

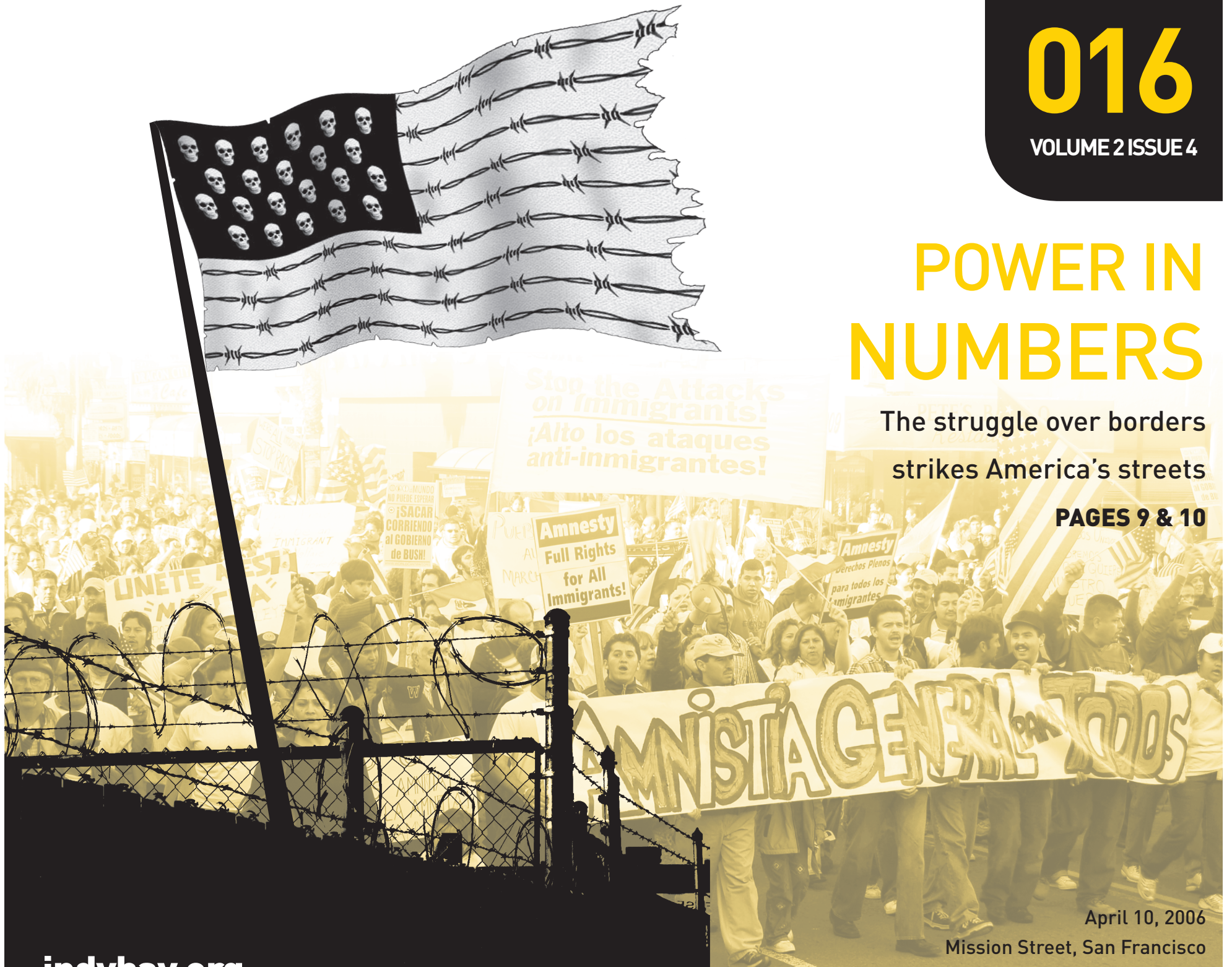
016

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 4

POWER IN NUMBERS

The struggle over borders strikes America's streets

PAGES 9 & 10



April 10, 2006

Mission Street, San Francisco

indybay.org

FAULT (i) LINES

NEWSMAGAZINE OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA INDEPENDENT MEDIA CENTER

Table of Contents

U.C. STUDENTS VS. MILITARY RECRUITERS	2	II HUNGER STRIKE AGAINST HR4437	
STUDENT VICTORY IN FRANCE	3	12 THAI PROTESTS KICK OUT PRIME MINISTER	
VISUAL TAKEOVER: GITMO IN FRISCO	3	13 THE END OF NET NEUTRALITY?	
CALCULATED DISCRIMINATION IN BAYVIEW HUNTERS POINT	4	14 BIOREMEDIATION IN NEW ORLEANS	
GREENSCARE: LEARNING FROM COINTELPRO	6	15 REFLECTING ON THE LIFE OF LUIS KEMNITZER	
AFRICA AND IMPERIAL OIL	8	16 ARTS IN ACTION REVIEWS	
IMMIGRATION WARS	10	17 INTERVIEW WITH JEL	

APRIL-MAY TWOTHOUSAND SIX

free

FAULT LINES

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 newsmagazine 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 newsmagazine 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

Kelah Bott, Hunter Jackson, Katrina Malachowski, Liam O'Donoghue, Hannah Potassium, Rez, Sakura Saunders, Tim Simons, Ali Tonak, zulah

FAULT LINES THANKS

Dave id, media alliance, the indydependent (nyc imc), street level tv, enemy combatant radio, street sheet, station 40, howard quinn press, corpwatch, elizabeth sy and lushorchid, lani r, nicole mueller, carwil james, janky hellface, ak press, alternative tentacles, fricke parks printing, lauren moret, khalil bendib, santa cruz imc. 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.



TECTONIC SHIFT

INTRODUCING THE NEW FAULT LINES

Spring has sprung, and the *Fault Lines* collective has emerged from its winter slumber with a new look and fresh vision. We hope that these changes reflect our continued commitment to growth as a collective and as a radical media source. So we are going to let a little more personality shine through, because though we may be tackling tough subjects, we hope our readers take away more than just the latest evidence that our current system has our world headed for collapse. We aim to inspire and incite action. Take the words written within these pages as a starting point for dialogue.

We will be having release parties for each new issue as an opportunity to continue that dialogue. You are invited to come and meet some of our writers, designers, illustrators and photographers. We hope that you'll welcome the opportunity to explore with us the ideas and stories covered inside our magazine, as well as take a few extra issues to distribute within your community.

Some of our changes may seem superficial at first glance – we now call ourselves a 'newsmagazine,' instead of 'newspaper' – but considerable thought was put into all aspects of our restyling. Part of this includes a change in our publication cycle. We started out as a monthly paper, but soon discovered that an all-volunteer collective, whose members have numerous other projects, was unsustainable at that rate. Our content has always favored analysis over news, and in order to stay true to this focus while remaining open to community involvement, we will now be a bi-monthly magazine: six quality issues per year.

We will continue to bring you stories from our local communities, the nation and the world from a radical perspective. We recognize that today's news spreads quickly and stories change constantly, which is why we try to focus on ongoing issues as well as offering our readers more in-depth examination of current events.

Expect more changes in the months and issues to come, and let us know what you, as a reader, would like to see. Advice columns? A comics page? We want *Fault Lines* to be a social and political magazine that engages, not merely informs.

UC Students Give Military THE BOOT



PHOTO: BRADLEY, SC-IMC

Recruiters driven from Santa Cruz campus

It's been over a year and a half since the military has been able to effectively recruit on this UC-Santa Cruz campus, as all their attempts have been met by mass student actions. On April 11, in spite of the pouring rain and administrative attempts to stifle students' free speech, Students Against War (SAW)

proposals for protecting free speech to be adopted by administrators, who still banned media from the event.

The successful protest was also significant in light of the fact that University administrators hired, at great cost to the school, a number of police from other UC campuses. These police, local officers, and a top local official physically assaulted multiple students without provocation and repeatedly refused to provide identification when requested. Students were pushed, punched, and choked, and a student's hand was slammed in a door. One student, acting as a legal observer, was pushed and arrested for documenting police surveillance, but was released after an immediate display of student support. The student may face charges in the future, which SAW intends to vehemently resist. In the face of administrative and police repression the students remained remarkably peaceful.



PHOTO: BOB FITCH, BOBFITCHPHOTO.COM

organized over 150 students to march from the center of campus to the job fair, where they nonviolently prevented access to military recruiters through sit-ins and other measures. After about an hour and a half of negotiations and students' refusal to back down, military recruiters left the job fair.

The students' first victory appeared early in the day, as administrators separated military recruiters from other employers, allowing the protesters to block access to the military, while the remainder of the job fair continued. This separation was the only one of SAW's

organizational actions. In response to the victory, SAW member Sam Aranke responded, "Our demonstration today is a clear example of how tangible success can be when we take strategic actions against the war at a local level. It's not just about the action today, it's about creating sustained movements that directly resist the militarization of our communities."

For more information, photos, or press contacts, go to saw.revolt.org

JOIN THE ACTION

HELP WANTED
DESIGNERS
WRITERS
EDITORS
PHOTOGRAPHERS
COCONSPIRATORS

COME TO OUR NEXT MEETINGS:
THURSDAY, APRIL 27 @ 7PM;
2940 CAPP ST.
#216 @ 16TH ST.

French Government Caves into Protesters

"I WAS IN THE SORBONNE WHEN IT WAS OCCUPIED. WE WERE ONLY 70 PACIFISTS IN THE BEGINNING. THINGS CHANGED ON FRIDAY WHEN 200 TO 300 PEOPLE ENTERED BY THE WINDOWS AND JOINED US. FROM THEN IT WAS MUCH HARDER TO CONTAIN THE ANGER: THINGS WERE TOTALLY OUT OF CONTROL IN THE STREETS." –ANONYMOUS STUDENT



A victory was won by the youth, students and workers of France on April 10 when after more than three months of actions, demonstrations and general strikes, President Jacques Chirac caved in to popular demand and revoked the CPE, (Contrat Première Embauche, or 'first employment contract') portion of a labor law liberalization package.

The CPE was an amendment to the eighth article of the "Statute on the Equality of Opportunities," a law proposed by Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin as a response to November's riots in suburban France. The CPE amendment allowed employers to conditionally hire 18-26 year olds on two-year contracts under the terms that they can be fired at any time without any notice or explanation.

Intended to "make hiring more flexible" for businesses, it became clear that France did not support this discrimination disguised as labor reform.

As *Fault Lines* goes to print, students across France continue to strike. Despite the CPE being revoked, the battle is not over. New proposals to replace the

CPE legislation include giving employers financial incentives to hire youth and tax breaks for those companies that hire unskilled youth, but it's still necessary to fight to ensure that new legislation will value the young workers of France and not treat them as disposable, temporary employees as the CPE did.

A Brief Synopsis of Actions:

In an initial response to the CPE, student union bodies called for weeks of meetings and mobilization starting January 30.

By March 7, up to a million high school students, higher education students, and young workers were actively fighting against this blatant age-based discrimination.

Protests took place throughout the country as half of French universities remained on strike. Students in Nantes occupied the central train station. At the Sorbonne, a riot took place as CRS prevented the demonstrators from gaining access to the university buildings.

On March 18, unions joined demonstrators and 1.5 million protested together across France. Rioting flared once again at the Place de la Nation in Paris where over 700,000 people demonstrated. That night, 39 year old Cyril Ferez was trampled by CRS riot police and left in a coma. Disturbances were also reported in Rennes, Lille, and Tours.

Despite a March 24 meeting between De Villepin and the five major trade confederations, no compromise was reached.

Between 1.1 million and 2.7 million demonstrated across France and the general strike crippled public transport and public services on March 28. According to a poll conducted by LCI that day, 62 percent of French were 'united', or 'in soli-



Students then disrupted transit systems in Rennes, Nantes, and even blockaded the Gare de Lyon in Paris.

The major trade unions in France gathered support for another April 4 general strike from the European Confederation of Trade Unions. This strike was attended by even higher numbers than the one before.

Despite the withdrawal of the CPE



STUDENTS BLOCK RAILROADS LEADING TO GARE DE LYON, ONE OF THE MAIN STATIONS IN PARIS.

arity' with the anti-CPE movement.

The next day the president of UNEF, the main student union, Bruno Julliard, was quoted in *Le Figaro* as saying, "We will probably continue to call for new demonstrations, but indeed, we will also diversify our methods of action, sometimes calling for gatherings, sometimes indeed calling for the blocking of airports, stations."

on April 10, students voted to continue blockading universities and ports, and in Paris students gathered to call for the resignations of Chirac, de Villepin, and Sarkozy.

For up to the minute coverage of the struggle in English, please visit www.libcom.org/blog, the "Unrest in France" blog.

(th)ink

BY KEITH KNIGHT

THE ONE POLICY G.W. BUSH AIMS TO SEE THROUGH...

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

GITMO IN FRISCO

Torture at Feinstein's Front Door

Morning commuters were greeted with visions of Guantanamo "enemy combatant" prisoners in San Francisco's Financial District on March 20. Act Against Torture shut down the intersection of Montgomery and Market St. in front of Sen. Diane Feinstein's office to protest the continuing U.S. occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan, and U.S. torture all around the world. The fake detainees were quickly detained (fo' real) as the SFPD quickly swarmed in to arrest the orange-jumpsuit clad protesters.



