion I stays fly while doin' it D.I.Y.

BY LIAM O'DONOGHUE

Oakland's Zion I is the type of crew that excites even the most jaded cats. On their new, self-released album, "True and Livin'", MC Zion and producer Amp Live revive the tradition of making socially-conscious hip hop that you can get hyfee with. MC Zion gets deep, breaking down issues ranging from consumerism to spirituality, but Amp keeps it all smooth, mixing blues riffs and jazzy nods in with the bump-bump. Recently, Zion I took a minute to talk with *Fault Lines* about musical gentrification, the record industry, and representing their hometown's cultural legacy...

Liam O'Donoghue: Back in the '80s and '90s, there were several overtly revolutionary rap stars like KRS-ONE and Public Enemy making a big splash culturally and also getting a lot of attention from the mainstream. Nowadays, there's a few MC's, like Mos Def or Talib Kweli, who are selling a lot of records, but aren't so in-your-face with the politics; and then you've got The Coup or dead prez, who are way more radical, but not getting too much mainstream coverage. Do you think people just aren't interested in radical hip hop anymore or do you think that the record companies are more conscious about avoiding rappers and musicians with those kinds of messages?

MC Zion: I think it's a combination of things. With the political climate in the country right now, there aren't many alternative voices in the media... Basically, there's always escapism in art, people want to get away, but now it's so much more pronounced, people don't even wanna deal with political or revolutionary ideas because it's way too real. I think people know subconsciously what's going on in the world, but a lot of folks don't want to deal with it and conscious music forces you to look at things that sometimes you don't wanna look at.

LO: But there are people out there craving that realness- and they're drawn to music like yours that's bringing attention to important issues, like the joint "Stranger in my Home" that you just dropped with Gift of Gab (of Blackalicious)."

MZ: Yeah, basically, Gab sums it up real well when he says, "My crib's been gentrified." Growin' up, it was mostly Black/Latino kids, underprivileged kids who were into hip hop and during the '90s it changed drastically. At this point, it's very much a white genre of music even though the core artists are mostly black. But as far as who appreciates and who

institution that's obviously played a big part in the gentrification of hip hop by making it more appealing to a broad, mostly white audience?

Amp Live: I don't think we struggle with it. I mean, you can use all kinds of ways to get your stuff out and you don't have to change your records or what you're about. It's like when Sprite picked up

bunch of times. He's such a figure in the black community y'know, the legacy of the Black Panthers. We were just excited to figure out a way to work with him and get him into our music, so we just had him come into the studio to speak.

MZ: Just to have his voice coming though...we wanted to make this album reflective of who we are and our experience. We're children of the civil rights movement -- we just wanted to connect the whole legacy.

LO: It's cool that you're all trying to make those connections, because it seems like a lot of the ultra-materialistic stuff that's been recycled so many times is just such a parody of itself, kinda like "hair" metal before grunge took over. Do you think "bling" is on the way out?

MZ: It's capitalism, man, it's the culture. People keep making records saying "buy more shit" and it's not helping us. I mean, black folks, we never really had nothing in this country, and people are just starting to get money -- NBA guys, some rappers, some doctors and lawyers (even though they're not as visible in the black community). But most black people is broke, so the fascination with material items is basically fantasy. If you ain't never had it, you just wanna know what it's like.



Photos: Elizabeth Sy

comes to our shows, it's mostly white folks and this song is just addressing that, because it's kind of weird, as an artist in

KRS-ONE for that commercial; he had a chance to bring his message to millions of more people. If you really look at how

Everyday, out on the TV, you've got commercials telling you what you've gotta have; the whole culture is just about having things, so hip hop is just a microchasm of that idea. I don't really see that going anywhere. I definitely see people getting sick of it and realizing

EVERYDAY, OUT ON THE TV, YOU'VE GOT COMMERCIALS TELLING YOU WHAT YOU'VE GOTTA HAVE; THE WHOLE CULTURE IS JUST ABOUT HAVING THINGS, SO HIP HOP IS JUST A MICROCOSM OF THAT IDEA.

that culture, to see how it's changed so much. Nobody really talks about it. We didn't want to offend people or push anybody away, we just wanted to talk about a real situation.

LO: It seems like a tough issue, because you're trying to make a living and maintain, but to do that, you need to make yourself accessible to a wide audience. So do you have problems doing things like going on an MTV-sponsored tour, because that's an

things are, this country is based on corporations, so with almost anything you're stepping to a company that's like MTV. Even if you put your own record out, the company that you're going through (for distribution and retail) is part of the same system.

