**ENFORCED DEMOCRACY IN BOLIVIA**

BY JENNIFER WHITNEY

After a long day of tension, rumors, and occasional provocations surrounding a national referendum regarding the ownership structure of Bolivia's natural gas industry, polling stations in the South American country closed to little fanfare on the evening of July 18. Despite scattered incidents of rock-throwing and tire-burning, the most common protest against the referendum's limited choices was simply refusing to vote. Although voting is mandatory in Bolivia and abstention is punishable by significant fines, a record-breaking 40 percent of citizens refused to support the foregone conclusion of the referendum that Bolivia's most valuable natural resource — natural gas — would remain in the hands of the national corporations.

Bolivia, South America's poorest country, has long had its wealth plundered by foreigners. First, it was the realization by the Spanish in the sixteenth century that a small hill in the Andes could be the treasure-laden entrance to the New World. Today, Bolivia's natural gas is foregone conclusion of the referendum that Bolivia's most valuable natural resource — natural gas — would remain in the hands of the national corporations.

The vote on the referendum illustrates the struggle of Bolivia's poor for political control over resources. As Bolivia becomes the most powerful player in the Andean region's political economy, it is vital for citizens to demand that their voices be heard in the decision-making process. This referendum is a step in the right direction, but it is only the beginning of the struggle for a democratic future for Bolivia.

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**“SHUT UP! IT’S OUR TURN TO TALK”**

Federal Communications Commission berated by public at hearing on broadcast localism

BY LIAM O’DONOGHUE

At 7am on July 21, when the FCC began distributing tickets for a hearing on broadcast localism that was scheduled to begin 11 hours later that day, the line at the Monterey Conference Center had grown to nearly 100. During the first round of limited ticket distribution two days earlier, the front of the line had been stacked with almost 50 paid employees of media giant Clear Channel, and many of the union members, media activists and concerned citizens who had made the two-hour drive from San Francisco to Monterey went home empty handed. Jim Burns showed up two and a half hours before the 150 tickets were to be distributed that day and was shocked to learn that everyone at the front of the line had been ordered to leave work to get tickets. He said, “Clear Channel is a multi-billion dollar company that has access to the FCC anytime they want, and here they were, gobbling up the public’s chance to speak with the FCC directly.”

Although FCC Chairman Michael Powell had just announced his decision not to attend the only West Coast localism hearing in Monterey, it was determined to respond to the FCC’s request for public feedback on the condition of TV and radio.

The Monterey conference was one of five conferences held in smallish cities around the US to supposedly gather advice from the public about how it can promote localism (community coverage and involvement) in radio and TV broadcasting. Responding to public outcry and the dismay of media workers regarding the dramatic decline of localism and quality news and political coverage in the wake of deregulatory legislation that allowed a handful of corporate companies to dominate the airwaves, the FCC is considering measures such as increasing minimum requirements for public service programming and issuing more licenses for low-power FM (LPFM) radio stations. Although the press conferences and demonstrations held by various unions and media activist groups outside of the Conference Center and the two-hour tongue-lashing of the FCC during the open mic portion of the hearing indicate that the public is almost unanimously in favor of these proposed measures, many expressed skepticism that the generally pro-corporate FCC was really serious about adjusting regulation in favor of the public interest. “Go back to Washington D.C. and make your rules” said Dan San, a microradio DJ from Free Radio Santa Cruz (FRSC) during the public comment session, “we’ll continue to break them.”

**PIRATES AND UNIONS FIGHT THE CORPORATE OCTOPUS**

Although the explosion of corporate consolidation has drastically affected the content of all media outlets, the effects of deregulation are best illustrated by looking at radio in the wake of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Prior to the deregulation, Clear Channel owned 30 stations, now they own over 1,200, resulting in a loss of localism and quality news and political coverage in the wake of deregulatory legislation that allowed a handful of corporate companies to dominate the airwaves. Responding to public outcry and the dismay of media workers regarding the dramatic decline of localism and quality news and political coverage in the wake of deregulatory legislation that allowed a handful of corporate companies to dominate the airwaves, the FCC is considering measures such as increasing minimum requirements for public service programming and issuing more licenses for low-power FM (LPFM) radio stations. Although the press conferences and demonstrations held by various unions and media activist groups outside of the Conference Center and the two-hour tongue-lashing of the FCC during the open mic portion of the hearing indicate that the public is almost unanimously in favor of these proposed measures, many expressed skepticism that the generally pro-corporate FCC was really serious about adjusting regulation in favor of the public interest. “Go back to Washington D.C. and make your rules” said Dan San, a microradio DJ from Free Radio Santa Cruz (FRSC) during the public comment session, “we’ll continue to break them.”

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**US NAVY LEAVES TOXIC LEGACY IN BAYVIEW-HUNTERS POINT**

Residents and children at neighboring schools reported outbreaks of nosebleeds, vomiting, rashes, and chronic headaches, but were not notified of the potentially toxic emissions from the landfill until two weeks after the fire began.

BY SHERLINA NAGEER

The health of thousands of children in the Bayview-Hunters Point neighborhood is at risk daily because they live and attend school near highly toxic sites including a former US Navy Base, now a Federal Superfund site.