PHOTOS: BILL PATTERSON, NOT IN OUR NAME



Sweat-Free Berkeley

On April 11, a crowd of 200 gathered at Berkeley's campus to support a "sweat-free UC." Condemning the University's use of sweatshop labor in the production of collegiate apparel, and promoting United Students Against Sweatshops' designated supplier program, students staged a "Naked Truth" rally and sit-in that resulted in 18 arrests and more verbal volley from the University administration.

Students were disturbed that their legal observer, a member of the National Lawyer's Guild, was removed by police at the beginning of the sit-in while the University's legal advisor was allowed to stay on for the duration of the event. The sit-in ended in 18 arrests for "trespassing and refusing to leave" after approximately two and a half hours of proposals and demands.

www.indybay.org

Pacific Lumber Accused of Toxic Cover-Up

A former Pacific Lumber (PL) official has filed a wrongful-termination suit alleging he was ordered to conceal waste including asbestos and oil residue from Water Quality officials when seeking environmental permits for the company's new \$30 million sawmill. According to the suit, former business and community development director Jimmy Dan Cook was told "to not report the contamination and to keep the information in-house."

The lawsuit alleges Cook suffered "repeated verbal abuse and threats from (PL CEO Robert) Manne because of (Cook's) resistance to follow orders he believed to be unlawful "and that a runoff-retention pond was built on the contaminated site which has "resulted in dangerously polluted water leaching and/or overflowing into the Eel River."

www.indybay.org

Greenpeace Activists Occupy Monsanto Facility

On April 13, the 'GE free citizens inspection unit' converged on a Monsanto seed facility in Trebes, France. Consisting of over 100 conventional and organic farmers, members of the public and activists from across Europe, the protesters aim was to influence a new law currently under consideration in the French parliament. If passed, it would allow massive genetic contamination of both organic and conventional maize. Over 75 activists managed to occupy the facility, affectively shutting it down.

"We are putting Monsanto on notice,



Black Out:
THE CITY SPONSORED
GENTRIFICATION OF BAYVIEW
HUNTERS POINT

Photos by Rez

An interview with Longtime resident and Greenaction organizer Marie Harrison, by Matt Gereghty.

In a public hearing last month, city commissioners unanimously approved a decade in the making plan to redevelop an astounding 1400 acres in Bayview Hunters Point. The Redevelopment Agency now awaits Board of Super-



photo: Matt Gereghty
Marie Harrison addresses a crowd at a rained out protest, blocking the entrance to the Hunters Point PG & E Plant. April 11, 2006.

visor ratification before implementing its plan. Bayview Hunters Point, along with nearby Visitation Valley and the Outer Mission district, house 73 percent of the city's 7 percent African-American population. While two city hall hearing rooms were set up to accommodate the overflow crowds of primarily BVHP residents, a Redevelopment Agency representative spoke narrowly to their anticipated concerns.



With a lowball guarantee of 25 percent affordable housing in the new, otherwise market-value housing units, he ensured that the housing security of current tenants would not be jeopardized by eminent domain as it had been during the redevelopment of the Fillmore 40 years ago.

But as police presence in BVHP has become more hostile in recent years, residents displaced from the Fillmore decades ago are now recognizing the tactical measures that drove them out, of which eminent domain was just one. Marie Harrison is one such resident. She told *Fault Lines* about the eviction game plan that was executed in the Fillmore that is now being applied in Bayview Hunters Point.

Fault Lines: How long have you been a resident of Bayview Hunters Point?

Marie Harrison: I have lived and raised three children in BVHP. I moved out shortly and moved back in. I guess you should know that when I moved out, it was to help save my 4 year old grandson; another asthma incident that the doctors could not deal with. Our [BVHP] asthma rates are higher than the asthma rates in the whole city.

FL: Police occupation and incidents of brutality in BVHP have been fairly common over the last few years. Was it that way since you can remember, or was there a turning point?

MH: Actually, no it wasn't that way since I can remember. I remember BVHP when there wasn't nearly as much gang violence. And then when there were incidents of violence it was usually one or two people battling it out and they would box but they weren't trying to shoot and kill each other.

If you go back a little ways you'll remember at one point there was a riot that occurred in BVHP and that was over a young man being shot in the back. That was an incident that occurred when I guess the community itself just had enough. There was no employment, and drugs started to filter into our community, and all of the sudden our people became not the victims but we became



the culprits. Nobody would take two steps back and take a look at the fact that wait a minute, these folks barely go out of the community. I remember in a mothers group that I work with, it was such a big concern over all of this shooting that we asked people to start looking out for how all these guns and bullets and stuff were getting here, and who's bringing the drugs in here and not getting stopped? I mean, our community is just filled now with police officers.

FL: Do you perceive an objective of this police occupation?

MH: Can I relate that to something I remember from the Fillmore? I consider my family to be refugees from the Fillmore district. I was talking to some folks who came from the Fillmore and some of the things that we remembered happening. All of the sudden the police started becoming real aggressive and



they were always angry whenever they showed up for any incident in the Fillmore. It was always a battle. It wasn't like I'm here to help, it was always a major deal and no one could figure out what's different, what's going on? Why are they doing this? Same thing is happening here in BVHP. They don't come in saying I got a call or this and this and this, we heard what's going on. They come in gunstrong.

Then all of the sudden, the small businesses that were lining Fillmore street started getting all of these visits from folks who were writing them tickets up for not being up to code on this, and it was the first time I ever heard the word blight being used. Anything that wasn't up to somebody else's standard or you needed a coat of paint or your wiring wasn't right, that was considered blight, and guess what? You either bring it up to code, which usually cost you a fortune, and you never had the money to do, or your property got taken from you. They also improved the transportation: the bus lines up and down Fillmore Street.

Now we have a light rail that's about to come down Third Street. Now they're visiting our business and looking for code violations, they're citing blight in the community, and not only that, but Bayview has become the largest project ever, since the inception of redevelopment.

FL: Developers have used projects like the light rail to hang jobs over the heads of a community that has experienced an unemployment rate of 20-30 percent since the closing of the Naval shipyard in 1974. How has that played out for the community?

MH: One of the things you heard at this hearing you were at: they talked about how this remodeling of BVHP was going to bring all these jobs. Well let's not go back to the old stuff, let's just deal with the new stuff. The light rail wasn't going to be built unless Bayview built it. Did you see any of us out there digging those ditches or laying those tracks? Absolutely not. When we start complaining and we shut it down on Third Street, we made the mistake of allowing one of the agencies—that's the young community developer designated at the time—to do the negotiation. And

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

BAYVIEW HUNTERS POINT:
FIFTY YEARS OF ABUSE

1946: The Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory (NRDL) is set up to arrange for the decontamination and disposition of several ships that have returned to the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard from nuclear weapons tests at the Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

Mid 1950s: There are 8,500 civilians employed at the Hunters Point Shipyard.

September 1966: After police shoot and kill a fleeing 16-year-old, the community rises up to stop the SFPD from entering Hunters Point Hill. The uprising is put down with National Guard tanks on Third Street as SFPD shoot their rifles into the Bayview Opera House where children had taken refuge.

October 1966: The Black Panther Party is born in Oakland.

1964: Redevelopment in the Fillmore district displaces primarily African-American residents, many of whom relocate to BVHP.

1974: The U.S. Navy deactivates the shipyard. The community would experience 20 to 30 percent unemployment for decades to follow. Low employment forces many on welfare, or to the streets.

Mid 1980s: Infestation of drugs, guns, and gang activity on the streets of BVHP.

1989: Following extensive environmental investigations, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency places the Shipyard on the National Priorities List, becoming San Francisco's only Federal Superfund Site and its most contaminated property.

1992: UCSF and Health Dept study shows that BVHP hospitalization rates for asthma, congestive heart failure and emphysema are four times higher than the state average.

1994: Redevelopment Agency begins proposal for BVHP plan.

1995: A city Health Dept. study shows that BVHP contains four times as many toxins as any other city neighborhood. The area has 700 hazardous waste facilities, 325 underground petroleum storage tanks, and the state's oldest and most polluting power plant (PG&E Hunters Point Power Plant.)

February 2000: The Navy estimates its "cost to complete" cleanup of carcinogenic soil gases, solvents, oil products, and radioactive materials to be \$266 million.

June 13, 2001: Idriss Stelley, 23 year old African American youth and BVHP resident, is shot 48 times by San Francisco police while undergoing an emotional crisis inside the Metreon Theater.

October 11, 2001: A Thurgood Marshall High School student gets jumped by three non-students. Police respond to call by sending 126 riot cops who incite a riot, clubbing student bystanders. A few students are arrested as well as one teacher who was videotaping the incident. Police confiscate the tape, and return it later with footage missing. By 2004, when a public hearing finally takes place, the Statute of Limitations is passed making it impossible to discipline any officers.

January 19, 2002: Officers attack a group of 13- and 14-year-old unarmed black children outside their homes in Hunters Point. They beat the kids and hold them at gunpoint. The officers respond to outrage from parents and neighbors with threats, including a statement that "as long as you people are here, we are going to act like this."

2004: U.S. Navy proposes a \$105 million "clean-up" that will basically leave Hunters Point Shipyard a toxic dump site, with asphalt and buildings above.

September 9, 2005: Three years after filing a claim of harassment against the SFPD, Tyrelle Taylor is shot by police in the back. Multiple witnesses state that Taylor was running from police and displayed no weapon.

February 2006: There is an approval of a plan to demolish Joseph Lee Recreation Center, a longstanding nighttime refuge for area youth from the crime-heavy streets.

March 1, 2006: SFPD converge on the principal's office at Thurgood Marshall HS and order postponement of a talent show and fundraiser (large public community event) scheduled for March 4 (the Friday before the redevelopment public hearing). Police push event to the end of March on the grounds that they are unable to "ensure the safety of the event."

March 9, 2006: In a public hearing, City Commissioners approve a Redevelopment Plan of over 1,300 acres in BVHP. BVHP residents rally outside city hall in opposition to the plan.



along with each and every biotech firm that is contaminating our fields and our food supply now — or has future plans to introduce GE seeds — this is the beginning, we will not stop until France is declared a GE free zone," said Olivier Keller, national secretary of the Confederation Paysanne.

On April 12, the Slovakian inspectorate of environment published a decision that stated that Monsanto will not distribute their GE maize for the 2006 growing season, effectively shutting out sales of GE maize for the next year. The halt was put in place, due in part, to pressure from Greenpeace on the Slovakian inspectorate to answer growing concerns about environmental damage and contamination caused by GE maize.

www.indymedia.org.uk



Solidarity with Mapuche
Political Prisoners

On April 12, outside the UFRO University in Temuco, Chile, some 50 masked rebels fought with police for nearly three hours in solidarity with indigenous Mapuche political prisoners then on their thirtieth day of a hunger strike. Molotov cocktail firebombs and tear gas were exchanged, the rebels blocked the road outside the university, and a police motorcycle was set on fire. No one was arrested.

The following day, about 200 people marched in the streets of Temuco, demanding the freedom of the hunger-striking prisoners and launching eggs at a government headquarters.

Solidarity demonstrations for the hunger strikers have also taken place in Valparaiso and Santiago, as well as Argentina, Canada, France and Switzerland.

Mapuche prisoners Patricio Marileo, Jaime Marileo, Juan Carlos Huenlao and Patricia Troncoso, began a hunger strike on March 13 with the objective of achieving a review of the judgment under which they were sentenced to 10 years and one day plus the payment of US \$791,000 (423 million Chilean pesos) in compensation to the company Forestal Mininco for the burning of 100 hectares of a mono-culture pine plantation in Erquilla in 2001. The convictions flow from a "terrorist law" instituted by the former dictator Pinochet. "Terrorist" trials of the Mapuches involved the testimonies of unidentified state "witnesses."

santiago.indymedia.org

LESSONS FROM COINTELPRO

BUILDING a MOVEMENT IN THE FACE OF REPRESSION

By CLAUDE MARKS AND KELAH BOTT

Recent crackdowns on the animal rights and environmental justice movements have left many activists feeling that their communities are under siege. From the prosecution of the SHAC 7 to the arrests of thirteen individuals for arson committed over a ten-year span, a war is being waged against these movements by the U.S. government. While all of this may seem terrifying in its unfamiliarity to younger activists, the tactics being employed by the FBI and Joint Terrorism Task Force are anything but new. Whisperings of 'COINTELPRO' have appeared in various articles about the backlash against eco-activism, but what does this generation really know about the Counter-Intelligence Program aimed at groups such as the Black Panther Party (BPP) and the American Indian Movement (AIM)? Today's activists are heirs to a history of social and political battles from wars that are not yet over. Without seeing today's struggles for animal rights and environmental justice in a broader historical and social context, we run the risk not only of repeating painful lessons of the past, but of isolating ourselves and

weakening our movements.

Any FBI campaign against a particular group or movement is bound to expose certain weaknesses. After all, this is the intent of such government attacks. We need to build a culture of resistance and concrete support for people targeted by these government attacks, and also look seriously at the challenges revealed by this repression in order to prevent self-annihilation, mass fear, and demobilization. What we can learn from our own weaknesses can strengthen how we move forward and inform the movement we're building. Today, the criminalization of dissent and the labeling of acts of resistance as terrorism compel us to look at how COINTELPRO functioned and continues under the cloak of the Patriot Act.

COINTELPRO

The FBI's secret Counter-Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO) was initiated in 1956 under the leadership of J. Edgar Hoover and "officially" ended in 1971 when details of the program were widely aired in the mainstream press.