LO: Getting back to the new album, how did the collabo with Fred Hampton Jr. come up?

AL: He came out to a dead prez show in Oakland and then we bumped into him a

slowly that it's bullshit. But it just helps the corporations when people are saying "Buy Air Force 1's," "Buy these chains," "Get you a Maybach Benz." All these companies are benefiting from that, and I'm sure the corporations behind the music are tied in somewhere with the corporations making this other shit, so I don't see it going anywhere.

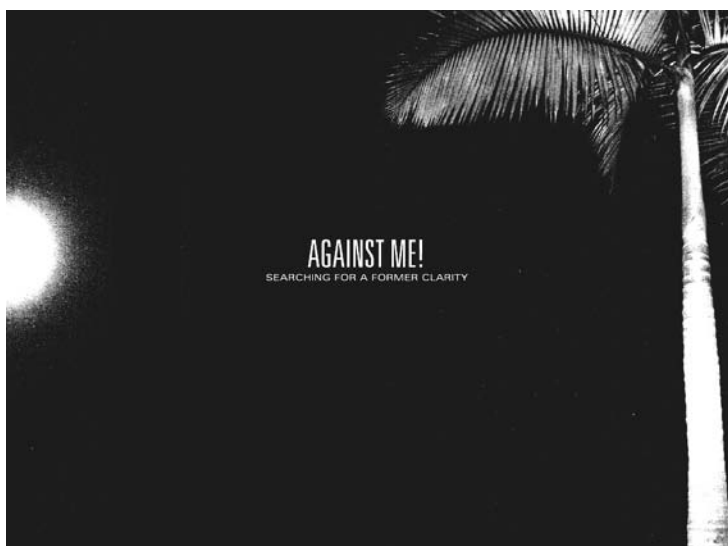
Check out their website: www.zioncrew.com for more info.

Against Me!

SEARCHING FOR A FORMER CLARITY

Fat Wreck Chords, 2005

It would be easy to slander Against Me!'s third full length, "Searching for A Former Clarity", for being too 'commercial.' The Gainesville-based anarcho-folk-punk quartet cut their teeth singing revolutionary anarchist protest songs, garnering hard-earned respect from their peers from a combination of relentless touring and bleeding-heartfelt lyrics. When they signed with Fat



Wreck Chords, loyal fans branded them sellouts.

More than selling out, Against Me! has simply grown up. "Clarity" is not their best work by any means, but it is definitely the most broadly appealing. J. Robbins (Jawbox) lends an all too familiar indie-pop-punk sound to Gabel's raspy voice and camp-fire-

shout-along choruses. These 14 tracks are mall-ready, but in the very best way possible. The very catchy "Miami" opens the album with a flourish of horns, yet underneath the levity Against Me! is still aware of the uneasy state of the nation. "All hope has been abandoned, like ballots drifting into the ocean," Gabel sings. Well, not all hope. (K. Malachowski)

P.O.S

IPECAC NEAT

Doomtree / Rhymesayers, 2004

Ipecac Neat, the debut album from P.O.S.-- the Minneapolis based MC and founder of the Doomtree DIY hip hop label/crew/collective-- hit the streets last year to much deserved critical acclaim.

The label's first full-length release, a delicious mash-up of electro beats, punk rock samples, distortion, and groove heavy production, is a prime example of genre-bending hip hop going right for a change. Recently re-released by Rhymesayers Entertainment, fans of Sage Francis, Slug, Atmosphere, or DeadPrez will love P.O.S.'s lilting, angst-rid-

den lyrics and DIY ethos. Though P.O.S. provides social critique, he never claims to be a messiah. "This shit's a mockery / I'm not trying to save hip hop, I'm trying to save my baby cousin from Jermaine Dupri," he raps on "Kicking Knowledge in the Face." Emerging from an area bursting with conscious MCs, P.O.S. rises above the pack, distinguishing himself with just the right mix of danceable electro sensibilities, the emotion of punk rock, and angst-fueled lyrical adventures.

(K. Malachowski)

Afflicted Powers: Capital and Spectacle in a New Age of War

BY RETORT
Verso, 2005

Afflicted Powers, by a quartet associated with the San Francisco group Retort, grew from the desire of activists to understand the new forms American geopolitics was taking.

