Oct 22 - Oct 23: On The Frontlines: Options for Youth in Times of War
A Conference co-sponsored by the Campus Antiwar Network and Military Out of Our Schools (Bay Area) that will bring together college students, youth, parents, educators, community activists and organizers. Join us as we expose military recruiters and the lies they tell young people, learn ways to get military recruiters out of our schools and communities; and build and strengthen the counter-recruitment movement.
9:00 am - 5:00 pm, University of California Berkeley.
For more information contact: Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors, (510) 763-7078 x307, info@ccco.org

Oct. 20: The 24 Hour (Art) Show 24 Hours
6 Artists. 2 Rooms. 0 Sleep. This year is running out as an Bay Area-based Asian-American women artists as they escape into two motel rooms in the heart of San Francisco on Oct 22 to conceive, create and reveal new work... in just 24 hours. The 24 Hour Show wrestles creativity back from the clock as these artists incubate new site-specific work spanning the mediums of dance, performance, written and spoken word, photography and multimedia.
Dine: Inspiration strikes at 8 pm on Saturday, Oct 22 and closes with a reception at 8 pm on Sunday, Oct. 23.
Valencia St. and Market St., San Francisco, CA. Secret location to be unveiled online at http://24hourshow.com on Oct 22 at exactly 8 pm. The 24 Hour Show presents: Sita Bhaumik, Jez Kuono’ono’o, Lee, Mia Nakano, Han Pham, Elizabeth Sy, Shawn Tamashiro.
For more information, email info@24hourshow.com.

Nov. 4-5: Passing—less than satisfactory
Mass” was held in Rome, Italy, drawing hundreds continue to ride every month. In Canada. Of the more than 400 places where Critical Mass rides have taken place, from Australia to Italy, Chile to the planet.

Critical Mass in Budapest, Hungary. Hundreds of riders occupy the streets of US cities on the last Friday of each month, from big cities to small towns in the hinterlands like Cincinnati, Ohio, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Portland, Oregon. And of course thousands of us are still riding after all these years at the birthplace here in San Francisco.

New York had seen Critical Mass grow from the mid-1990s until (during their 2003 Bikesummer) it finally topped 1000 riders on a gloriously balmy July evening. I was there that night, enjoying the thrill of crossing the Queensborough Bridge and looking south towards twinkling Manhattan and Brooklyn. The galvanizing impact of Critical Mass on bike commuting, bike politics and the world. On Earth Day this past April, 10,000 riders staged a “Critical Mass” in Budapest, Hungary. Hundreds of riders occupy the streets of US cities on the last Friday of each month, from big cities to small towns in the hinterlands like Cincinnati, Ohio, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Portland, Oregon. And of course thousands of us are still riding after all these years at the birthplace here in San Francisco.

Amazing to think it’s been 13 years since the first “Commute Clot” brought together about 50 bicyclists at “PeeWee” Herman Plaza at the foot of Market Street in San Francisco. Within a few short months it had gained the moniker “Critical Mass” and the excitement, euphoria, and sheer novelty of an “organized coincidence” that fills the streets with bicycles instead of cars was rapidly reproducing itself across the planet.

Now there are websites galore documenting Critical Masses in towns everywhere, from Australia to Italy, Chile to Canada. Of the more than 400 places where Critical Mass rides have taken place, hundreds continue to ride every month. In May 2005 an “Interplanetary Critical Mass” was held in Rome, Italy, drawing several thousand riders from around Italy and the world. On Earth Day this past April, 10,000 riders staged a “Critical Mass” in Budapest, Hungary. Hundreds of riders occupy the streets of US cities on the last Friday of each month, from big cities like Chicago and Los Angeles, to smaller burgs in the hinterlands like Cincinnati, Ohio, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Portland, Oregon. And of course thousands of us are still riding after all these years at the birthplace here in San Francisco.

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Critical Mass is Thirteen

THE CULTURE WAR IS OLDER (AND FAR FROM OVER)

**AMERICA’S DISGRACE**

**OAKLAND INFESTATION: TENANTS SUCKED DRY BY BED BUGS, SLUM LORDS**

**Residents of the California Hotel sit in the lobby of the building**

“Sleep tight and don’t let the bed bugs bite” is an old saying, as far as sayings go, but some Oakland tenants have learned that this is more than just a cute rhyme that has been passed down through the years.

“I’ve heard the old saying about bed bugs since I was a child, but I never knew they were real until moving here,” said 47-year-old Frank Benavidez, resident of North Oakland’s California Hotel. “The bed bugs are drinking my blood and eating me alive.”

On Tuesday August 2, 2005, 43 residential tenants of the historic landmark California Hotel on San Pablo Ave. in Oakland filed a lawsuit at the Alameda County Superior Court House against Oakland Community Housing Inc. (OCHI), a non-profit housing developer. Mostly occupied by elderly, disabled African-Americans, each of the 43 tenants listed in the lawsuit are seeking $50,000 in damages over rat infestations, bed bugs, cockroaches and other health and safety issues.

“Backacking the horrific claims of the tenants is a letter sent on July 22, 2005 from the Alameda County Health Services(ACHS), stating that the procedures being utilized by OCHI to control the bed bugs are inadequate. In the letter, ACHS biologist David K. James wrote, “A severe Norwegian rat infestation exists within these premises, and it appears that it’s a long-established and large population.”