Its stated purpose was simple: to "neutralize" groups that the FBI deemed a threat to national security. The program targeted groups or individuals that challenged the existing power structure and expressed opinions opposed to the policies (foreign or domestic) of the government of the United States.

In his book *The War at Home*, Brian Glick details four main COINTELPRO tactics used against groups like the BPP, the AIM, and the Puerto Rican Independence Movement: infiltration, psychological warfare, legal harassment, and extralegal force, including assassination.

Many FBI tactics served multi-layered purposes. Government informants infiltrated groups ranging from non-violent anti-war activists to the Black Panthers. They were used to gather information, disrupt political organizing, and generate an atmosphere of suspicion and fear. Infiltration, in combination with their campaign of psychological warfare, was used to "neutralize" dissent. In addition, the FBI attacked from the outside, like in 1968 when J. Edgar Hoover labeled the Black Panthers "the greatest threat to the internal security of

the country" in order to demonize them and justify assaults against their members and offices.

THE FATE OF ONE GENERATION

Legal attacks and extralegal force were used extensively during COINTELPRO. At least 27 Black Panthers were killed, including Mark Clark and Fred Hampton in Chicago, Bunchy Carter and John Huggins in LA, and Bobby Hutton in Oakland. The FBI and other government agencies also targeted Martin Luther King, Jr., and Malcolm X. In the 1970s, 60 AIM activists were killed on the Pine Ridge reservation alone. Angel Cristobal, a Puerto Rican Independentista and Vieques activist, was murdered in a Florida prison, and the FBI and police agencies tortured captured activists. Many social justice organizations were disrupted or destroyed completely by these government attacks, and the groups were forced to divert their resources to defending activists who were arrested, harassed, and called before grand juries. Over 100 political prisoners, victims of COINTELPRO attacks and frame-ups, remain behind bars, many now in their second and third decades of imprisonment.

ECO-DEFENDERS AS TERRORISTS?

The similarities between COINTELPRO and present government repression are remarkable. Much like Hoover's comment about the threat of the Panthers, John E. Lewis, Deputy Assistant FBI Director, stated in 2004 that "investigating and preventing animal rights extremism and eco-terrorism is one of the FBI's highest domestic terrorism priorities." What better way to discredit a movement in the post-9/11 climate than to label its proponents terrorists?

The federal government, corporations, and the media have redefined the word "terrorist." Last year, animal liberationist Peter Young was indicted on "Animal Enterprise Terrorism" charges for liberating mink, marking the Orwellian nature of the current public discourse on terrorism. By including property destruction and any interference with business as usual under the ever-increasing umbrella of terrorism, the government has one more tool in their public relations campaign against eco-justice.

The FBI remains skilled in psychological warfare. Recently, the FBI disrupted a demonstration in support of grand jury resisters in San Francisco. They announced the increased reward for a fugitive subject of the grand jury. An agent that had been harassing activists in their homes attempted to distribute "wanted" posters among the crowd, a tactic that succeeded in drawing some of the media attention away from the political witch-hunt, catching the activists

off guard, and diluting their message.

The grand jury itself remains one of the government's favorite tools of harassment. In the last year alone, federal grand juries convened to investigate animal rights and environmental



The SHAC 7, well 6, L to R: Andy Stepanik, Lauren Gazzola, Kevin Kjonas, Joshua Harper, Jacob Conroy and Darius Fullmer (John McGee was dropped from the case). All of these activists face significant time in prison after being convicted of conspiracy to violate the Animal Enterprise Protection (formerly Terrorism) Act, for essentially advocating the closure of an animal testing facility. For details on their case and their appeal see www.shac7.com.

The right question to ask when faced with government pressure is not "How can I make this easiest on myself?" but "What will be best for my community, the movement we are trying to build, and for the fight for social justice?"

From that perspective, the choices are clearer, and do not include cooperating with government agencies, betraying friends and compromising our vision and future

justice activists in Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Sacramento, San Diego, New Jersey, and Colorado. The FBI's desperation to solve 'cold cases' means they have rounded up many suspects with little or no evidence. Desperate for information, they're coercing activists into talking before the statute of limitations can expire.

Since grand juries are secret proceedings, activists are often unaware of them until someone in their community is subpoenaed. Grand juries try to push activists who resist FBI and police visits to risk imprisonment for maintaining their non-cooperation. This coercion can keep activists occupied with court battles that divert them and their movements from their main political work. The shroud of secrecy and the fear of imprisonment succeed when people cooperate and implicate more activists or furnish information that reinforces the government's offensive.

Eventually grand juries result in indictments. The Eugene indictments of several people on conspiracy charges alleging their connections to the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) illustrate this point. With these indictments, we are also learning there are informants in our midst. Though most activists are aware of the theoretical existence of infiltrators, it is a different matter to learn of an actual act of betrayal and to witness the subsequent fallout.

Though we have yet to see the FBI

or other government agents using the fourth main tactic of COINTELPRO in their "Green Scare"—extralegal force and violence—it is not from moral aversion. The government understands that the general public would not support such tactics against the environmental justice or animal rights movements at this time. Yet they do feel unrestrained in terrorizing the Arab, Palestinian, and Islamic populations, and imprisoning innocent people of color without charges. They justify the torture at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo but they realize that such tactics used against largely white, middle-class activists would be bad PR.

BUILDING THE MOVEMENT

So what do we do about the challenges ahead? What does a community do when the fear of imprisonment is a stronger motivating factor than commitment to principles? Now we have an opportunity to learn from history. For many the instinct is to withdraw and avoid talking about issues of substance, strategy, and increased resistance. Some people may even avoid talking to certain activists for fear of being seen by the government as guilty by association. Yet now, more than ever, is when we must fight those urges and do the exact opposite: communicate, find common ground, and come together.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



Former Black Panthers, pulled back into the fight against government harassment, L to R: Hank Jones, John Bowman, Ray Boudreaux, Harold Taylor, and Richard Brown. Decades after their involvement with the Black Panther Party, these men were subpoenaed to appear before a state grand jury last year. They remain committed to resisting grand juries and, for the first time in years, are sharing their stories of harassment and torture at the hands of the police. Photo: Scott Braley

Behind the Lies: THE TRUE LEGACY OF COINTELPRO

"COINTELPRO targeted American citizens for opposing the Vietnam War, for advocating changes in Central American policies such as supporting brutal dictators, for supporting Civil Rights, Black Liberation, Women's Rights, or socialism. [The FBI] spied on law-abiding Americans, broke into homes, ripped open and read mail, tapped phones, harassed, isolated, threatened, and destroyed the lives of thousands of Americans, who merely opposed the U.S. government's policies."

- MUMIA ABU JAMAL

"In 1980, former FBI Director L. Patrick Grey and Edward S. Miller, one-time head of Squad 47, the domestic counterintelligence unit in the FBI's New York Field Office, were convicted of having "conspired to injure and oppress the citizens of the United States." The context of their crimes was COINTELPRO,

a secret, nationwide campaign conducted by the Bureau from 1956-1971 for purposes of destroying "politically objectionable" organizations and individuals through any and every means available to it. In 1975, an investigating committee headed by Senator Frank Church found that the operation had, from start to finish, be "fraught with illegality."

Neither Grey nor Miller ever spent a day in jail as a result of their convictions. In April 1981, President Ronald Reagan interrupted their appeals to announce that he was bestowing pardons on both men. The reason stated was that their misdeeds had occurred during an especially turbulent and divisive period in American history. It was time to "put all this behind us," Reagan said, and "to forgive those who engaged in excesses" during the political conflicts of the era.

At the time, it was pointed out that if this were to be Reagan's policy, it would be at least as appropriate for him to pardon the numerous victims of COIN-

TELPRO as to forgive its perpetrators. We noted how the Church Committee had discovered that a COINTELPRO technique had been to use the courts to "neutralize" selected activists by obtaining false convictions against them, that the FBI typically involved local police in such endeavors, and that of all the groups targeted in this manner, the Black Panther Party (BPP) had been hit hardest and most extensively.

No action was taken by the Reagan administration in this connection, however, and former Panthers continued to serve time, many of them in cases showing clear signs of COINTELPRO manipulation. It would be another decade before the first such prisoner, a once prominent New York BPP leader named Dhoruba bin Wahad (Richard Moore), was finally released after spending 21 years behind bars on a wrongful conviction. "

- WARD CHURCHILL, 1999

"It is my considered opinion, knowing of the car bomb explosion which injured Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney in 1990, and knowing of their speedy subsequent arrest on sensational criminal charges, that the apparent 'frame-up' of the two as supposed bombers is consistent with the history of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. That history, for many years before 1990, and continuing after that, shows that the FBI has repeatedly attempted to harass, injure, even cause the death of individuals in order to disrupt the activities of organizations critical of government and the Establishment.

That history indicates that in the pursuit of this disruption, the FBI has again and again violated the constitutional rights of Americans, including their right to freedom of speech and freedom of association. It indicates that the FBI would have been ready, willing and able to pervert the Constitution, and their own law enforcement responsibility under it, in the attempt to discredit and "neutralize" a movement like Earth First! and other allied forces working to preserve and protect the environment. "

- HOWARD ZINN, 2001



THE NEW FRONTIER FOR IMPERIAL OIL

In his State of the Union address, George Dubya said that the U.S. is “addicted to oil.” What he didn’t say was that post-WWII oil policy – which has been a central plank of U.S. foreign policy since President Roosevelt met King Saud of Saudi Arabia and cobbled together their ‘special relationship’ in 1945 – is in shambles. The pillars of this policy – Iran, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf oil states, and Venezuela – are hardly models of U.S. spheres of influence. With surplus capacity in the world oil market at an all-time low, and speculative capacity in the commodity exchanges at an all-time high, the transnational oil companies and the oil producing states are awash in petro-dollars – but the days of cheap oil seem to be fast disappearing.

It is no surprise, then, that other suppliers of oil should be very much on the Bush radar screen (since the alternatives of conservation strategies or increased gas taxes are conspicuously absent). The Cheney Energy Report in 2001 made the point about MidEast oil dependency long before the State of the Union. A recent headline in the *Financial Times* (March 1, 2006) makes the agenda crystal clear: Africa is the “continent all set to balance power.”

Though not as rich in hydrocarbons as Saudi Arabia, Africa nevertheless is, said the *Financial Times*, “the subject of fierce competition by energy companies.” IHS Energy – one of the oil industry’s major consulting companies – expects African oil, especially along the Atlantic margins (the so-called Gulf of Guinea), to attract “huge exploration investment” and contribute over 30 percent of world liquid hydrocarbon production by 2010. Over the last five years, Africa has contributed one in every four barrels of new oil discovered outside of Northern America. A new

scramble for Africa is afoot. The battleground is the continent’s oilfields – the looting of what the *Times* calls Africa’s “copious reserves of natural gas and its sweet light oil.”

Energy security is the name of the game. The Council of Foreign Relations’ call for a new approach to Africa in its report “More than Humanitarianism (2005) focuses on Africa’s “growing strategic importance” for U.S. policy. This means cheap and stable oil imports but also keeping the Chinese – important new actors in the African oil business – and Islamic terror at bay. (Africa is, according to the intelligence community, the ‘new frontier’ in the fight against revolutionary Islam.) It turns out that energy security is a terrifying hybrid of the old and the new: primitive accumulation coupled to American militarism and the war on terror. Will it work?

AFRICA’S BLACK GOLD

Currently Africa is the center of a major oil boom. The continent accounts for roughly 10 percent of world oil output and 9.3 percent of known reserves. Though oil fields in Africa are generally smaller and deeper than the Middle

East – and production costs are accordingly 3-4 times higher – African crude is generally ‘sweet’ and low in sulfur, making it attractive to U.S. importers. The twelve major African oil producers – dominated by Nigeria, Algeria, Libya, and Angola, which collectively account for 85 percent of African output – are highly oil-dependent. In Nigeria, for example, 85 percent of government revenues, 98 percent of exports, and almost half of gross domestic product are derived from oil earnings. In short, the governments of African oil states are ‘oil dependencies.’ They are also – and here they share an affinity with oil producers in the other Gulf and in the Caspian – categorized as among the most corrupt in the world, mirroring the global oil industry in which they are embedded. For the impoverished populations of these wealthy oil states, black gold is nothing more than a mirage; oil has brought corruption, waste, repression, a venal and authoritarian local ‘oilgarchy,’ and economic stagnation.

The jewel in the crown is the West African Gulf of Guinea, encompassing the rich on- and offshore fields stretching from Nigeria to Angola. Nigeria and Angola alone account for almost

half of African output, nearly 4 million barrels per day. U.S. oil companies have invested \$40 billion in Africa over the last decade (and another \$30 billion is expected between 2005 and 2010). Oil investment now represents over 50 percent of all foreign direct investment in the continent.

On this canvas of African oil security and a new scramble for the continent, the recent events in Nigeria and the crisis in the oilfields of the Niger Delta are of enormous importance. In late 2005 and early 2006 there was a massive escalation in violent attacks on oil installations by ethnic militants (primarily Ijaw, the largest ethnic group in the oil producing region) including the taking of oil hostages by a largely unknown militant group MEND (the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta). As a result of this escalation (and events in Iran and Venezuela), oil markets remain very jittery.

The recent hostage-taking and attacks on oil infrastructure in the Delta, however, are simply the tip of a political iceberg. Earlier in 2005, political representatives from the oil-producing region walked out of a national meeting on the distribution of oil revenues.