According to the authors, it is an error to understand the present military actions of the US as an aberration. It finds its place in a long line of aggressions stretching from westward expansion to the proxy wars, covert operations, and coups that have been an American specialty since the end of the Second World War.

State power has always been

key to opening new markets all over the world. Today the occupation of Iraq represents what is dubbed "military neoliberalism." The tactics of coercion may have changed, but the underlying aim of "getting Iraq ready for Wal-Mart" has not.

The chapters range widely from discussions of revolutionary Islam and America's strange relationship with Israel to the claim of oil as a motive for the Iraq invasion and the threat of permanent war. *Afflicted Powers* assembles a lucid account of the war within the explanatory context of the

larger operations of capitalism. (D. Brazil)



Robert F. Williams THE FREEDOM ARCHIVES

SEE DEFENCE, SEE RESPECT, AND SEE DETERMINATION
AK Press / Alterantive Tentacles, 2005

From the Freedom Archives comes the engaging, though oft-forgotten, tale of Robert F. Williams. A civil rights activist and president of the NAACP in Monroe, North Carolina, Williams tirelessly organized African American communities in the movement of armed self-defense.



In Monroe, William's Rifle Club -- an association of black Veterans -- once kept a motorcade of armed Klan members from attacking a fellow NAACP officer, who had tried to integrate a swimming pool, with a "hail of disciplined gunfire."

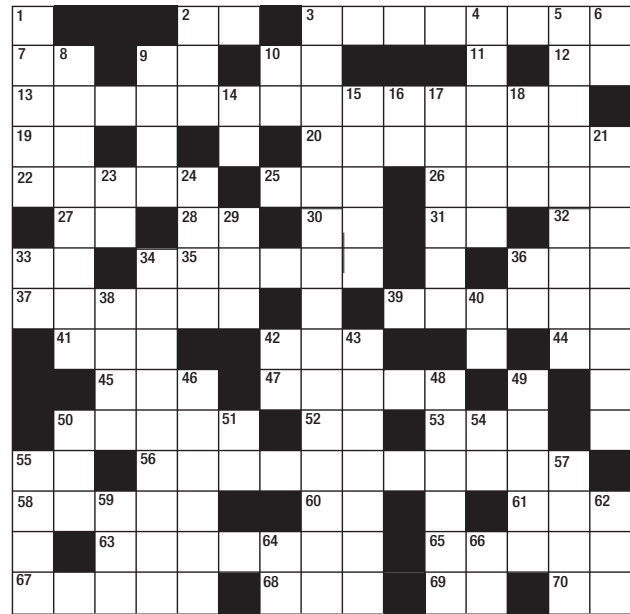
Under scrutiny due to his militant activism, Williams was falsely accused of kidnapping by the FBI and exiled to Cuba and China between 1961-1969. From Cuba, he broadcasted Radio Free Dixie to the

Southern US and helped spread a message of resistance against the KKK and discriminatory governmental agencies to black and oppressed communities.

He also worked with world leaders like Mao Tse Tung, Fidel Castro, and Che Guevara to generate worldwide solidarity for the civil rights movement. His diplomacy earned the respect of non-violent activists like Rosa Parks, who stated, "The work he did should go down in history and never be forgotten."

Radio Free Dixie recordings and narration from his widow, Mabel, complement Williams' speeches and interviews. The combination is a riveting audio documentary that explains William's resistance within the turbulent context of the time. Also available with a companion book. (K. Malachowski)