Frank Benavidez said, “I can hear the rats scratching around in my ceiling at night and the noise keeps me from sleeping.”

**ANALYSIS OF A CATASROPHE**

**BAY AREA EXPERIENCES**

**GRASSROOTS RESPONSE**

**Malik Rahim, a New Orleans Public Housing organizer and veteran of the Black Panther Party, uncovers a corpse ignored by military and police in his Algiers neighborhood. Urban inequality and redirected funds made many in New Orleans vulnerable targets when Hurricane Katrina hit, and governmental disorganization left thousands of people without adequate aid or housing. A negligent evacuation effort left over 1,000 people dead in one of the most catastrophic disasters in American history. Grassroots relief efforts proved highly valuable and organizations were able to reach displaced citizens far more quickly than the federal government. When foreign aid was being turned away by the government, independent sources provided food, water, medical care and hope for many. New Orleans is now faced with the immense struggle of rebuilding.**

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In prison, commitment to revolution has a special meaning and the special price. To be identified as a revolutionary by the prison authorities means an almost permanent denial of parole, a separation from the other prisoners, solitary confinement (usually in maximum security units of the prison), transfers from one prison to another, beating, bad food. It brings down on you the entire punitive and repressive force of a capitalist prison system.

- Comrade George L. Jackson

It is a historical fact that the U.S. colony of prisons is an extension of the U.S. Government. By virtue of this pro-genic social relationship, the U.S. colony of prisons has taken on the characteristic distinctive traits of this racist colonial empire.

The racist government/empire has a long standing history of waging war against people and those who refuse to accept the social arrangement of being held in bondage. The budding/relation condition that the U.S. colony of prisons has with the U.S. government is that it operates in a punitive capacity of fascism, and sees that the central social characteristic/ambush of criminalizing fathering and enslaving us as a people is by brutal acts of terror, intimidation and suppression; mainly to prevent those such as myself from speaking out in a recalcitrant voices aimed at educating the people about the truth of our existence, and the means of better/different/healthier world associated with this government. These barbaric acts of terror are designed to create a culture of submissiveness. In light of the inspector's racist culture that they aim to perpetuate at our expense of being robbed/exploited, and trampled over if we are some kind of floor.

You see, the U.S. colony of prisons was formulated to take of the essential enforce- ment of the U.S. government's political agenda of criminalizing and enslaving our communities. This same premise was culti-vated and practiced in the late 60's and early 70's. The prison government also relied on a similar form of deportment through their infamous COINTERPRO program (FBI), that was ran by it's head by the tyrant J. Edgar Hoover, among others.

COINTERPRO's central task was to tar-get/penurate those socio-political entities who sought to be freed/liberated from the oppressive grasp of this colonial empire. The groups that were targeted by CONT- ERPRO were numerous, but I'll only point out two, which were quite prominent dur-ing the late 60's to the 70's. The Black Panther Party and The Black Liberation Army (and any other functionaries who stood in solidarity with, and in support of the Black Liberation movement, etc.).

The FBI had labeled the members/associate of these socio-political organizations as terrorist and imminent threats to the government. Immediately following was a flurry of events which shocked the conscious-ness of many innocents in the oppressed communities. They found them-selves face to face with state terror/repres-sion, by having their doors to their homes kicked in during early morning raids, under the comical suspicions of harboring/aiding a terrorist. Essentially creating the same bys-teria that oppressed communities are deal-ing with today, in hindsight of the post 9/11 patriotic rhetoric. The state terror/repres-sion that our fellow beloved brothers/sistas have forre, and continue to forgive upon our existence. These beautiful, determined brothers/sistas were arbitrarily persecuted for giving a voice to the oppressed plight of a protracted struggle that was aimed toward real freedom.

This historical social relationship of the government/prison regime has paved the way for many state sponsored acts of mur-der/genocide against the revolutionary class of brothers, that were, and remain held captive in these concrete tombs. I am a liv-ing testament of this political masquerade of so-called justice.

As a New African Revolutionary, I have personally endured several set-ups by this regime/prison government in their bid to criminalize my existence- one who is committed to struggling to liberate the oppressed people, to an individual whom is deemed to be a threat to the security/secureritry of some uniform of law, that I've never agreed to abide. The most recent occurrence of political persecu-tion that I was involved in occurred one afternoon as I was coming in from the S.H.U. exercise yard. As I was patiently waiting in front of my cell door, so that I could re-enter my cell, it just so hap-pened that there was a group of prisoners with psyched-up in the controlling the front guard/hut tower that afternoon, whom decided to pop open the door of a white supremacist prisoner. He then tried to attack me, but little did he know, he was in for quite a surprise!

He had run right into the wrath of one skilled/determine New African, who wasn't about to be a victim of racist hatred. He was supposed to be an ambush on my life, as my kaptors all personal asthma and the event was also randomly commenting; 'That guy must not had been ready for you, as that guy is very dangerous!' I am not moved by such a pseudo-flattery, as I am well aware of these racist pigs central task in perpetuating a culture, that is featured in a cycle of one against another. In spite of this ambush on my life, I refuse to be intimidat-ed/frightened away from the stance that I've taken. I won't remain commit-ted to the struggle in seeking to liberate my people, even at the expense of my life, as my life belongs to the people.