Right:

Local villagers passing an offshore oil installation with gas flares, Nembe Creek



Opposite:

A young Nigerian militant

Left:

Women peace marchers in Warri singing and demonstrating

photos by Ed Kashi

by Michael Watts & Anna Zalik

A few months later the Obasanjo government arrested a Delta militant and insurgency leader on treason charges which prompted renewed political turbulence across the region. Since the late 1990s, there has been a very substantial escalation of violence across the Delta oil fields, accompanied by major attacks on oil facilities (it is estimated that more than one thousand people die each year from oil-related violence). A year before 9/11, the U.S. Department of State, in its annual report on ‘global terrorism,’ identified the Niger Delta as a volatile breeding ground for militant “impoverished ethnic groups” for whom terrorist acts (abduction, hostage taking, kidnapping and extra-judicial killings) were part of their stock in trade.

Since the late 1990s, the Niger Delta has been pretty much ungovernable. A 2003 report prepared for the Nigerian National Petroleum Company, entitled “Back from the Brink,” painted a gloomy “risk audit” for Big Oil. A leaked report by Shell in the same year explicitly stated that their “license to operate” in Nigeria was in question. And with good reason. Between 1998 and 2003, there were 400 “vandalizations” on company facilities per year (581 between January and September 2004), and oil losses amounted to \$1 billion annually. Yet in the Delta various NGOs have demonstrated that at least some of this vandalism is the result of

poor maintenance by the oil companies. Nevertheless, the mobilizations against the companies have been various: demonstrations and blockades against oil facilities; occupations of flow stations and platforms; sabotage of pipelines; oil “bunkering,” or theft (from hot-tapping fuel lines to large-scale appropriation of crude from flow stations); litigation against the companies; hostage taking and strikes.

Mounting violence in 2003 resulted in many deaths and widespread community destruction and dislocation in the Warri region of the western Delta. The protests and conflicts were complex and multi-faceted. In Warri town – a centre of the oil industry – conflicts between three differing ethnic groups were prompted by fraudulent local elections and a longstanding battle over the delineation of electoral wards and local government jurisdictions as a way of gaining access to government oil revenues. In the creeks and oil-producing communities protests erupted over company policies and longstanding grievances over oil spills and company practices, especially employment of local indigenes. All of this was overlaid by a lucrative oil theft business, organized by high ranking military, politicians, and civil servants, in which militant Ijaw youth (the largest and most militant minority group in the Delta) were fighting to get a cut of the illegal “bun-

king” trade (that in 2003 siphoned off a staggering 15 percent of national production). Violence across the oil fields prompted all the major oil companies to withdraw their staff, close down operations, and reduce output by more than 750,000 barrels per day (40 percent of the national output). This, in turn, provoked President Obasanjo to dispatch large troop deployment to the oil-producing creeks. In April 2004, another wave of violence erupted around oil installations, this time amid the presence of two militias led by Ateke Tom (the Niger Delta Vigilante) and Alhaji Asari (the Niger Delta People’s Volunteer Force), each driven, and partly funded, by oil monies. By the end of April 2004, Shell alone was losing production of up to 370,000 barrels per day, largely in the Western Delta.

Ten years after the hanging of novelist and minority rights advocate Ken Saro-Wiwa, conditions in the oilfields remain abysmal. An Amnesty International report (2005), entitled “Ten Years On: Injustice and Violence Haunt the Oil Delta,” declared that things have only gotten worse. Security forces still operate with impunity, the government has refused to protect communities in oil producing areas while providing security to the oil industry, and, above all, the oil companies themselves (Shell, Chevron, AGIP, TotalElfina) bear a share of the responsibility for the ap-

palling misery and the political instability across the region.

The most recent events in Nigeria mark something of a watershed. After taking international oil workers hostage, one of MEND’s demands was the release of two Ijaw leaders. On January 29, 2006 these hostages were released unharmed although the Ijaw leaders in question remained under arrest in Abuja, the Nigerian capital. MEND stated that the release of the hostages was made on “purely humanitarian grounds” and were quoted as saying: “This release does not signify a ceasefire or softening of our position to destroy the oil export capability of the Nigerian government.”

By the first week in February, MEND had contacted the Nigerian press directly, calling for the “international community to evacuate from the Niger Delta by February 12, or ‘face violent attacks.’” Two weeks later, MEND claimed responsibility for attacking a Federal naval vessel and for kidnapping nine workers employed by the oil servicing company Willbros, apparently in retaliation for an attack by the Nigerian military on a community in the Western Delta. The Nigerian government claimed they had attacked barges involved in the contraband oil trade. The geography of the Nigerian Delta, a maze of creeks and swamps, and its marginalization from state transportation and communication infrastructure, make the region extremely difficult to police. This isolation amplifies the significance of MEND’s threats to destroy facilities. Behind these threats is the prospect of attacks on the enormously expensive liquefied natural gas plants in Bonny and another under construction at Escravos. In the days following the violence, the prices of a barrel of oil increased by almost \$1.50 and Shell and Chevron indicated that their production in Nigeria had been cut by 15 percent.

CONTINUED on page 19

Left:

Oil pipelines run through a Okrika town and folks walking on them



IMMIGRATION WARS

HR4437 AND ITS DISCONTENTS

BY GALLO ROJO ARIZONA INDY MEDIA



In April 2005, media from around the globe flocked to Cochise County, Arizona to cover the dramatic image of hundreds of armed, white men patrolling the border. The Minuteman Project (MMP) played to white Americans' racial and cultural anxieties in the context of a globalizing world, and politicians seized on the momentum by using attacks on immigrants and their communities to galvanize support. Since then, dozens of bills and ballot initiatives have emerged around the country designed to disenfranchise and criminalize immigrant communities, reinforce their position as a domestic class subject to

exploitation and abuse, and prevent the development of unity among the millions of immigrants within our borders. The most onerous of these bills, HR 4437, has provoked an unprecedented outcry as millions across the nation have taken to the streets to demonstrate their opposition.

To understand how such extreme legislation came to pass, it is important to examine the context from which it emerged. While opponents of the MMP have given much attention to the potential for violence and abuse, the primary objectives of the group are in the arena of public relations. The MMP

and their offshoots are funded by and used as a wedge by extreme right-wing think tanks like NumbersUSA, the Federation of Americans for Immigration Reform (FAIR), and the Center for Immigration Studies to develop momentum behind their agenda and inject it into mainstream discourse.

Following the April 2005 launch of the MMP, copycat organizations sprung up across the country, expanding their operations to target day laborers and other immigrant workers and even going so far as to begin patrols on the Canadian border. Borrowing their arguments and ideology from the right-wing militia movement of the 1990s, these organizations have proven fertile ground for a resurgent nativist populism complete with infiltration from and relationships with overt white supremacist organizations such as the National Vanguard and American Renaissance. The right-wing agenda advanced by these groups has helped generate a political climate that allows for the widespread escalation of abuse and harassment of immigrants by law enforcement, which is reflected in legislation like HR 4437.

In December 2005, HR 4437 was introduced by members of MMP-supporter Tom Tancredo's Congressional Immigration Reform Caucus and was subsequently approved by the U.S. House of Representatives. If approved,

the bill will make anyone in the United States without documentation an automatic felon. This includes workers, families, and even the unborn—HR 4437 will deny citizenship to the children of undocumented immigrants. HR 4437 also contains provisions that will criminalize the assistance of undocumented immigrants, which, in addition to service providers, will likely be applied more broadly in order to criminalize documented immigrants and citizens who live in communities with the undocumented, including both family and business relations. Finally, the bill threatens to complete the militarization of the U.S./Mexico border and build more than 700 miles of border fence, with devastating effects on migrant communities, animals, and ecosystems.

All of this will combine to effectively set the stage for whole-sale ethnic cleansing throughout the country as entire families, neighborhoods, and communities are rounded up and deported. While shrouded in the language of homeland security and law enforcement, this legislation represents a coup for the white supremacist agenda in the United States. A watered down alternative to HR4437 was approved in a Senate subcommittee but later stalled on the Senate floor. This piece of proposed legislation differs in its treatment of undocumented workers by providing a three-tiered path towards citizenship based on how long immigrants have been in the U.S. However, it still proposes strict new rules for recent immigrants and a major increase in border militarization.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



Above: A student shows off his sign at a March 31 demonstration in Watsonville.



Canto, No Llores

BY INEZ SUNWOO AND PUCK LO

THE SAN FRANCISCO HUNGER STRIKE AND A GROWING MOVEMENT FOR JUSTICE

Nighttime, Friday March 24: The rain pelted the near-empty streets of San Francisco in torrents. Outside the federal building some twenty people huddled in a circle beneath umbrellas and a makeshift tent created by a tarp and poles.

"Canto, no llores", the crowd sang quietly, steadily. Beneath orange-glowing streetlights, one acoustic guitarist played while the steady pounding of rain on plastic accompanied the chorus. The song ended, and one woman rose from her plastic seat abruptly. She shouted a request, and the rest of the crowd began to sing as the woman pulled one spectator out of her seat, and the two began to dance. Soon, the cheers and handclaps emanating from below the tarp rivaled the crescendo of the intensifying rain, punctuated by the occasional splash of the automobiles driving by on the otherwise deserted streets.

The hunger strike to oppose HR 4437 was called by the Bay Area Immigrant Rights Coalition and Deporten a la Migra. Starting Tuesday, March 21, between twenty and fifty people at a time participated in a hunger strike and occupation outside the federal building.

The Giant Awakens

During the weeks of actions against HR 4437, we have seen the largest demonstrations for immigrant justice in the history of this country, not to mention the largest demonstrations ever on any issue in some cities. According to some hunger strikers and their supporters, the strike and encampment is one way that those who are impacted are taking direct action. "We fast in solidarity with

From Non-Compliance to Active Resistance

Professionals, students, and city officials are now among the ranks of those who are forced to organize non-compliant civil disobedience in order to fight the passing of HR 4437. One teacher from East Oakland explained that he is on strike because "this bill says that my students are criminals. My students

"THEY DON'T ACTUALLY WANT TO KICK OUT IMMIGRANTS, THEY JUST WANT TO SCAPEGOAT IMMIGRANTS AND KEEP US VULNERABLE."

those who hunger for justice and an end to imperialism and war all across the world," one striker declared.

"We have the privilege to choose not to eat, unlike our brothers and sisters who die at the Mexico U.S. border every day," said Cesar Cruz, one hunger striker, shaking his head and noting the contradiction. Since 1994, as militarization increased at the Mexico-US border under the Operation Gatekeeper bill; now an average one person dies every day while trying to cross the border.

are young leaders and organizers, not criminals!"

According to Wayne Wang, another striker, "We are a symbol to the movement to unify with one another." This unity was demonstrated earlier in the week when Asian immigrant janitors with the Service Employees International Union moved their dispatch hiring hall to the hunger strike site in order to demonstrate their solidarity.

In 1989, in response to federal policies that scapegoat immigrants, San Francisco officials declared the city a



TOP: Demonstrators march down Mission street on April 10
ABOVE: Hunger strikers camp out in front of the Federal Building

"sanctuary city" that would shield immigrants from having to corroborate with federal immigration investigations.

Striker Patricia Nunoz explained, "I've been seeing folks with armbands saying 'No INS snitching, no INS snitches.' A sanctuary movement on a grassroots level is possible and should be the next step."

Another student striker put it succinctly: "By using civil disobedience, we refuse to internalize xenophobic attacks. We make choices to either follow laws or to rebel against them."

CALIFORNIA STUDENTS WALKOUT!

Students who experience harassment at any level should call the National Lawyer's Guild for FREE legal support. San Francisco Chapter: (415) 285-5067



3/28 FRESNO



3/29 SAN DIEGO



3/29 SANTA CRUZ



3/27 WATSONVILLE

MAYDAY IN THE BAY 1º DE MAYO EN LA BAHÍA



EL GRAN PARO

No Work, No School, No Selling, No Buying!

Come prepared with pots and spoons to bang together, energy and creativity to drown out business in San Francisco!

Wear white and look for the flags with a pot and spoon on them.

maydayinthebay.dyndns.org

NO ONE IS ILLEGAL • NO BORDER IS JUST

8:30AM MONTGOMERY & MARKET 11:00 JUSTIN HERMAN PLAZA 3:00 CIVIC CENTER 5:00 FEDERAL BUILDING

MASS PROTEST IN THAILAND GETS THE GOODS...OR DOES IT?

Thaksin: Get Lost!

MEDIA-MOGL PRIME MINISTER STEPS DOWN

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY REZ



A wave of popular protest in the southeast Asian nation of Thailand has forced scandal-tainted billionaire tycoon and acting Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra to resign from office. The movement started small, initially branded as a mob of unruly opportunists and a shame to Thailand. It is now having its day in the sun as Thaksin announced his imminent resignation on April 4th.

"Thaksin AWK PAI, (get out)" chanted tens of thousands of protesters gathered in the searing afternoon heat at Bangkok's Royal Plaza. The crowds are swathed in vivid royal yellow, the color now associated with rejection of Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. Weekly rallies in the nation's capital number in the hundreds of thousands, making the movement to depose the scandal-tainted prime minister the largest massing of public dissent since 1992, when huge demonstrations and the subsequent massacre of protesters at the hands of the army culminated in the end of military rule in Thailand.

Thailand is a land that lives up to many clichés. Steamy tropical jungles carpeted with wild orchids play host to wild elephants. With white sand beaches, tropical islands, and transvestite cabaret, the nation is famous in southeast Asia for having maintained its independence while all of its neighbors fell to brutal occupation and colonization, and cultural and linguistic subjugation by England, Holland, and France.