CRYPTO #13



answers to cryptos can be found on www.indybay.org/faultlines

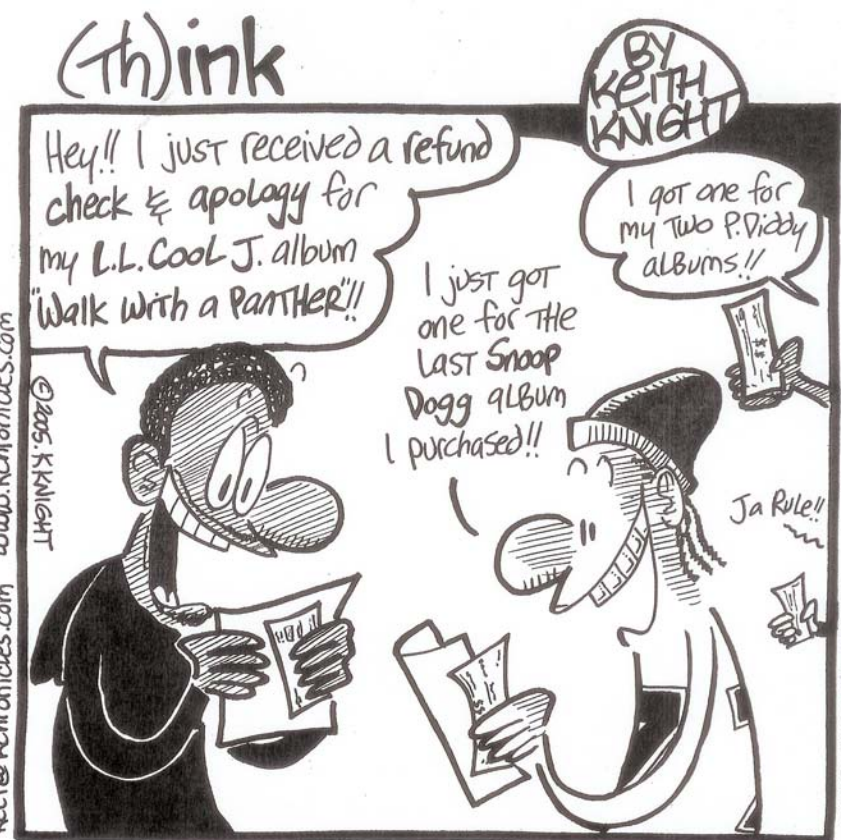
Across

- 2. soldier, grunt (2)
- 3. Riefenstahl strikes gold (8)
- 7. proof of being (2)
- 9. District Attorney (2)
- 10. an inch short(2)
- 12. negation (2)
- 13. Renoir's masterpiece (5,2,3,4)
- 19. University of California(2)
- 20. cattle sacrifice (8)
- 22. mephitic mammal (5)
- 25. maximum exposure limit (3)
- 26. stench (5)
- 27. senior (2)

Down

- 1. plague agent (5)
- 2. petrol (3)
- 3. Kazan in the dock? (2,3,10)
- 4. printing cylinder (5)
- 5. science of wind (9)
- 6. perform (2)
- 8. Marxist cuisine? (4,4)
- 9. Doyen of alienation? (4)
- 10. supposing (2)
- 14. licensed to kill (2)
- 15. queen of troy (5)
- 16. European Commission (2)

- 28. quart (2)
- 30. you and I (2)
- 31. footnote (2)
- 32. lutetium symbol (2)
- 33. south, as such (2)
- 34. B movie bonzo (6)
- 36. Hippocrates' island (3)
- 37. dress jacket (6)
- 39. Clockwork thugs (6)
- 41. periodic cramps (3)
- 42. Black English vernacular (3)
- 44. thou (plural) (2)
- 45. Atlantic Standard Time (3)
- 47. where the rubber meets the rim (5)
- 50. supplant (5)
- 52. football club (2)
- 53. burnt tree? (3)
- 55. Inspector General (2)
- 56. Low budget maestro (5,6)
- 58. woolly followers? (5)
- 60.the Greek exclamation (2)
- 61. charged atom (3)
- 63. quiet victory for kid's classic bike? (7)
- 65. golfing icon (5)
- 67. brineful (5)
- 68. consumed (3)
- 69. Roman eleven (2)
- 70. Romania on the net (2)
- 48. aural grease (6)
- 49. flexible drive (5)
- 50. expression of disgust (3)
- 51. paying guest (2)
- 54. sadomasochism (2)
- 55. Egyptian goddess (4)
- 57. dark movies? (4)
- 59. English as a second language (3)
- 62. new the second time (3)
- 64. Iowa (2)
- 66. Rhode Island (2)
- 17. Bloke in charge of lighting (6)
- 18. incisive remark (3)
- 21. Belgian city (8)
- 23. original city? (2)
- 24. SF PBS station (4)
- 29. philosophical way (3)
- 33. saint, street (2)
- 34. rise again (9)
- 36. Knockout (2)
- 38. Christmas, briefly (4)
- 40. oriental chant (2)
- 42. king of blues guitar? (2)
- 43. antidote (7)
- 46. winner's cup (6)



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Calendar

For More Information or to submit your event, visit www.indybay.org/calendar

November 17

THE DARFUR GENOCIDE AND A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE FOR SUDAN

Panel discussion & question and answer forum with David Kilgour and Charles Snyder. Santa Clara University School of Law (Rook 127), 500 El Camino. Open and free to the public. 12 noon.