For more info contact me at: Kijana Tashiri Askari
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Sponsored by:
The New African Collective Think Tank (N.A.C.T.T.)

Political Persecution:
FROM THE SET-UP TO THE AMBUSH...

By Kijana Tashiri Askari

Self-Portrait by Kijana Tashiri Askari

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Iraq Carnage: Bloodiest Post-War Month

U.S. raids Tal Afar, blames Zarqawi

One two day period in Baghdad during the second week of the month left nearly 190 people killed in a series of bombings and shootings. Daily violence on that scale has not been seen in Baghdad since the 2003 invasion. Shiites and other Iraqis cooperating with the U.S. occupation have been the primary targets of the recent insurgent violence. U.S. forces are still killed on a daily basis and the overall U.S. death toll is quickly nearing 2000. At least 116 Iraqi forces and 346 Iraqi civilians have been killed in insurgent violence during the first 17 days of September alone.

While much of the country's attention remained focused on the fallout from Hurricane Katrina, massive offensives in Iraq from both U.S. and insurgent forces unleashed a torrent of bloodshed, making September an especially deadly month. At least 116 Iraqi forces and 346 Iraqi civilians have been killed in insurgent violence during the first 17 days of September alone.

Syria

\[...\]

Aristide's Lavalas Party waged by Haiti's Cops on Rampage

Haiti's Cops on Rampage

BY BEN TERRAL

On Friday, September 9, US filmmaker Kevin Pina and Haitian journalist Jean Ristil were arrested by Haitian National Police (HNP). At the time, they were attempting to observe a police search of the residence of Father Gerard Jean-Juste, an Amnesty International-designated prisoner of conscience. Activists hope their arrest will attract more attention to the dire situation of political prisoners in Haiti.

Since the February 29, 2004 U.S.-backed coup which ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, his government have incarcerated more than 1,000 other political prisoners, including high profile prisoners such as Aristide's Lavalas Party and opposition figures. The coup regime is using political prisoners as a political weapon, because that would make him politically stronger and a threat to elite interests.

Prime Minister Yvon Neptune, another high profile prisoner the coup regime is refusing to release despite sustained international pressure, is confined in a separate wing of the facility Jean-Juste has been moved to. Jean-Juste has not been allowed to visit Neptune, but briefly saw him and said his health was "bad". Jean-Juste himself is in need of blood and other tests, which he has not yet received. When I asked if he felt confident of his security in the current facility, he answered "no". The priest expressed appreciation for international solidarity, and asked that it be continued as much as possible. To disheartened fellow Haitians, he said, "Don't cry too much, there's work to do. Let's do it."

A plainclothes Haitian police officer stands next to corpse of Lavalas demonstrator after planting a handgun. An anonymous journalist declared, "I filmed the dead bodies of demonstrators killed by the police. The police put a gun in the left hand of one of the corpses. After they saw me filming they asked me to come and film the gun in his hand. I couldn't believe it."

-Photo and caption from Haiti Information Project

MORE INFORMATION:
Haitiaction.net

Haiti's Cops on Rampage

Lavalas crackdown continues, U.S. journalist arrested

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MORE INFORMATION:
Haitiaction.net
Several thousand passengers rode the buses for free in San Francisco on Thursday, September 1, the opening day of a fare strike in one of America's most busy and intensive cities. In the days leading up to September 1, 20,000 leaflets and 10,000 stickers in English, Chinese, and Spanish were attached to bus shelters throughout the city to promote the strike.

As well as raising fares to $1.50, MUNI has slashed service on many lines, starting September 24. Layoff notices were issued earlier in the year to 150 drivers. MUNI management is eliminating 83 of these jobs through early retirement and for the rest, the job cuts, they're firing all of the part-timers.

The fare strike has three demands: No fare hikes, no twice cuts, no layoffs.

On the morning of September 1, fare strike groups focused on eight major nodes in the MUNI bus network with banners, strike placards, bullhorn, and leaflets. About half of these nodes were on the Mission-Van Ness corridor. With over 8,500 rides on a typical weekday, Mission-Van Ness is one of the world’s busiest bus operations. In the heart of San Francisco’s Mission District, local day laborers got involved in the fare strike campaign and for the first time, the leafleting in areas of the city with large numbers of Spanish-speaking immigrants.

Security assistants were specially hired to herd passengers away from the rear doors. This led to an incident at 16th and Mission where a female security assistant illegally grabbed a man by his pants as he was entering through the rear door, resulting in a physical altercation. The passenger was还要 be taken to jail, charged with assault.

Fare strike advocates distributed leaflets with the demands of the fare strike in the shape and graphic style of a Muni transfer, and reproduced on the same full-page printout. These transfer-shaped leaflets were very popular with riders. They felt more comfortable with something they could flash to the drivers.

Heavy security where fare strike groups were visibly concentrated was intended to intimidate both drivers and riders from participating in the fare strike. Meanwhile, small teams of fare strike activists were surfing the bus lines in various neighborhoods, getting off at busy stops and then bringing on groups of people for free rides. Their claim is that people will get comfortable with the idea and then do it on their own.

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OAKLAND INFECTION

In 1992 and presently valued at $4,853,722, OCHI bought the historic 150 unit California Hotel in 1990 for $1,910,000.