In recent months, allegations of scandal, fraud, bribery and corruption have seized headlines in the nation's press which, until recently, tended to shy away from directly criticizing the government. Scandals include allegations of bribes paid by contractors in the building of a new airport, the alleged use of military planes to ferry friends of the prime minister to a birthday party in his northern hometown of Chiang Mai, and scores of road projects with huge sums of money left unaccounted

for. One glaring example of corruption is a fully funded road project in which the final dozen kilometers was mysteriously left incomplete.

The Prime Minister is also accused of using the government to further his personal telecom industry business. A continuing source of outrage among critics of the Thaksin regime is a Singaporean investor's recent purchase of the Shin corporation, a telecom business built up by the Prime Minister

and condemn the Prime Minister have erupted in cities outside the capital.

"Maybe Thaksin has made some mistakes, but people in the mob forget all the good things that have happened," says a 23 year old shopkeeper who wishes to remain anonymous.

"Before him there was no 'sky train' [Bangkok's new elevated commuter rail] and the economy in the last eight years has been going up and up. If he is not doing his job, then why

uses draft animals like water buffalo in lieu of tractors in his fields. His grandfather, veteran of an even less developed Thailand of only 50 years ago, trained elephants to do logging work in the wild jungles that have now been mostly cleared for agriculture and timber harvesting.

In the face of months of protest, Prime Minister Thaksin called for snap elections in April. Many opposition parties, however, boycotted the elections that they felt were a ploy to rally support by the PM at a time when he knows that opposition parties are not yet organized as viable alternatives. The PM's ruling "Thai Rak Thai" (Thais love Thai) party is so entrenched that many rural areas do not even have an active opposition party. Reports indicate that from 37 to 51 percent of the electorate cast a "no vote" on their ballots.

Although the Prime Minister seems to have conceded at least a partial defeat, the future of Thailand is far from certain. Many believe that he intends to continue ruling the country behind the scenes through the Thai Rak Thai party, and that real democracy will only be possible when a generation of opposition activists integrate themselves into the Thai political mainstream. Many do not believe the PM will step down at all; the diversion will end once the impetus of the movement ebbs. A new government will inherit the problems of widespread corruption, free flow of illegally harvested timber, ivory, slaves, and sex workers from Burma in the North, and a violent secession movement in the South.

"I'm not sure what the solution is or whether we can change things through protest, but we have a lot to learn," says Yostan, a soft-spoken 34 year old artist. "We are used to respecting rich people and people with power. We must learn through protest the value of democracy."

do we have a new airport at all? And if he is out of office, who will we have to replace him? Who will do a better job?" Indeed, many accuse the protestors of causing a public embarrassment to Thailand without themselves having any realistic proposals to offer.

The last 25 years have been a period of dizzying economic and social change for the people in urban areas of Thailand, as well as neighboring Vietnam, Malaysia and Singapore, while life for people in rural areas has been slow to change. In essence, the changes from isolated rural life to modern urban based capitalism (that happened gradually over the last 1000 years in Europe and 200 years in America) have appeared for many southeast Asians in just 20 years! A stark example of this transition is Rit, a lecturer at a Bangkok university, who attended a recent rally near the Thai King's palace.

"I don't support any political party," he said.

Rit takes the futuristic, air conditioned "sky train" to work every day. His father is a rice farmer who still

The PM's ruling party is so entrenched that many rural areas do not even have an active opposition party. Reports indicate that from 37 to 51 percent of the electorate cast a "no vote" on their ballots.

under dubious ethical practices during his time in office. The multibillion dollar sale apparently came with a nearly negligible tax.

"Sixty to eighty percent of the Thai government are cronies for Thaksin," estimates Payal Keawarna, one of an estimated 100,000 attendees of a recent rally at the Royal Square organized in part by rival media mogul and former Thaksin ally, Sondhi Limthongkul. The 26 year old self-employed businessman and student wears a placard announcing, "Suwannapoom airport, most corrupt in the world."

Pointing to a television camera on the only boom crane present at the rally, he comments, "Before, I-TV [Thai network] was a public venture, but Thaksin has taken it over. Many Thais do not have access to information because so much of our TV and radio is in his control."

There is also a large and very vocal number of supporters of the Prime Minister, some of whom have clashed violently with anti-Thaksin protesters. In recent weeks, rallies both to support



Thais mobilize to protest Prime Minister Thaksin at a demonstration at Royal Plaza in Bangkok.

The End of the World...Wide Web?

TELECOM GIANTS THREATEN EQUAL-OPPORTUNITY INTERNET DELIVERY

How did we get the Internet as it is today--a thing that gives us the ability to publish pamphlets, create local community radio stations, and to reach out across the world? For the price of a computer and a DSL connection, we get a soapbox as large as CNN or The New York Times. Anarchists and radicals have been saying for years that the Internet is a priceless tool, but can that be taken away? This freedom to dissent, to break the mainstream media monopoly surely cannot survive. All the same, the Internet has remained relatively free of charge. The doomsday predictions have not come true . . . yet.

By RABBLE

In the last few months there has arisen a struggle between two large capitalist industries over the future of the internet. It's the "Net Neutrality" debate. On one side is Silicon Valley lead by Google, Yahoo, Amazon, and hundreds of other companies. On the other: telecommunications and cable companies, such as AT&T, Verizon, and Comcast. They are fighting over who gets to control the internet and how much money the companies who own the cables can squeeze out of content providers, small and large.

Internet service providers, or ISPs, have gone through a tremendous wave of consolidation. There used to be thousands of Internet service providers, but today, due to Supreme Court rulings and FCC deregulation, there are really only two: the telephone company, which offers DSL, and the cable modem company. Here in San Francisco, it is SBC and Comcast. Smaller companies, such as Speakeasy, just resell access and services over SBC's lines. Now that the ISPs have a duopoly, they want to exercise power and are looking to Internet content providers for other sources of profit.

What is Net Neutrality?

Net Neutrality is the principle that forbids Internet service providers from discrimination in content delivery. "Net Neutrality" is why the Indybay home page will download to your computer just as fast as the White House's. Representatives of major ISPs have argued that because they own the broadband cables, they ought to have the right to charge extra for quick and "guaranteed delivery" of data. Currently, ISPs are required to handle data in a similar fashion as telephone companies: all content must be processed equally, regardless of source.

At the recent Congressional hearings, Net Neutrality backers warned that ISPs want to move away from the open Internet to create an Internet fast lane for their own services--and their highest paying clients--and a slow lane for everyone else.



By Jared Power

ISPs want to move away from the open Internet to create an Internet fast lane for their own services--and their highest paying clients--and a slow lane for everyone else.

A senior Yahoo lobbyist on Net Neutrality in Washington explains it this way to *Fault Lines*: "It's not that Yahoo couldn't afford to pay the telcos. It's that

if we started paying, then everybody else would be forced to pay, and that would kill innovation. Small sites and startups would be hurt."

That's really what's at stake. Should Indymedia and thousands of others be able to setup their own Internet-based television station and provide other innovative services? Or should we go back to the world where you need millions of dollars for a cable franchise or broadcast license?

In 1996, there was a proposal to add Net Neutrality provisions to the Telecommunications Act. At the time, the telcos said they would never discriminate and managed to prevent neutrality from being written in the law. This past fall they changed their tune, and declared that it was their right to charge for whatever they wanted. A coalition organized primarily by Internet freedom activist David Isenberg, with the support of large Silicon Valley companies, has mobilized to protect Net Neutrality. The coalition includes everybody from Google and the Electronic Frontier Foundation to the American Association of Retired Persons. With that support, they have lobbied Congress to hold a series of hearings about Net Neutrality. These hearings are part of a process to create a new law, which will ideally require the ISPs to maintain Net Neutrality.

The coalition has lobbied Congress to write legislation to protect Net Neutrality, even if the law is approved. A Yahoo representative stated that "the telcos will not give up. This will be a many year fight over the future of the Internet."

Even if the telcos win, and they are able to scrap Net Neutrality, it's not the end of freedom on the Internet. This is one important fight among many, in a larger struggle over the future of the Internet. Will it be a tool for everybody to speak, to communicate? Or, will it be a medium like Hollywood and mainstream journalism, where a privileged few will be able to buy access to an audience? Before the Internet, free speech was only available to those who owned a printing press. The telephone and cable companies want to go back to that world, and a surprisingly broad coalition of groups are trying to stop them.

For more information, check out www.media-alliance.org.

HEALING NEW ORLEANS: BIOREMEDIATION AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

BY AARON MARET

As residents and evacuees of New Orleans struggle to rebuild their lives, repair their homes, and heal the emotional wounds inflicted by Hurricane Katrina's natural devastation and the human-made disasters that have followed, they face a daunting litany of fears and uncertainties. During the month that I recently spent volunteering there with the Common Ground Bioremediation Project, I learned that the safety and habitability of the city is a primary concern of many people involved in the relief effort.

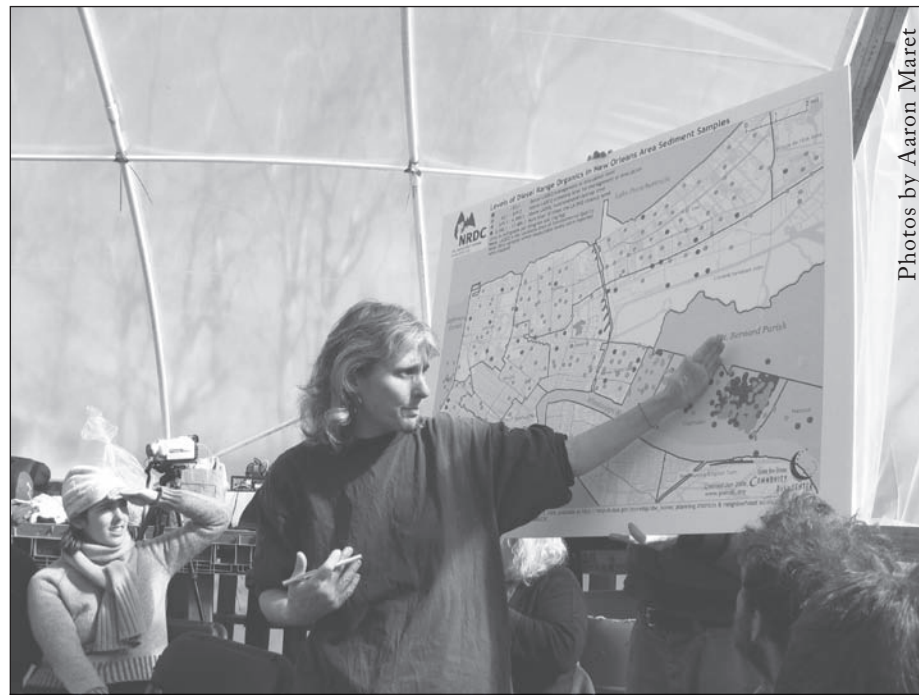
Understanding why and how the city is or isn't fit for its inhabitants has many aspects. There are physical and structural issues; the condition of the levees, plus damage to essential utility and transportation infrastructure, buildings, and houses. There are social issues like political corruption, bureaucratic incompetence, collapsed social service infrastructure, and social unrest. Finally, there is the question of the health of the natural systems of the city — the air, ground, and water that make up the physical place we call New Orleans.

Many residents fear that the floodwaters of Rita and Katrina flushed

ins, but as many long-term community organizers and residents would say, industry and big business have long been ignoring the health concerns of poor black folks and dumping toxins and harmful substances in their neighborhoods. The hurricane didn't create toxic wastes, it just stirred them up.

Dr. Lauren Ross, an environmental engineer from Austin, Texas, began going to New Orleans just weeks after Katrina hit. She has been independently collecting and testing toxins as well as helping communities and organizers in New Orleans analyze, visualize, and understand the EPA test result data. When I spoke with her about the complexities of the environmental situation and appropriate ways to respond, she said, "It's not for us to decide how to rebuild. The people who live here know better than anyone else what is best for them. Our job is to provide factual information and to offer support for what the people decide."

This perspective underlies the prevailing attitude and the work being done at the Common Ground Bioremediation Project, a small but inspiring opportunity to begin the process of healing the city. This project has emerged as a means to help communities take



Photos by Aaron Maret

Dr. Lauren Ross reviews a map of EPA test result data representing the wide-spread presence of diesel fuel contamination across the city. Ross' presentation was part of a series of workshops and teach-ins on bioremediation held at the bioremediation project garden greenhouse.

out of mostly salvaged materials. It now shelters tables for planting new seed starts, space for mushroom cultivation, and a solar-powered "biobrew" station for making worm compost tea rich in beneficial bacteria.

The community garden has become a life-affirming beacon of hope within the ongoing post-Katrina disaster. It contains facilities and resources to directly support remediation efforts. Residents can come and pick up bioremediating plants, mushrooms, and compost tea to apply to the soil around their homes and communities. Although the garden is only about half an acre in size, it is poised to have a broad and expanding impact on the health of the entire city.

The garden is a community hub and training center. Gardeners, residents, volunteers, and community organizations can come and receive training in bioremediation techniques. They are then able to bring that knowledge back home and start their own small bioremediation operations. This is its ripple effect.

The techniques of bioremediation are low-tech and low-cost enough to



be accessible and applicable to a broad array of situations. In this way, a grassroots network of bioremediation work can grow from the initial seeds planted by the Common Ground Bioremediation Project.