November 17 and November 19

MILITANT QUEERS PRESENT: OUR BIG QUEER NOVEMBER '05 PERFORMANCE!

Spoken word, experimental performance, ranting, unspecified fist-raising, and bitter, sarcastic humor that challenges colonialism, white supremacy, heteronormativity, patriarchy, rape, and other systems and tools of oppression. Militant Queers are Mary Miller and Manish Vaidya, two students in the Activism and Social Change M.A. program at the new College of California. FREE! Donations accepted to benefit Grassroots Institute for Fundraising Training. New College, 780-777 Valencia Street, SF. 7pm.

November 19

ANARCHIST CAFE

1pm-6pm (Rain Or Shine) - Bike Cart Relay Races, Bobbing For Donuts, Haircut Wheel, Red Rover, Double Dutch Jump rope, Theatre Games, Soccer, Wiffle Ball, Slip And Slide, Self Defence Training. Dolores Park, SF 6pm-12am - Dinner, pastry eating contest, Four Square, other games, and workshops on topics such as mutualism, anarchy vs. liberalism, gentrification, anarchist organization, and an anarchist critique of democracy. Ending with bands and dance aerobics. Station 40, 3030B 16th at Mission, SF.

November 22

ROXANNE DUNBAR-ORTIZ BLOOD

On the Border: A Memoir of the Contra War
With *Blood on the Border*, Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz presents the third volume in her critically-acclaimed memoir. She vividly recounts memories of the contra war in Nicaragua, chronicling the US-sponsored terror inflicted on the people of Nicaragua following the election of the Sandinistas that ousted the Reagan darling and vicious dictator Somoza. Her rich political analysis of this history bears the mark of a trained historian, but she also writes from her perspective as an intrepid activist who spent time throughout the 1980s in the war-torn country. She makes painfully clear the connections between what many US Americans only remember vaguely as the Iran-Contra "affair" and current US aggression in the Americas, the Middle East, and around the world.

Roxanne will read from her new book and answer questions following a discussion afterward. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia Street, SF. 7:30 p.m.

November 22

FILM SCREENING: REDEMPTION

THE LIFE STORY OF TOOKIE WILLIAMS

Stanley "Tookie" Williams has been sentenced by the state to die on December 13th at San Quentin. At age 17, Williams helped found the Crips street gang. He was convicted of four murders and sentenced to death in 1981. Now 51, Williams has written nine award-winning books and initiated a program to help at-risk children avoid gang violence. He has been nominated for the Nobel Prizes of Peace and Literature numerous times. Please join us to view his life story. 382 Bayshore Avenue, SF. Film at 7pm, vegan dinner to follow.

November 24

FOOD NOT BOMBS - GIVE THANKS VEGETARIAN POTLUCK FEAST AND MUSICAL BENEFIT FOR POST-FTAA SUMMIT LEGAL FUND IN ARGENTINA OR FOR NEW ORLEANS

It's been one year since we formed the Riot-Folk Collective and we are celebrating it in the Bay Area!

We are a collective of eight radical activists and folk musicians who write, perform, and distribute radical folk music at no-to-low costs.

We are anti-profit and exist to further the struggle against capitalism and oppression. All of our shows are donation-optional benefits or they are free; no one is ever turned away for not having money or not wanting to pay. Ashkenaz, on San Pablo Avenue, one block south of Gilman, Berkeley. 6pm.

We have shows from the 18th to the 25th, please see <http://www.riotfolk.org> for a full listing!

November 25

BUY NOTHING DAY!

Saturday November 25th 2005 is Buy Nothing Day, the self proclaimed festival of frugal living and culture jammers jam-boree. It's a day where you challenge yourself, your family and friends to switch off from shopping and tune into life. Celebrated as a holiday by some, a street party by others - anyone can take part provided they spend a day without spending!

November 28th - December 3rd

INTERNATIONAL WEEK IN SOLIDARITY WITH POLITICAL PRISONERS, PRISONERS OF WAR AND POLITICAL EXILES

This week-long event features four days of film, a day of action and a day of solidarity with political prisoners in the U.S. and

abroad. It will be hosted in San Francisco and Oakland, and the Day of Solidarity will be recognized internationally and marked by rallies, marches and other forms of resistance in Palestine, the Philippines, Haiti, Brazil, Italy, Switzerland, England, India, and the U.S. Go to indybay.org/calender for more information.