The tenants reside in Single Room Occupancy units (SROs), and pay their rent by the month. We were charged either $395.00 for a basic room per month or as much as $466.00 a month for a small kitchenette.

According to Lis Grisolia, she assured them an extra $7.50 a night if they made the “guest list.”

According to Grisolia, after the lawsuit was filed OCHI management moved quickly to clear the building. “They never let us come in and clean up this mess since moving here,” Grisolia said.

This filing of complaint/lawsuit also detailed such problems as inadequate and defective electrical systems and outlets, including exposed wiring, defective plumbing, infestation of vermin, roaches and insects, in addition to other dangerous, inhospitable conditions.

“I believe that OCHI and their property is being shunted by luminaries, and they are sucking the system dry,” said tenant activist Linda Stephens, who started tenant rebellion at the property after contacting local attorney John Murcko for assistance.

“It’s a terrible situation with fleas, rats, bed bugs, and bad odors coming from the vents and the floors,” Grisolia also said. It’s “the worst infestation I have seen in the last 20 years as an attorney.” OCHI received a notice last November from vector control and nothing was done.

According to Stephens, OCHI is still making big prof-

in, despite the deplorable conditions. She said, “These guys are really raking in the dough from plenty of HUD funding, because tenants normally pay $395.00 a month, but when they move in from the Shelter Plus Program which is subsidized by local housing authorities using HUD funding, OCHI then charges $795.00 a month for the same unit.”

According to Rashid Mohammed, the lead desk clerk at the California Hotel, they are currently accepting applications, and are presently asking $622.00 per month for some units and $645.00 a month for larger units.

Eleanor Pizer, director of community relations for OCHI said, “We know there are some serious problems with rats and bed bugs, but we have faced some difficult repairs lately while installing a new sprinkler system.”

“If the tenants had communica-

tion about these problems instead of going to the courts or the media, our problems would not be as severe as they currently are. Now we have to deal even more interminable and very tense,” said Pizer.

“We have 120 tenants and 150 units, and believe that the infestations became worse due to moving the tenants around to different rooms while the repairs have been going on lately.”

Indeed, bed bugs have made a big comeback in recent years and have found shelters, apartments, and hotels.

Bed bugs are active at night, hidden away in the blood of sleeping humans and they like to hide during the daytime hours close to where people usually sleep at night. Once they penetrate the skin of their victim with an elongated beak through which they can suck the blood, they feed for around three to ten minutes until full.

In order to reach Dwight Dickerson, executive director of OCHI, have not been succes-

sful recently to show that while his tenants at the California Hotel have been plagued by rats and bed bugs, Dickerson himself is raking in over $80,000 a year from his salary, plus extras.

Recent records indicate that it would be difficult for OCHI to blame budget woes on its failure to rid the California Hotel of its rat and bed bug infestation. With nearly 1,000 rental units under their control, records show that from 2002 through 2003, OCHI profited by as much as $2,203,920 for services performed, merchant-

does, gifts, and other related activities of the non-profit housing organization. According to its website, OCHI has developed over 1,000 units of affordable housing since the organization was formed in 1973, and it currently manages over 900 units.

However, despite the multi-

million dollar profits of its major tenants, OCHI tenants are forced to live in truly night-

marish conditions. A few months back, we had a dead man lying in 12 hours in the body was dis-

covered, and the smell of dead rats in the walls were so strong that caused confusion as to the dis-


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LYNDA CARSON may be reached at lynda57@yahoo.com or (510)763-1085

The young anarchists who formed MUNI Social Strike wanted to encourage a driver/ride striker in San Francisco. For several months, the Social Strike group focused its efforts on ouster of the driv-

ers.

Some drivers were playing by the MUNI Public Management

game plan, refusing to

work unless they

were paid.

This seemed a

to be a small

minority. At any rate, MUNI drivers told us, the union contract only requires the drivers to tell people what the fare is. In one incident, when an activist announced he was on fare strike, the driver said “The fare is $1.50. You know the rules.”

But this seemed strange, as no one seemed to pay the fare. Not only did the driver tell them, “To read a longer version of this account visit the Muni Social Strike website at www.socialstrike.net. More information also available at www.munifairstrike.net

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Working With the Drivers

The United Farm Workers and Gallo Vineyards Inc. have reached an agreement on a new contract providing Gallo of Sonoma, an industry leader, with significant gains. The workers voted nearly uni-

versally to ratify the agreement. The Gallo workers voted 97 percent for the first time to have the right to file grievances over disci-

pline and seniority issues.

Gallo employs more than 4,000 workers and produced about 58 million cases of California wine last year, accounting for about one of every four bottles made in the state.

BERKELEY USES BIODIESEL TO SLASH CARBON EMISSIONS

The dramatic drop in carbon emissions puts Berkeley at the forefront of a handful of cities that are legally committing them-

selves to reducing the pollution that many scientists have blamed for global warming.

“Berkeley’s groundbreaking efforts to be a model environmental city are beginning to show dramatic results,” said Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates.

The city calculated that its carbon emis-

sions in 2004 were 2,066 metric tons less than its baseline number. To get equivalent air quality benefits, the city would have had to plant 52,000 trees or remove 450 cars from the road, Bates said.

The greatest cut in greenhouse gases, 47 percent, came from city vehicles -- partic-

ularly as a result of the use of biodiesel fuel but also through use of electric, natural gas and hybrid electric–gasoline powered vehicles.