The structure for this project offers a powerful model for activism and community organizing, and offers solutions controlled and implemented by the people. By eliminating dependence on outside agencies and government officials, communities are empowered with more direct control over their lives and well-being.

Another valuable lesson to be learned from the bioremediation project is that Nature provides the most sophisticated solutions for creating and maintaining life-supporting environments. Attend to and support these processes and life will do what life does: flourish, diversify, and stabilize.

The huge moss-covered oaks that line the streets of New Orleans were once tiny acorns. Like planting seeds, working towards ecological restoration and social justice will grow a stronger, healthier city. Examining our relationship to the natural world and connecting activism to ecology will make us stronger, wiser, and better prepared for the work that lies ahead.

More information:
<http://commongroundrelief.org>

BAY AREA Professor, Activist, Anarchist LUIS KEMNITZER DIES AT 77

BY BEN TERRELL

Luis Kemnitzer, longtime Bay Area resident and radical activist, died Friday, February 17, at Kaiser Hospital in San Francisco of complications from lung cancer. A fifth-generation Californian, Luis was 77.

Luis was one of two children. After his mother died and his father left the U.S., he spent the latter half of his adolescence on his own. Luis's early political awareness was shaped by seeing police beat down striking film industry workers in the 1930s. He worked as a brakeman on the Southern Pacific Railroad in the 1940s, which helped solidify a strong working class consciousness. Luis was a member of the Communist Party for about 10 years until, in the words of his daughter Lucy, he "parted amicably" in the late 50s. Luis remained loyal to the CP partly because it was one of the only organizations doing effective anti-racist work after WWII. In response to a *S.F. Chronicle* obituary that stated Luis became "disillusioned" with the CP, Lucy wrote that, "He was inspired by his experiences with the Party to seek more communist ways of doing and being, and that is what anarchism was to him: 'Primitive communism,' more or less."

Luis was a stalwart of the Bay Area anarchist and peace-activist communities, with a long history of participation in non-violent protests and civil disobedience, including many anti-nuclear actions in Nevada. He was a founding member of the East Timor Action Network's Bay Area chapter. Luis helped to connect Timorese visitors and ETAN with other indigenous peoples' organizations also working for justice and sovereignty. With his wife Moher and housemate Rosemary, who survive him, Luis was enormously generous in making their house a frequent spot for dinners and fundraisers benefiting a wide variety of progressive groups. Luis had no hesitations about doing the routine grunt work that keeps activist projects going. He committed to showing up for mailings and other working meetings of ETAN, the War Resisters League, and other groups, even when he had other things going on in his life — which he always did.

Over decades of such activism, he managed to maintain an enthusiasm for living, an appreciation for people, and a down to earth sense of humor com-



plimented by a finely-honed absurdist sensibility. He told this writer on several occasions that people who did not appreciate sarcasm "are brain damaged." But his worldview was generous, not bitter. He continued to see possibilities for positive change through grassroots movements that challenge the various evils of the world's ruling elites. In Bay Area protest marches he and anarchist friends carried a banner which read, "Principled Struggle Keeps You Regular."

A lifelong record collector, Luis was famous for giving away compilations of music from his massive collection of

"Principled Struggle Keeps You Regular"

folk, country, blues, jazz and "world" music. In 1998 he received a Grammy award along with other authors of the liner notes for the *Anthology of American Folk Music*, which also won a Grammy for Best Historic Album. The album was a re-issue of a 1952 Folkways record compiled by Luis's friend Harry Smith, which was an enormous influence on young musicians in the 50s and 60s, including Bob Dylan.

Luis earned his Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania in 1968. His field work focused on Lakota culture in Pine Ridge, South Dakota, where he spent many summers over the years. He also studied health care in Palau, and supported the movement for

nuclear-free Pacific Islands.

Luis was the first teacher of American Indian Studies at San Francisco State University, where he was a staunch ally of the American Indian Movement. Jim Quesada, a leftist academic friend, recalled Luis "driving the administration crazy" by ignoring traditional bureaucratic hurdles and encouraging students to begin field work.

Luis supported the historic 1969-1971 occupation of Alcatraz Island, about which he contributed the essay "Personal Memories of Alcatraz, 1969" to the book *You Are On Indian Land! : Alcatraz Island, 1969-1971*. He was also Director Emeritus of the Lakota Language and Culture Center in Ignacio, California, and Kyle, South Dakota.

With Moher, Luis helped organize the first needle exchange program in the U.S., which started in the San Francisco Tenderloin and became a model for similar programs around the world. This radical approach to HIV prevention, illegal at the time of its inception, continues to save thousands of lives.

A memorial was held for Luis at Martin de Porres House in San Francisco, where Luis volunteered as a soup kitchen cook, dishwasher, and server for years and was a much-loved presence. As hours of heartfelt, often hilarious testimonials about Luis drew to a close, Lucy and her brother David sang "The True and Trembling Brakeman," a ditty their father sang them before leaving to work on the railroad when they were both children. The song includes the lines, "See that true and trembling brakeman/As he falls between those cars/See those car wheels passing o'er him/O'er his mangled body and head."

In addition to Moher, Rosemary, Lucy, and David, Luis is survived by former wife Brandi Apana of Honolulu, Hanai daughter Ch'asca Morse of Los Angeles, two stepchildren, six grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and one sibling. He will be greatly missed by his surviving family members and by his many friends in the Bay Area and throughout the world. As Sylvia Tiwon, activist and professor of South and Southeast Asian Studies at UC Berkeley wrote me when she heard the news of our friend's demise, "What a great, gentle spirit has passed through our lives."



The Ecology Center Bookstore

Your Source for Environmental and Political Books

The Ecology Center Store features a unique selection of environmental, social justice, gardening, environmental education, and children's book titles. The store also stocks organic gardening supplies, non-toxic and resource-efficient household products, recycled paper and hemp products. If you haven't seen us in a while, come on down and pay us a visit!

Open 11-6 Tuesday-Saturday

2350 San Pablo Avenue
Berkeley, California 94702
(510) 548-3402

One block south of Dwight Way on San Pablo Ave.

Introducing

The Ecology Center Bookstore Online

We're excited to offer the convenience of online shopping for our bookstore customers. Please drop by and check our site (and while you're at it, see everything else we have been up to).

www.ecologycenter.org/store

Check our online Eco-Calendar for great events!

GROW MOREL MUSHROOMS
IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD
SPAWN GUARANTEED TO PRODUCE
CREATE A MOREL GARDEN




We provide the spawn and easy to use instructions for preparing a Morel Habitat™. You just sow the spawn, maintain the Morel Habitat and pick and enjoy pounds of Morels.

Morel Habitat Kit™ \$29.50 + \$6.25 S/H
CA residents add 7.75% Sales tax
CREDIT CARD ORDERS (800) 789-9121

Visa - Master Card - Discover - AmX
GOURMET MUSHROOMS
P. O. BOX 515 1B6 - GRATON, CA 95444
(707) 829-7301 Fax: (707) 823-9091
www.gmmushrooms.com

The MUSHROOM LOG
GROW ORGANIC MUSHROOMS
IN YOUR OWN HOME
- AS EASY AS GROWING A POTTED PLANT -
"The easiest mushroom kit to use."
Organic Gardening Magazine

ALL YOU NEED IS WATER
Brown Oyster Kit - \$14.95
Blue Oyster Kit - \$15.95
Herichium Kit - \$16.95
Shiitake Kit - \$17.95
S/H \$6.25 ea.
S/H for any Two Kits \$9.75





Get **Fault Lines** delivered to your door.

We'll send you one year of action-packed issues for only \$20 (additional donations totally accepted).

Support Indymedia by donating to your local IMC. Your contributions help maintain our community media lab, website, and projects.

Name _____
 Address _____
 Email(optional) _____

Make check payable to "SF-Bay Independent Media Center" and mail to 2940 16th St. Ste. 216, San Francisco, CA 94103-2682



Affordable printing & in-house bindery.

Specializing in books and zines, perfect bound or saddle-stitched, quantities 100-5000.

Recycled papers. Vegetable-based ink.

Woman-owned and operated since 2004.

www.1984printing.com

510.435.8338

Sir! No Sir!

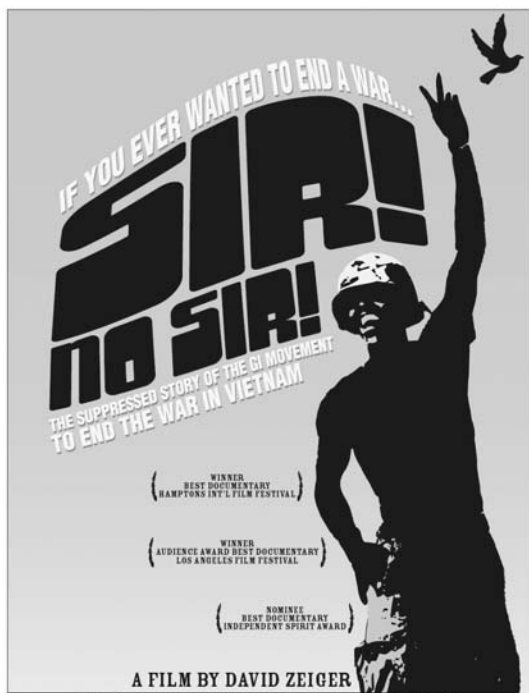
DIRECTED BY DAVID ZEIGER
Displaced Films

When most documentaries explore the anti-war movement of the 60s, they use images of stoned hippies and indignant students. The flower power scene and the campus radicals dominate America's collective memory, because the most dramatic aspect of this resistance has largely been ignored and forgotten. During the Vietnam years, the Pentagon reported more than half a million "acts of desertion" by U.S. troops, radical underground media and cafes flourished on and around military bases, and soldiers blowing up their commanding officers with fragmentation grenades was epidemic.

If our country thinks of the 60s as a time of dreams, full of starry-eyed idealists and muddy nudists, *Sir! No Sir!* reveals the nightmarish flipside. This film was made by anti-war Vietnam Veterans. Through interviews and historical footage they tell their stories—angry, sad, disgusted tales of being forced to slaughter innocent women and children, "bombing entire villages back to the stone age," refusing to march into certain death, and languishing in violent U.S. military prisons.

The film traces this history from the first conscientious objectors who locked down in San Francisco churches to avoid Vietnam to the eventual rank-and-file revolt of the ground troops that preceded full U.S. withdrawal. The vets explain how DIY "Fuck the Army" zines flooded the military bases from within, and how after the burning of military prisons and mass refusals to fight, the cogs in the war machine ground to a halt.

The filmmakers are now shipping DVDs of *Sir! No Sir!* to U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Hopefully our soldiers in the Middle East will pay close attention. (Liam O' Donoghue)



Congotronics 2

To be heard above the din of cars and people in the huge city of Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo, local musicians were forced to amplify their traditional, hand made, acoustic instruments and makeshift percussion sets with equally makeshift electronics. On *Congotronics 2*, we hear nine local groups appropriate modern distortion and combine it flawlessly with traditional Bazombo trance music to create something that lies between techno, trance, punk, and traditional African rhythms.

Using salvaged car battery parts and copper wire to make electric likembes (the hauntingly beautiful thumb piano) and handcarved wooden microphones, musicians from Kinshasa



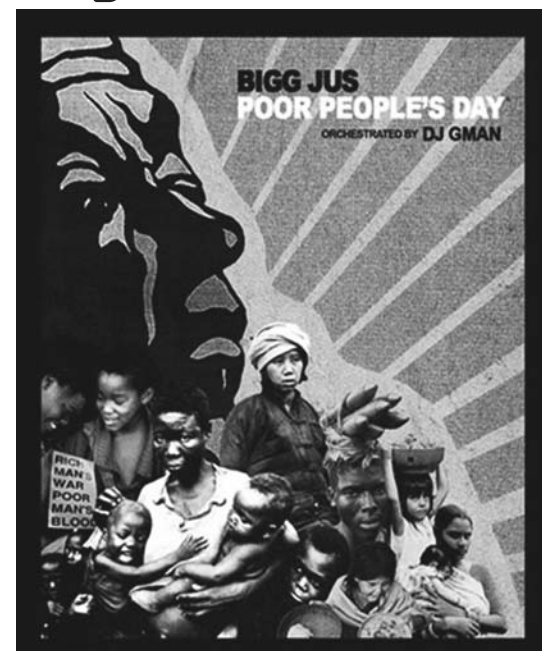
BUZZ 'N' RUMBLE IN THE Crammed Discs urb'n' jungle

battled the industrial noise with a wall of sound usually reserved for rock bands.

Congotronics 2, the second in a series celebrating electrified music from the Congo, comes with a 41 minute DVD with stunning footage of seven live performances. Groups like Basokin, Kasai Allstars, and Konono no. 1 play salvaged junk as instruments and passionately perform with dancers who move their hips in graceful isolated sways. The Belgian ex-punk-turned-record-producer behind this album, Vincent Kenis

, mentioned once that these groups should sound as intense as Motorhead. They do. So we should all send him a thank you letter. (Katrina Malachowski)

Big Juss



Don't you hate it when you're listening to a "conscious" hip hop record, and you're feelin' it . . . and then all the sudden they say something really stupid about "fags" or "bitches"? On *Poor People's Day*, Big Juss seethes with anger, but the ex-Company Flow MC who "feeds on pro-lifers who support the death penalty" doesn't rely on bombastic slogans or cheap shots to spread his complex frustrations.