November 28 - November 29

FILM FESTIVAL: "POLITICAL CONVICTIONS: LIBERATING POLITICAL PRISONERS"

New College of California Cultural Center, 766 Valencia Street, SF. 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm.

November 30th-December 1st at Laney Community College, Irma Walker Conference Room #401 - Student Center, 900 Fallon Street, Oakland. 6-9 pm.

December 1

DAY OF ACTION: Oakland Federal Building

1301 Clay Street, Oakland. 12-2pm.

December 3

DAY OF SOLIDARITY: First Unitarian

Church, 685 14th Street, Oakland. 7pm.

December 9

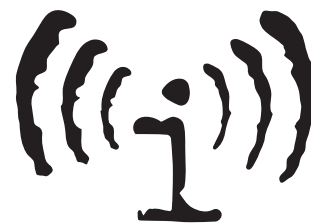
DAHR JAMAIL, in conversation

How might we hold the US accountable for the Occupation in Iraq? Responding to the overall failure of the US media to accurately report on the realities of the war, independent journalist Dahr Jamail travelled to Iraq and spent 8 months there. 6:30 PM, California Institute of Integral Studies, 1453 Mission Street (between 10th and 11th), SF. aparadise@ciis.edu, (415) 575-6254.

December 17

AS'AD ABU KHALIL (The "Angry Arab") speaking on "Iraq, Liberated?"

As'ad Abu Khalil served as a freelance Middle East consultant for NBC News and ABC News; an experience that only served to increase his disdain for mainstream US media. He is now a professor of political science at California State University, Stanislaus and visiting professor at UC Berkeley. He also runs the Angry Arab News Service. The Home of Truth, 1300 Grand Street, Alameda. 7pm. For info, contact Julie Rufo: jrufo@sbc-global.net. alamedaforum.org.



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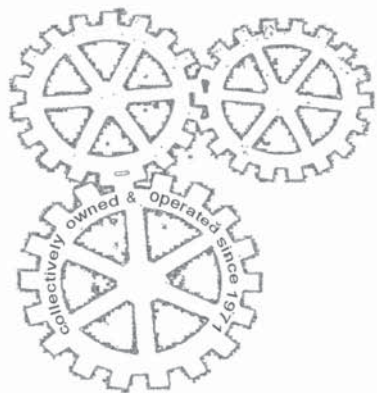
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Tram Nguyen *We Are All Suspects Now*

Thursday, November 17 7:30

Colorlines magazine editor Tram Nguyen weaves together the intimate stories of those targeted in the wake of 9/11, showing us the human faces lying behind the so-called "war on terror."



Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz *Blood on the Border: A Memoir*

Tuesday, November 22 7:30

The third volume in her acclaimed memoir, Dunbar's rich political analysis of history bears the mark of a trained historian and an intrepid activist.



Saleemah Abdul-Ghafur, editor & Samina Ali, contributor

Living Islam Out Loud

Tuesday, December 6 7:30

Abdul-Ghafur has thoughtfully culled the words of Muslim women to reveal the complexities of growing up female and Muslim in America.



Timothy Archibald *Sex Machines*

Thursday, December 8 7:30

Interviews and photos of sex machines find unexpected beauty and mystery among the lives of regular people, celebrating the American spirit of invention while exploring our desires and confusions.



Coming events include an environmental exploration of the history of trash; an art show of work created by people in prison; a book reading and discussion featuring SF-based anti-poverty organizers from POWER; an experimental performance piece reflecting on "post-punk;" a performance reading by Cutting Ball Theater; and more!

Visit us online for a complete list of our events

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As long as there are slaughterhouses, there will be battlefields.

Leo Tolstoy

Philosophical implications of exploiting animals must-read:
Animal Liberation: A New Ethics for Our Treatment of Animals
by Peter Singer

Social & advocacy events/Ultimate Guide to Veg Living:
www.bayareaveg.org

Advocacy events in the East Bay/Open rescues of farm animals:
www.eastbayanimaladvocates.org

News, upcoming events, and resources of the Bay Area and beyond:
indybay.org/animalliberation

While no one can tell you what to eat, you owe it to yourself to examine the ramifications of what you put in your body every day. The Union of Concerned Scientists identified the meat-based diet as one of the two most harmful things individuals can do to our environment. By going vegetarian (or vegan) today, you can effect positive change right now.

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