Bubonic Plague-Infested Mice Disappear From Bio-terror Lab.

These mice infected with the bacteria that causes bubonic plague disappeared from a laboratory in Newark, NJ, in early September. The mice are missing from the Public Health Research Institute at the University of Medicine and Dentistry. This lab conducts bio-terrorism research for the federal government. One of the ways people concern about bubonic plague is from infected rodents.

The three missing mice are from a group of 24 mice who have been inject-

ed with a bacterium that causes various forms of the plague, including bubonic plague. These mice are part of a mass-

ge government project to develop vac-

cines against biological weapons.
The Division of Labor Standards and Enforcement, the state agency in charge of enforcing labor law.

Standards and Enforcement, the state agency in charge of enforcing labor law.

Last night, I was booked to play an event near Salt Lake City, Utah. The hype was huge. I was supposed to play for a crowd of 3,000 people, but I ended up playing in front of only 500 people. The venue was dimly lit and the audience was sparse. I felt like I was playing to an empty room.

The show started off with a few songs, and then I began to feel more connected with the crowd. I started playing songs that were more personal and introspective, and the audience seemed to respond well. I played a few covers, too, and the crowd sang along.

The gig lasted about an hour and a half, and when it was over I felt like I had given a good performance. It was a different experience than I was used to, but I enjoyed it nonetheless.

I hope to play more shows like this one in the future. It was a unique experience, and I learned a lot about how to interact with a crowd and create a connection with them.
Katrina becomes a hurricane. The U.S. invades Iraq and the results of Katrina were as much a product of the U.S. National Guard. By Robert Cadwell

Most residents of New Orleans were unaware of the potential destruction of Katrina until Saturday, August 28, less than 48 hours before it struck. Hurricane Katrina was the most awesome disaster Louisiana has ever seen. But the deadly results of Katrina were as much a product of human callousness as an act of nature. The world watched as people were herded in a wretched and unsanitary place without food, water, or proper medical care. Those in areas of high flooding fled to rooftops begging rescue helicopters. The federal government was woefully under-funded by the federal government. President Bush and Congress ignored those who explained that solid infrastructure vides a lens through which to understand another facet of racism that is ever-present in the U.S. poor people were the least prepared for the hurricane. According to columnist Sidney Blumenthal, “FEMA is an exercise in solidarity. We're taking the people of Algiers. PHOTO: BRADLEY ALLEN

**NEW ORLEANS: THE MAKING OF AN URBAN CATASROPHOE**

BY ROBERT CADWELL

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Common Ground Health Clinic offers temporary assistance and mutual aid to the people of Algiers. PHOTO: BRADLEY ALLEN

**SOLIDARITY NOT CHARITY: GRASSROOTS RELIEF EFFORTS FILL IN THE GAPS IN NEW ORLEANS**

BY HUNTER JACKSON

In the wake of botched relief efforts on the state and federal levels, grassroots volunteers from around the country have traveled to New Orleans and other US coastal states.

By Robert Cadwell

The response from Federal agencies was largely militaristic and unproductive—soldiers, police, and contracted private security forces roam the streets, enforcing a dusk-to-dawn curfew and martial law. The media has largely missed the crucial assistance from Common Ground's doctors and medics, they have since begun working to duplicate the collective efforts and open their own clinic.

“Nobody wants to get [medical] care from people dressed up in military gear who drive around in shiny new Humvies,” Koyaat says. “They are the scariest shit of the people.”

Common Ground intends to remain open as long as possible and establish satellite clinics in other neighborhoods. “This is my place home now,” says Noah, an EMT volunteer from Rhode Island. “I can come to Algiers anytime and I'll be working with open arms.”

More information about Common Ground can be found at: www.commongroundrelief.org

**FEMA's lists Oper**

**Blaming Victims**

Both former FEMA chief Michael Brown and the Bush administration say that the high death toll would be "attributable to a lot of people who didn't heed advance warnings." Brown's comments suggest that hundreds chose not to evacuate, but the reality is that hundreds of New Orleanians didn't have the means to comply with an evacuation order.

**Race and Class Dynamics**

Katrina wasn't the first hurricane, or the first major flooding disaster, to hit Louisiana. During Hurricane Betsy, Lower Ninth Ward, an area almost entirely underwater in the state and federal levels, grassroots volunteers from around the country have traveled to New Orleans and other US coastal states.

BY ROBERT CADWELL

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Floodings and debris on the deserted streets of New Orleans, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

LAW & ORDER
IN NOLA:

NEW ORLEANS RESIDENT’S WITNESS
COMMUNITY ORGANIZING IN
THE FACE OF DISASTER

New Orleans continues... affected areas, media reported that supplies were being diverted because helicopters couldn’t land due to hostile gunfire. If the US is capable of sending planes that can withstand enemy fire to drop bombs in Iraq, certainly they are capable of air-dropping supplies into a US city.

On NPR’s September 3 broadcast of All Things Considered, Homeland Security Czar Michael Chertoff dismissed an NPR field reporter’s claim that 2,000 or more were at the convention center without food or water in unsanitary conditions. Subsequent reports verified that 15,000-20,000 were at the convention center.

Deplorable conditions including dead bodies. The Convention Center was on dry land and could have been accessible by military ground transport vehicles.