Unlike many lefty rappers, he mostly ignores identity politics - his targets are the real puppet-masters of poverty: The World Bank, the IMF, and all the other corporate elites trying to "steal up our resources." This ain't party music (unless it's a 9/11 "Truth Out" party). *Poor People's Day* is the type of tool they should be using in high school classrooms to keep kids from cutting. Here's some quick schoolin', Big Juss style:

HISTORY: "Tomorrow's events was manufactured yesterday."
ECONOMICS: "For every dollar it receives in aid, the Third World spends 13 on debt repayment."
POLYSCI: "If you wanna end destabilization, stay the fuck up out our nation."
PHYSICAL EDUCATION: "We here to loosen the stranglehold and shut down production." (Byrne Washington)

poor people's day

Mush Records



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11							12	13		14
15						16		17		18
19			20				21			
		22			23	24			25	
26		27		28			29		30	
		31				32		33	34	
35				36	37			38		
							40			
41	42	43		44	45	46			47	48
	49		50			51			52	
	53					54			55	
56				57				58	59	60
61		62					63	64	65	
66									67	

ACROSS

- SEGREGATION (3,4)
- KENTUCKY FRANCHISE (3)
- INSTITUTIONAL DRESS (7)
- UNLEADED COFFEE? (5)
- BANNED PESTICIDE (3)
- INVENTOR OF PNEUMATIC TIRE (6)
- FRENCH LOS ANGELES (2)
- BINARY EXCLAMATION (2)
- NO RETURN (2)
- NOISE UNIT (7)
- NOT MAC (2)
- ACCOUNT (2)

DOWN

- SELF DEFENSE (4)
- OLD MOTOR BIKE (6)
- CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY? (3)
- COMPARE (2)
- 'THE FUTURE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT' (7)
- OPERATING ROOM (2)
- WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (3)
- LEGIONNAIRE'S HAT (4)
- FOOTBALL CUP (2)
- "_____WILLIAMS" (GODWIN) (5)
- CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT (3)
- JOHN ADAMS' OPERA (6,6)

CRYPTO ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT

Oakland Beat Down

By KATRINA MALACHOWSKI AND LIAM O'DONOGHUE

On a recent Friday night in a West Oakland warehouse, heavy beats reverberated against brick walls and swirling samples of sitars and haunted pianos mingled with the smoke. The sound was BIG, but the heads in the crowd weren't watching a band - all the noise was coming from a single man: Jel. Looking more like a red-headed Kurt Cobain in his lumberjack flannel than a world-renowned hip hop producer, Anticon's prime beatmaker worked his samplers and SP-1200 drum machine furiously. Banging on the pads and keys like a tribal drummer, he created a mind-jarring pastiche of twisted beats and noises that conjured up a vision of Shadow getting tossed in a blender with Company Flow and Led Zeppelin.

Although he's dropped plenty of tracks with the collectively-owned Anticon Crew; as well as groups like 13 & God and themselves, Jel's latest triumph is *Soft Money*, his second solo full-length. Working with a collective of artists as a 'producer' can make it hard to stand out on your own - but Jel's fully-loaded, listen-to-this-with-some-killer-headphones album combines lush samples, crunchy beats, and blissful production in a way that makes it all 'Jel.'

FL: What are you trying to say with this album?

Jel: The whole idea - "Soft Money" - I wanted it to be a socially conscious album. I chose the title because of the

industry, and the whole lie of money. In the media you see these big superstars, rock and pop musicians with all of these diamonds. [But] all that shit's rented, or it is paid for but they don't own it, the labels own them, and the money is

told me he found out that Wise Intelligent was the marketing manager for Rap Snacks. You know Rap Snacks, it's like a potato chip, you can find them at the Grocery Outlet. They're potato chips with like, Master P on them and



photo: David Ochs Keenan

all through the labels. So I'm getting the soft money end of the deal, instead of the hard, the real hard cash. And that's how it's going to be, and I'm fine with that.

FL: On your new single "WMD," Wise Intelligent from Poor Righteous Teachers tackles everything from diamond mining to foreign policy. How did you end up working with him?

Jel: A friend of mine, Kevin Beacham,

positive messages like "Stay In School" and "Don't Do Drugs" or "Start Your Own Business." So I looked on the back of the bag and called the 1-800 number, and was like, "Is Wise Intelligent there?" and he said, "This is Wise." I told him I'm a part of this label Anticon and asked if I could send him some music. He liked it.

FL: On that track, Wise says, "I ain't just rappin'/ don't be dumb to what is

compiled by Iain Boal and Ali Tonak

- LIVERMORE BERKELEY LAB (3)
- HONDURAS (2)
- THE COTTONWOOD TREES (SP)(3,6)
- FALL GUY (4)
- INTERNET PROTOCOL (2)
- STUCK IN A _____ (3)
- TRY OUT (4)
- BODY MASS INDEX (3)
- HAZARDOUS MATERIAL (ABBREV)(6)
- STENCH (4)
- ARTISTS TELEVISION ACCESS (3)
- O MY GAWD (3)
- NOT CHARGED PARTICLE (7)
- BEYOND PETROLEUM? (2)
- POISONOUS RESIDUE (6)
- FRENCH ARTICLE (2)
- DOG OF THE UNDERWORLD? (5)
- DRINKERS IN RECOVERY (2)
- TROUSER-LEG CONFINER (4)
- COMPARE (2)
- 'THE FUTURE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT' (7)
- OPERATING ROOM (2)
- WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (3)
- LEGIONNAIRE'S HAT (4)
- FOOTBALL CUP (2)
- "_____WILLIAMS" (GODWIN) (5)
- CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT (3)
- JOHN ADAMS' OPERA (6,6)
- INDIAN PESTICIDE (4)
- AMERICAN SPOOKS (3)
- "_____AND TUCK" (3)
- ITALIAN PHYSICIST (5)
- RUSSIAN RIFLE (2)
- CIGARETTE (3)
- DISCOVERER OF RADIUM (5)
- FLUSH FROM BEHIND? (5)
- HAULAGE ANIMAL (2)
- UNABLE TO PHILOSOPHIZE? (4)
- BUSH CRUSADE (3,2,6)
- SPANISH AUNT (3)
- RADIATION COUNTER (6)
- A FRENCH FEMALE (3)
- SUBLIME'S OTHER (6)
- COLD WAR SWIMSUIT (6)
- BROADCAST IN PENNSYLVANIA? (2)
- COMMUNIST PARTY (2)
- GOLD MEASURE (5)
- SLAUGHTERHOUSE ----- (4)
- NOT MANY (3)
- FORBID (3)
- UNITED KINGDOM (2)
- BASQUE NATIONALISTS (3)
- MORE IN THE HOOD (2)
- A HUG AND A KISS (2)

WWW.INDYBAY.ORG/FAULTLINES

AN INTERVIEW WITH ANTICON'S JEL

happening/with George W. Bush and his corporate American cabinet/ the wage war/the sacrificing of the poor/the strategic position for the global chess war." How do you feel about the lyrics he laid down? Do you find today's media and political spinning to be "weapons of mass distraction"?

Jel: Oh yeah, what he's saying is the truth to me. He's stuck to his ground; he doesn't want anything to do with any commercialism. When I first talked to him, he said, "I'm the most commercial unfriendly rapper. If you're trying to blow up from doing this shit it ain't gonna work." I'm like, whatever, that's exactly why I'm asking you to do this. I knew what he was about and respected what he did.

FL: You're a busy guy who tours with several groups, which means you have limited free time. What kind of issues would you love to donate your time to if you could?

Jel: It would probably be education, public schools. I had a negative experience. I see the public school system as a random weeding out process of those who don't have the motivation to become a part of the "elite." They lift up the kids that are overachievers and then you have the leftover kids who don't get a break.

rap snacks: THE OFFICIAL SNACK OF HIP HOP. www.rapsnacks.com
 ANTICON RECORDS;
 www.ANTICON.COM

Lessons from COINTELPRO CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

We are facing a crisis in the eco-justice and animal rights movements. How we handle it will determine if we succeed or fail as a movement. One example of strength in the face of daunting obstacles is the case of the SHAC 7. Their fight with the government didn't begin last year when they were arrested for Animal Enterprise Terrorism. The feds had been trying to find a way to shut down Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty since the day they started making a difference in the struggle to close the notorious animal-testing lab Huntingdon Life Sciences. They even tried indicting some SHAC activists under the Hobbes (extortion) Act, a law designed to target organized crime. Though they faced constant harassment and the threat of imprisonment for exercising their rights to free speech, the SHAC 7 neither wavered in their political commitment nor attempted to save themselves by implicating others.

Part of our strength lies in the support of our fellow activists in prison. In a recent statement, Jeff "Free" Luers, who was sentenced to an astounding 22+ years for a \$40,000 SUV arson in Eugene, demands "recognition of political status for our prisoners. All in-

carcerated and accused members of the Earth Liberation Front and other Earth Liberation prisoners are political prisoners. Our actions that brought us to prison are political in nature. Our trials are about our politics. Our sentences are increased because of our political motives." We agree, and also see that there have been campaigns to recognize and free U.S. political prisoners for decades. Many political prisoners remain locked up despite national and international demands for their release and recognition as victims of government repression and frame-ups.

Some campaigns have succeeded in winning the release of framed former Panthers like Geronimo Gi Jaga and Dhoruba Bin Wahad, both of whom were imprisoned for over 20 years. A massive campaign in Puerto Rico and in the U.S. succeeded in freeing Puerto Rican Nationalist prisoners held in 1979 after over 25 years of captivity. Eleven other Independistas were excarcerated in 1999. None of the people that continued to stand up for their principles, though the whole system was mobilized against them, could have maintained such strength without a strong movement behind them.

LEARNING FROM OUR ALLIES, MOVING FORWARD

Last year, a state grand jury was convened in San Francisco to investigate a 34-year-old case that involved the death of a police officer. Several former members of the Black Panther Party were subpoenaed to testify. Some of these men hadn't spoken to one another for at least two decades, yet when they received their subpoenas they all chose to resist. Men in their sixties and seventies were jailed for refusing to cooperate with the grand jury. Two of them had been recently harassed at their homes by the same San Francisco cops that participated in their 1973 torture in a New Orleans jail. Some had serious health issues, but they remained silent. The end result? The grand jury expired and to date no indictments have been issued. Victory was realized because these men understand that the movement is more important than any one individual.

A strong movement means embracing and living the ideals we espouse—not just paying lip service to the fight for a just world. Although some may not want to admit it, this means leaving the "American" value of individualism be-

hind. In order to succeed and remain a strong movement, the community must come before the individual. The right question to ask when faced with government pressure is not, "How can I make this easiest on myself?" but, "What will be best for my community, the movement we are trying to build, and the fight for social justice?" From that perspective, the choices are clearer, and do not include cooperating with government agencies, betraying friends, and compromising our vision and future.

We do not exist in a vacuum. Animal rights and environmental justice activists are natural allies in the struggle for a more just and healthy world. We have a responsibility to build connections and networks with groups that have similar goals. We can learn from their struggles, build alliances, and support common objectives while strengthening our movements and theirs. In the long term, building bridges is the only way to realize our vision of a more sustainable, just, and humane society.

Bayview Hunters Point CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

what did they do? He settled for them hiring three people. Three people out of the whole doggone community and then what did he settle for? Flaggers! A union flagger starts off at \$21 an hour. The people that they hired in Bayview to be flaggers were making \$8 and \$9 an hour. And they were not being invited to join the union. One worked for a month and a half and didn't get fired, she got laid off while they hired her next

door neighbor. Then she (the neighbor) worked for a month and a half and they laid her off. So the idea is—and it took a contractor to actually explain this to me—if I don't fire you I can still use your name and when you say I didn't hire anyone from BVHP I can run down the roll and show you her address and that she was hired this day, and she's not fired. She just ain't workin'.

There is an alternative to this rede-

velopment of the community. There is always an alternative, and there's always a better way to do it. The problem is that it means less money to the pockets of the folks that are footing the bill, and more money into the pockets of the folks who are going to have to deal with the consequences.

I think really and truly, what needs to happen is that these (our) folks are going to have to get themselves ready

for a battle. We're going to be fighting there tooth and nail. They promised that they wouldn't use eminent domain but they've already started the process.

Marie Harrison is a community organizer with Greenaction and will run for SF District 10 Supervisor this year.

Immigration Wars CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

And by guaranteeing amnesty to only those who have been in the country for more than five years, it still denies a huge number of immigrant workers the same basic rights as citizens and leaves them vulnerable to further exploitation as their work props up the U.S. economy. Most importantly, it does nothing to address the root causes of immigration: neoliberal policies, IMF structural adjustment programs, and free trade agreements that destabilize economies and destroy the lives of millions of people all over the world, leaving them with few alternatives to emigration in search of a better life abroad.

In response to the threat posed by HR 4437, hundreds of thousands of immigrants and their supporters have en-

gaged in historic demonstrations across the country. Record-setting numbers have marched in opposition to this law in the last month—as many as 40,000 Salt Lake City, 100,000 in Phoenix, 200,000 in Washington, DC, 300,000 in Chicago, 400,000 in New York City, 500,000 in Dallas, and a million in Los Angeles. On April 10th alone, more than two million people rallied in over 100 cities in a nationwide day of action. The organizing of these demonstrations has been a remarkable juncture between grassroots activists and the institutions of popular culture that cater to immigrant communities, enabling rapid mobilization of thousands of people and uniting those who have always felt silenced by their oppressed status in the

U.S. legal and economic system.