Mayor Ray Nagin blasted the slow response: “They’re not here. It’s too dog-gone late. Now get off your asses and do something, and let’s fix the biggest god-damn crisis in the history of this country.”

ENVIRONMENTAL TRIGGER

The ecological component of this disaster is clear. New Orleans, like many major cities, was built in a dangerous location, but environmental planning as well as global warming and coastal erosion have exacerbated the precariousness of the City.

Marshes and wetlands help to slow a hurricane’s advance by providing habitats. But the erosion has diminished the size and ability of coastal marshes and swamps to absorb a hurricane’s force. Coastal erosion is due to the redirection of the river silt that built up the delta to the deep waters of the continental shelf. It’s also attributable to salt-water intrusion from deforestation and natural gas drilling and pipeline needs.

Global warming also contributed to the deadly hurricane. Ross Gellespan, columnist for the New Orleans Times-Picayune, explained that global warming “generates longer droughts, more intense downpours, more-frequent heat waves, and more severe storms.”

While Katrina began as a relatively small hurricane off South Florida, it was supercharged with extraordinary in Gulf of Mexico.

THE UNHAPPY ENDING

The Bush administration fiddled while New Orleans flooded. The federal government failed to provide basic infrastructure. It didn’t even have a rescue plan. Instead, tax cuts for the rich and spending for the war in Iraq were given priority.

Many perceive this as a “war at home” on poor and Black people. Many Hurricane refugees feel abandoned. But the ruling Bush and Katrina hit. Racism, environmental disregard, and capitalist deference to social planning set the stage for this catastrophe. As money begins to trickle in, hotels, casinos, chain stores, and commercial developments will compete for money needed to reinforce a system that was unable to respond to people’s needs in the first place. But New Orleans can be rebuilt with a different ethic and plan. We need public investment in transportation infrastructure upgrades, public evacuation plans, a bolstered public works system, stable union jobs, better public schools, compassionate healthcare, and the cultivation of participatory neighborhood councils that engage the working class, poor, and oppressed in governance. The people of New Orleans can help with an alternative vision too. First, we should demand that troops deployed in Iraq return. Then, we should move to change national priorities to focus on the needs of the oppressed and working class. This should begin with rebuilding New Orleans and the U.S. Gulf South.

Robert Caldwell Jr. is a resident of the North Ward in New Orleans and a member of the Green Party and Solidarity. He can be reached at jamais.vu@gmail.com.
Aiding pregnancy, getting pregnant, PMS... these are some of the most frequently discussed topics among my female friends, and I think among many women. Yet, there really aren’t many commonly understood ways of managing each of these issues without pharmaceutical intervention. I avoided birth control for many years because I was exclusively involved with women. When I got involved with a man for the first time, I was suddenly interested in the world of contraception, and sorted through a barrage of options before settling on condoms, basically out of fear and ignorance of other methods. That worked fine for years. After meeting and falling in love with my future husband, the idea of starting a family came into play. We tried just not using any protection for a while, but no pregnancy ensued. At some point, a dear friend recommended I read Taking Charge of Your Fertility by Toni Weschler. This book got me hooked on the Fertility Awareness Method. I’ve used the method ever since, and as a result, our three year old daughter was conceived. Many women use this method not just to avoid pregnancy, but also to increase their chances of getting pregnant. It relies on learning and observing the state of your body at different moments in your monthly cycle.

Cervical Mucus Monitoring

Cervical mucus changes consistency during the menstrual cycles and plays a vital role in fertilization of the egg. Present in the days preceding ovulation, fertile cervical mucus aids in drawing sperm up to the fallopian tubes where fertilization usually takes place. It also helps maintain the survival of sperm inside the woman’s body.

In a “typical cycle”, after 5 days of menstruation there are 3-4 “dry” days, and then wetness begins with sticky, cloudy, thick, or yellowish secretions. The wetness increases to the wettest day when mucus is quite distinctive: abundant, slippery, clear and very sticky (like egg whites). Ovulation occurs sometime in the 2 days before or up to 2 days after the peak day of stretchy fertile mucus. To chart your cervical mucus, observe and record your cervical secretions every day on a calendar or chart, with day 1 as the first day of your menstrual period. Basal Body Temperature (BBT)

When a woman monitors her Basal Body Temperature (BBT), she gets an idea of when ovulation occurred. BBT helps identify post-ovulatory infertile days. Using an easy-to-read thermometer, take your temperature every morning immediately upon waking and before any activity. If possible, use graph paper so you can see the rise and fall of temperature.

Immediately before ovulation, the temperature drops briefly. Within 12 hours of ovulation, the BBT rises several tenths of a degree and remains up until the next menstrual period. When your temperature stays high for 3 days in a row, the fertile period is over and the infertile time begins.

The main drawback of using the BBT method by itself is that several factors can influence your BBT, including illness, lack of sleep, alcohol or drug use. You may choose to keep a chart of your BBT over a period of 8-12 consecutive months to determine the time in your cycle when you usually ovulate. One of the most valuable things I have ever done is to get touch in more with my own body by charting my cycles. Not only did it help manage my fertility, PMS, and other related issues, but it brought me closer to my cycles, body and mind, really, my own essential femininity.

This article is excerpted from Down There Magazine, a woman-run and operated resource for feminist and alternative women’s health issues. Visit the entire article at downtheremagazine.com
The most violent weapon on earth is the table fork.

Mahatma Gandhi

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

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

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

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

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

Tipping the Scales:
Conservative Appointments threaten Supreme Court’s balance

BY NATALIE CARRANIEL

The shoe-in for the next Chief Justice of the Supreme Court may have evaded the tough questions posed by the Senate Judiciary Committee, but based on the few documents the White House agreed to make public, it is clear that John Roberts is indeed the ‘ideologue’ he explicitly claims not to be. Having publicly stated his position on civil and constitutional rights issues such as abortion, domestic violence, voting rights, desegregation, low-income housing, gender discrimination, affirmative action, sexual harassment, and school prayer, Roberts’ views have sent up red flags for those who believe in the constitutional protection of women’s and minority’s rights and economic justice.

Roberts’ appointment will pose challenges to more than just individual and civil liberties; it will also directly impact key federal issues that eeked by on 5-4 rulings, where O’Connor’s vote determined the outcome. The results of some of these key cases are outlined below:

**Reproductive Rights and Privacy**

Stenberg v. Carhart (2000) overturned a state law that would have had the effect of banning abortion as early as the 12th week of pregnancy and that lacked any exception to protect a woman’s health.

**Environmental Protection**

In the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation v. EPA (2004) ruling, O’Connor’s vote determined that when a state conservation agency failed to act, the EPA could intervene to reduce air pollution under the Clean Air Act.

**Consumer Protections**

In the Bush Prudential HMO, Inc. v. Moran (2002) decision, the Supreme Court ruling upheld state laws giving people the right to a second doctor’s opinion if their HMO’s tried to deny them treatment.

**Sex Discrimination**

Jackson v. Birmingham Board of Education (2005) ruled that federal law protects against retaliation against someone for complaining about illegal sex discrimination in federally assisted education programs.

**Disability Rights**

Toussaint v. Lane (2004) upheld the constitutionality of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and required that courtrooms be physically accessible to the disabled.

**Affirmative Action**

Grutter v. Bollinger (2003) affirmed the right of state colleges and universities to use affirmative action in their admissions policies to increase educational opportunities for minorities and promote racial diversity on campus.

**Discrimination**


**Separation of Church and State**

McCreary County v. ACLU of Kentucky (2005) upheld the principle of government neutrality towards religion and ruled unconstitutional Ten Commandments displays in several courthouses.

Lee v. Weisman (1992) continued the tradition of government neutrality toward religion, finding that government-sponsored prayer is unacceptable at graduations and other public school events.

**Government Accountability**

McConnell v. Federal Election Commission (2003) upheld most of the landmark McCain-Feingold campaign finance law, including its ban on political parties’ use of unlimited soft money contributions.

Federal Election Commission v. Colorado Republican Federal Campaign Committee (2001) upheld laws that limit political party expenditures that are coordinated with a candidate and seek to evade campaign contribution limits.

Many of Roberts’ previous rulings and statements support his opposition to the outcomes of the above cases. In a brief for George H.W. Bush’s administration that Roberts co-authored for the respondent Rust v. Sullivan, he states that, “We continue to believe that Roe was wrongly decided and should be overruled.”

In public statements on “Talk of the Nations”, 4/24/99 and on “News Hour” with Jim Lehrer, 7/2/97, Roberts denies Congress’ authority to support state employer’s rights to sue their employers for refusing to pay overtime, to endorse the protection of the victims of gender-motivated violence, to require background checks of gun buyers by local police, and to further defend the right to religious expression.

Roberts’ lack of support for women who seek sexual harassment suits is exemplified in a friend-of-the-court brief, which stated that a 1972 law that banned sex discrimination in schools could not be used to allow a girl to sue a teacher who had repeatedly sexually harassed her for compensatory damages. He also argued in favor of the expansion of the role of religion in public schools. In his friend-of-the-court for Lee v. Weisman (1992) he affirmed that religious prayers in graduation ceremonies at public high schools should be allowed.

While Roberts clearly would like to limit protecting Federal controls over the previously mentioned issues, he has put forth rulings and opinions that indicate his strong support for expanding the powers of the executive branch. In a recent D.C. court decision, Hamdan v. Rumsfeld (2005) Roberts ruled that the Geneva Convention is unenforceable in U.S. courts and adopted the Bush administration’s position that once accused, enemy combatants can be tried before military courts without fundamental wartime protection that are afforded to U.S. citizens.

Whether it is limiting civil liberties or federal jurisdiction, Roberts’ future, and pivotal votes, will surely be in opposition to O’Connor’s record, and thus may put into question the very cornerstones of modern American justice.
CRITICAL MASS

Civil libertarians and anyone concerned about basic rights to assemble, protest, celebrate, and speak have flacked to defend the New York Critical Mass. Several lawsuits and criminal cases are still pending, as the local authorities have suspended normal legalities to carry out a witchhunt against Critical Mass in New York. At this time there has even meant the blatant theft of dozens of bicycles by none other than the police department itself!

When confronted by the curiously vitriolic anger and belligerence of the police (not just in New York, either, but in SF, LA, Portland, Minneapolis, Austin, and more), a lot of cyclists are puzzled. Why do the police react so strongly to CM? Why does a simple crowd of bicyclists seem to inspire such fear and loathing on the part of the authorities? We have to wonder what's going on: “Culture War” and a conflict between old-style hierarchy and the emergence of flexible network-based social movements.