The marches and demonstrations have been accompanied by student walkouts, hunger strikes, and wild-cat strikes. Enormous potential exists for this momentum to grow into even larger manifestations and the eventual assertion of the economic power that immigrant workers control. If the final bill that the House and Senate agree on include such egregious, oppressive, and racist regulations as HR 4437 it is likely that actions will become more militant as organized resistance becomes necessary. Plans have already been made for widespread actions on April 23rd and May Day around the country.

Until there is recognition of the contributions and dignity of undocu-

mented immigrants, and thus comprehensive immigration reform, the daily abuse of their human rights is bound to continue. The documented community must organize in solidarity with undocumented immigrants and their communities, because we're all in this together. The current anti-immigrant push is just the latest evidence of the rightward drift and neo-fascist environment of the Bush administration and the post 9-11 security state. The organizing that has taken place in response to HR 4437 and other assaults on immigrant communities needs to be supported by the movements against war and globalization, as ultimately we can only win on these various fronts through our unity.

Africa CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

ANOTHER COLOMBIA

Nigeria reveals all of the contradictions of the new U.S. energy policy in which African suppliers are expected to play an expanded role. Nigeria is an archetypical "oil nation." Oil dominates economic and political life. Crude oil production runs currently at more than 2.1 million barrels per day valued at more than \$20 billion at 2004 prices. Nigeria's oil sector now represents a vast domestic industrial infrastructure: more than three hundred oil fields, 5,284 wells, 7,000 kilometers of pipelines, ten export terminals, 275 flow stations, ten gas plants, four refineries, and massive liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects.

A multi-billion dollar oil industry has, however, proved to be a little more than a nightmare. To inventory the 'achievements' of Nigerian oil development is a salutary exercise: 85 percent of oil revenues accrue to 1 percent of the population; perhaps \$100 billion of \$400 billion in revenues since 1970 have simply gone "missing" (The anti-corruption chief Nuhu Ribadu, claimed that in 2003 70 percent of the country's oil wealth was stolen or wasted; by 2005 it was "only" 40 percent). Between 1965-2004, the per capital income fell

from \$250 to \$212 and income distribution deteriorated markedly over the same period. Between 1970 and 2000 in Nigeria, the number of people subsisting on less than one dollar per day grew from 36 percent to more than 70 percent: from 19 million to a staggering 90 million. According to the IMF, oil "did not seem to add to the standard of living" and "could have contributed to a decline in the standard of living." Over the last decade GDP per capita and life expectancy have both fallen.

Essentially, petro-development has resulted in the terrifying and catastrophic failure of secular nationalist development. It is sometimes hard to grasp the full consequences and depth of this failure. From the vantage point of the Niger Delta—but no less from the vast slum worlds of Kano or Lagos—development and oil wealth is a cruel joke. These paradoxes and contradictions of oil are nowhere greater than on the oilfields of the Niger Delta. In the oil rich states there is one doctor for every 150,000 inhabitants. "The oil-based economy has wrought only poverty, state violence, and a dying ecosystem," said Nigerian scholar-activist Ike Okonta. The government's presence, Okonta says, "is only felt in the form of

the machine gun and jackboots." It is no great surprise that a half century of neglect in the shadow of black gold has made for explosive politics.

Overlaid upon the corrupt Nigerian petro-state, a volatile mix of forces reveal the deadly operations of imperial oil. First, geo-strategic interests in oil employ military and other security forces (including the private security forces and local residents, contracted by the oil companies.) Second, the transnational oil business – the majors, the independents and the vast service industry – are actively involved in the process of local development through new oil company interventions in which the NGO sector and local communities are now drawn into new 'partnerships.' Third, multilateral development agencies (the IMF and the IBRD) and financial corporations like the export credit agencies appear as key "brokers" in the construction and expansion of the energy sectors in oil-producing states. Afterwards, the multilaterals are pressured to become the enforcers of transparency among governments and oil companies.) And not least, there is the relationship between oil and the shady world of drugs, illicit wealth (oil theft for example), mercenaries, and the black economy.

This entire oil complex is a sort of corporate enclave economy that is at once violent, unstable, heavily militarized, and largely unaccountable.

The struggle for resource control has taken center stage over the last decade in Nigeria as the Niger Delta has become more volatile. The question is: what is the U.S. prepared to do to keep the oil flowing to feed its addiction? Nigeria is now awash with oil money as the 2007 elections approach, and if the past is any guide, much of this will be deployed to fund political thuggery, intimidation, and outright fraud by the ruling political classes. President Obasanjo is considering a run for a third term – requiring a constitutional amendment – which in turn would be destabilizing in the Muslim north and in the oil producing delta. The increasing U.S. military presence in the Gulf and its anti-terror forces in the north are naturally seen within Nigeria as the price the Bush regime is prepared to pay to keep American cars on the road. An Iraq or Colombia option – civil war and American militarization – cannot be discounted. Blood and oil are never far apart.



Afghanistan, Inc.

Tuesday, May 2, 2006
111 Minna Gallery
 Minna @ 2nd St
 San Francisco, CA

7-8:30 pm Program
9-11 pm Music and Dance

Come help CorpWatch launch its latest investigative report, "Afghanistan, Inc.," an expose of corporate profiteering and political opportunism in the war-torn nation.

With **Fariba Nawa**, Afghan-American investigative journalist and **Pratap Chatterjee**, CorpWatch executive director.



Featuring Afghan musician **Tameem** followed by **DJ Maneesh the Twister**, who will spin dub reggae, bhangra, and other electronica.



Design: Victor Collette

Suggested donation \$7-\$20 sliding scale. Proceeds support CorpWatch's investigative projects.

By their accusations against SHAC and the ALF, some are trying to disguise where the real violence exists.

Jerry Vlasak

Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC):
www.shac7.com • www.shacamerica.net • www.shac.net (UK)

Animal Liberation Front (ALF):
www.animalliberationpressoffice.org

Earth Liberation Front (ELF):
www.earthliberationfront.com

Grand Juries and Government Harassment:
www.fbiwitchhunt.com

Direct Action News:
www.nocompromise.org • www.directaction.info

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

The FBI is now publicly claiming that ELF, ALF, SHAC, and other direct action activists are the #1 terrorist threat in America today. The Pentagon, FBI and CA Nat'l Guard have recently been found to be spying on Greenpeace, PETA, anti-war groups, and others. The SHAC7 have been convicted for maintaining a website supportive of direct action. There are currently Grand Juries set up to attack and intimidate activists all over the country, including in San Francisco. All the while, the US gov't continues to protect and refuses to extradite for trial Cuban mass murderer Luis Posada Carriles; and Michael Fortier, who had foreknowledge of the OK City bombing, which killed over 150 people, was set free the very same day eleven environmental and animal activists were arrested by the FBI for supposed acts of property destruction. Many activists are currently facing decades of jailtime. The time to stand up for them is now!

CALENDAR

APRIL - MAY

WWW.INDYBAY.ORG/CALENDAR

4/21 PM LABOR FORUM ON IMMIGRATION- LABOR AND IMMIGRANTS UNITE! 5:30

This forum will present information about the bills, give people an opportunity to ask questions and voice opinions, and will help us organize together to defend our rights. Teamsters Local 70, 70 Hegenberger Road, Oakland.

4/23 BAY AREA MASS MOBILIZATION 12:00 PM

Gather at Dolores Park (18th St. and Dolores St.) and march to SF Federal Building (GoldenGate Ave. and Polk St.) Community organizations, labor, students, and faith-based groups are organizing the Bay Area's largest mobilization for immigrant rights on Sunday, April 23. Join us and bring your friends and family! For more info on actions and current info on bill:

<http://www.immigrantrights.org>

4/25 "Green Scare" Prisoner Letter Writing Cafe 7 PM

Political prisoners represent the heart of the movement for social justice and the struggle for earth and animal liberation. With the recent federal indictments, grand juries and convictions we must come together in solidarity and support these and other political prisoners. Show them they are not alone! Prison mail regulations, as well as letter writing

materials, tips and suggestions provided. Vegan goodies, tea and coffee will also be available. Sponsored by:

Grand Jury Resistance Project and the Prison Literature Project Grassroots House: 2022 Blake Street, Berkeley

4/25 THE COUP 7PM

Free performance at Amoeba records 1855 Haight St, San Francisco

4/25 TELEVISIONING THE REVOLUTION, A RADICAL FILM SERIES 8 PM.

"Hey Arnold! The Cartoon" When a powerful developer wants to knock down all houses in Arnold's neighborhood to build a mall, he works to save their beloved neighborhood. A benefit for The Heads Up Collective at El Rio, 3158 Mission St. @ Cesar Chavez, San Francisco

4/26 RECLAIMING BAY AREA MILITARY BASES. 8 PM

Featuring speakers addressing restoration and remaking the Presidio, community activists fighting over the future of Hunters' Point, and restoration and permaculture activists from the Alameda Naval Air Station. Speakers:

Doug Kern (Presidio), Kat Steele (Urban Permaculture Guild, Alameda),

Arthur Feinstein (Alameda), and others TBA. CounterPulse 1310 Mission (at 9th) in San Francisco

4/30 IRAQ: THE LOGIC OF WITHDRAWAL 2 PM

Anthony Arrove (co-editor on the widely acclaimed *Voices of a People's History of the United States*) speaks about his book in which he sets out a compelling case for the immediate withdrawal of troops from Iraq. MECA Office 901

Parker Street in Berkeley

5/1 MAY DAY IN THE BAY!

maydayinthebay.dyndns.org

EL GRAN PARO

NO WORK, NO SCHOOL, NO SELLING, NO BUYING.

MAY 2-5 THIRD HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMIT AT SFSU/UCB 10AM TO 6PM

This year's summit -- "The Roots of Our Future. The Human Rights of Children" -- addresses human rights issues related to health, education, and everyday violence against youth in the current situation of modernity and globalization. For more information visit: <http://humanrights.sfsu.edu/summit3.html>

Free admission

5/4 UNPACKING THE CREATIVE PROCESS: EMORY DOUGLAS - ART OF THE PANTHERS 6:30 PM

Emory Douglas, former Minister of Culture of the Black Panther Party, discusses the art of the Panthers, the role of

the revolutionary artist, and gives a slide presentation of art works he created for the Black Panther Party. FREE. Reservations Recommended. Call

415-978-2700 x111. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (Education Resource Room). 701 Mission Street San Francisco

5/4 STORIES OF RECONSTRUCTION AND HOPE. 7-9 PM

Poets and Activists Celebrate 5 years of Left Turn Magazine. Featured performers: Headrush (Chicano Spoken Word Troupe) June Jordan's Poetry For the People alumni: Ananda Esteve, Maria Poblet and Jim Saliba. New College of

California Cultural Center 766 Valencia Street, San Francisco

5/10 SAN FRANCISCO'S FOOD REVOLT 8 PM

Going back to the Victory Gardens of WWII, San Franciscans have long organized to get more control over their food supplies. More recent examples include the People's Food System, the expansion of Farmers' Markets in the city, and the community garden movement. We will also screen excerpts from The Farm documentary. Speakers: Pam Peirce (author, *Golden Gate Gardening*, former editor of *Turnover* magazine), Jesse Drew (Call Any Vegetable), Christopher Cook (Diet for a Dead Planet), and others TBA.

CounterPulse 1310 Mission (at 9th) in San Francisco

WELLS FARGO

Wells Fargo is a top funder of oil, coal, logging and mining operations that contribute to global warming, ecosystem destruction, and human rights abuses. Wells Fargo continues to finance some of the most environmentally and socially irresponsible companies, including: (find out more at www.dirtymoney.org)

• **Burlington Resources**, a Houston based company exploring for oil on indigenous land in Ecuador

• **Massey Energy**, a coal company engaged in mountaintop removal and anti-union tactics in rural Appalachia

• **Dynegy**, one of the nation's largest utility companies, planning to build huge dirty coal-fired power plants across America.

• **Plains Explorations and Production**, a company engaged in controversial offshore oil drilling in California



LOOTIN' AND POLLUTIN'

SINCE 1852



Modern Times Bookstore

888 Valencia Street, San Francisco
www.moderntimesbookstore.com
Mon-Sat 10-9:00 Sun 11-6:00
415-282-9246

Leslie Feinberg

Drag King Dreams

Tuesday, May 2 7:00

Author of *Stone Butch Blues* and longtime activist Feinberg takes us on an unforgettable new gender journey.



Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha and friends

Consensual Genocide

Monday, May 8 7:30

Sri Lankan Piepzna-Samarasinha speaks with fierce power raw truths about brown girl border crossings and high femme rebellions.



Robert Jensen

The Heart of Whiteness: Confronting Race, Racism, and White Privilege

Wednesday, May 24 7:00

Jensen mixes personal experience with data and theory to explore the realities of racism and white privilege.



Sasha Abramsky

Conned: How Millions Went to Prison, Lost the Vote, and Helped Send George W. Bush to the White House

Wednesday, May 31 7:30

Award-winning journalist Sasha Abramsky takes us on a journey through disenfranchised America.



Plus a discussion on restaurant worker organizing; Ducky Doolittle's *Sex With the Lights On*; the continuation of the Progressive Reading Series and the Ecstatic Monkey Reading Series and much more!

Visit us online for a complete listing of our events

Collectively Owned & Operated Since 1971