Individual police are usually people who more or less blindly believe in the “American Way” of life. That means they’ve literally “bought in” to the automobile/oil “American Way.” That means they’ve more or less blindly believe in the social and economic models controlled by multinational capital — and imposed on us without any form of democratic consent.

This mass seizure of the streets by a swelling mob of riders who are not police officers, not instructed otherwise, feel it’s their duty to punish these scofflaw cyclists and to make them pay a price for their ostensible pleasure. When the basically innocent cyclists protest being ticketed, manhandled, and otherwise abused by the police, it only fuels the rage simmering inside the locked-down, unsympathetic brains of the boys and girls in blue. In other words, these moments become a front-line confrontation in a vast, confusing and inchoate mass of moments become a front-line confrontation in a vast, confusing and inchoate mass.

So the local police and authorities often respond with great frustration and confusion. The basic incompetence of police against a fence. Overnight, not wearing entitled manhandling, protest being ticketed. Innocent cyclists who are not footballers, but typically penalized by referees, not police — as in many organized sports where players are radicals. The two basic facts that explain what’s going on: “Culture War” and a conflict between old-style hierarchy and the emergence of flexible network-based social movements.

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“Do It or Shut the Fuck Up”

**Review of Heartcheck**

Jeffrey ‘Free’ Leurs and Rob ‘Los Ricos’ Thaxton

The authors attempt to provide some examples of positive developments that should be replicated and built upon, such as the autonomous community uprisings in the Kabylia region of Algeria or the target-organizing against specific corporate executives that formed the backbone of the Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty campaign. However, other than discussing the need for action in a somewhat removed and abstract sense, the zine also fails to paint a coherent picture of concrete steps our diverse movements can take to truly pose a serious threat to power. This ends up making the entire collection of essays on the frustrations with the failures of U.S. radicals a somewhat frustrating read in itself.

The one essay that clearly stands out in Heartcheck is a truly visionary and inspiring piece of writing is Jeff’s “Building a Foundation for Change” in which he discusses the complex support structures and community networks that must be built in order for an armed revolt to truly be successful. Within this piece, Jeff displays an impressive level of depth and maturity in order for an armed revolt to truly be successful. Within this piece, Jeff displays an impressive level of depth and maturity. With an almost 100% success rate in the Kabylia region of Algeria or the target-organizing against specific corporate executives that formed the backbone of the Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty campaign, however, other than discussing the need for action in a somewhat removed and abstract sense, the zine also fails to paint a coherent picture of concrete steps our diverse movements can take to truly pose a serious threat to power. This ends up making the entire collection of essays on the frustrations with the failures of U.S. radicals a somewhat frustrating read in itself.

Across
2. miscellaneous (abbr) (4)
6. unsalted (6)
11. public service (2)
15. movement for clean energy (5,3)
14. hollow cylinder (4)
15. French friend (3)
16. Instant water (4)
17. not out (2)
18. rubbery solution (3)
20. apostrophe (2)
21. thudum (2)
22. enhanced sounding bike (7)
23. and the rest (3)
24. day before (3)
26. account of (abbrev) (2)
27. Pez pheal (2)
28. Hurricane (2)
29. Hayworth? (4)
30. long player (2)
31. bicycle bread bowl (2)
32. kind of illusion (7)
33. shrink (2)
34. prayer beads (4)
35. direct action network (3)
37. pertaining to (2)
38. outer ring, edge (5)
40. Iraq’s main port (5)
41. inflatable epic writer (5)
42. infernal epic writer (5)
45. fistful (3,4)
47. Old Testament (2)
48. busy center (3)
50. TV (2)
51. radio telephony (2)
52. wheel spindle (4)
53.ildation (abbreviation) (2)
54. charged atom (3)
55. father of Arabs (5)
57. natural religion (5)
59. Syria’s capital (4)
62. Old English (2)
63. rubbery solution (3)
64. fortified behavior (5)
65. street (4)

Down
1. kind of illusion (7)
2. I, myself (2)
3. International Development Agency (5)
4. IPCC, Muslim capital (7)
5. trouble leg confiner (4)
6. high wheeler (8,4)
7. unmerit webbies (2)
8. seventh Irish clan? (4)
9. set up? (5)
10. three-wheeler (5)
11. inventor of pneumatic tire (5)
12. cheap bike for acrobats? (5,5)
13. cold War president (5,8)
14. Sicilian volcano (4)
15. outer ring, edge (5)
16. exist before noon? (6)
17. high wheeler? (8,4)
18. set up? (5)
19. edge city (5)
20. Swedish kitsch supergroup (4)
21. black gold (3)
22. old telephone monopolist (5)
23. School of the Americas (3)
24. Doctor cricket (2)
25. licensed to kill (2)
26. south, as such (3)
27. high wheeler? (8,4)
28. set up? (5)
29. edge city (5)
30. Colombian supergroup (4)
31. black gold (3)
32. old telephone monopolist (5)
33. School of the Americas (3)
34. Doctor cricket (2)
35. licensed to kill (2)
36. south, as such (3)

CRYPTO compiled by Iain Boal #12

Answers to this and last months crypto can be found on indybay.org/faultliness

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