BVHP is a predominantly low-income community of color, which has historically served as the dumping ground for San Francisco’s most toxic industries. While a third of the Bayview’s population are children, there are over 325 toxic sites in this six square mile community. The worst polluter is the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard (HPS) - a former US Navy base that was used as a top-secret radiological defense laboratory for more than 25 years. Activities such as animal and human experimentation, contaminated ship cleanup, and building and testing nuclear weapons, generated more than a million cubic yards of waste materials that thoroughly contaminated the shipyard’s soil and groundwater, and resulted in the area being designated a Federal Superfund site. Decades later, radiological waste and toxins generated at the base have not been fully captured or removed, still leaking into and affecting the surrounding communities.

Of special concern is the health of more than two thousand BVHP children who attend the 21 schools and child care facilities within three miles of the HPS. Children can spend from six to 12 hours a day in school or child care, and their health is at risk daily because of their proximity to this highly toxic site. Children are especially vulnerable because of their size, developmental stage, and age-specific behaviors. Toxins can affect children’s physical and mental development,
CIA Orders Investigation of Cyprus Indymedia

Cypriot officials denounce US intervention

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus responded to an Indymedia solidarity campaign on July 26 by admitting that they were acting under US orders to carry out an intelligence investigation of Cyprus Indymedia and of one of its founding members, Petros Evdokas, in order to assess whether he "constitutes a threat to US interests." In the wake of the scandal, which unfolded on the front pages of mainstream Cyprian newspapers and on the State-run television station, the vice-chair of the ruling party criticized the subservience of the Police to US intelligence agencies and the Minister of Justice and Public Order issued a written apology.

After weeks of vehement denials, Cyprus Police officials revealed that the CIA had instigated the investigation following the publication of an "offending" article by Petros Evdokas on Cyprus Indymedia on March 5. The article, entitled "Spies, Murderers and Creeps - Management of the 'Free Dialogue' on the Annan Plan", (http://cyprusindy-media.org/spies-murderers-and-creeps.html) exposed and documented US intelligence operations interfering with the recent Peace referendum on the small, Mediterranean island, and the efforts by the US Government to impose an Apartheid-style regime on Cyprus as a "final solution" to the regional conflict between Greek and Turkish ethnicities. The article concluded that the US "solution" would be a guarantee for eternal war in the Eastern Mediterranean. The US Embassy in Cyprus refused to comment.

"This investigation against Indymedia and me is really a very instructive case study of the whole process of how the US Empire has branched itself into the minutiae of the administrative machinery of not only a tiny and defenseless country like Cyprus, but of an international project of the United Nations (note the recent revelations and public admission that even Kofi Annan's office at the UN Headquarters was under surveillance by the same "Certain Intelligence Agency")." Evdokas wrote, in an article published on the Cyprus Indymedia site on July 26. The "blending of diplomatic action, surveillance and covert operations machine, computer administration systems, police intimidation and military force, and above all financial domination, all radiating from the core of the global Empire and extending into the very fabric and tissue of every community on the planet, paints a good picture of a world 'under the thumb of the oppressor.'"

The Global Context of Indymedia Repression

The campaigns to intimidate Indymedia are not yet coordinated on a global scale, but appear to be slowly moving in that direction. The assassination of Indymedia founding member Lenin Cali Najera of Equador just recently (comrades there are speculating that a death squad made his assassination appear as attempted robbery); the current trials in Italy stemming from the concerted attack by paramilitary police against the Indymedia facilities in 2001; the use of armored vehicles to intimidate the Indymedia workspace in Georgia USA just last month; and the nation-wide "pre-emptive" raids and interrogations by the FBI of radicals across the US in order to thwart preparations to protest at the Republicrat party conventions, are pointing the way to a new phase of struggle for media activists. It is in this context that the Indymedia network must spotlight the intelligence investigation against Cyprus Indymedia. The local/ regional politics are important, of course, everywhere, but now that the liberation movement is truly global, and repression is shaping up to adjust.

Contribute to Fault Lines

Fault Lines encourages our readers and members of the community to engage in the creation of media. Our goal is to train and empower marginalized voices to reclaim our lines of communication and speak truth to power. If you want to write an article, review, or news blurf for Fault Lines, please contact the editors at www.faultlines@sfbay.net to begin a collaboration and get our submission guidelines. Submissions of photos and artwork are encouraged as well. Your feedback about what we are (or are not) covering is necessary in creating a news source that truly is a voice of the people. Suggestions regarding our design and readability are also greatly appreciated.

Keep the articles in Fault Lines alive by posting your comments at www.indybay.org/faultlines/
NIGHTMARE CONTINUES FOR PATRIOT ACT VICTIM

Sherman Austin released from prison, but still not free

Political prisoner Sherman Austin, who made headlines last year after being targeted as one of the first casualties of the infamous USA PATRIOT Act, was released from an Arizona prison on July 12. The nightmare doesn't end for Austin, though. He has been remanded to the custody of a halfway house in Los Angeles where he will serve the remainder of his sentence until August 30. Starting now and continuing through the next three years, Austin will be serving an additional sentence of federal probation, under which he will not be allowed to use a cell phone, computer, or other digital device unless specifically designated by the government. In addition, he has been forbidden any contact with “anarchist groups,” who the federal government maintains “advocate violence as a means of disrupting order and achieving its social, economic, and political change.”

Big Brother v. Austin

Sherman Austin, webcammer of Raisethefist.com, was sentenced on August 4, 2002, to one year in federal prison, with three years of probation. Judge Wilson shocked the courtroom when he went against the recommendation of not only the prosecution, but the FBI and the Justice Department, who had asked that Austin be sentenced to four months in prison, and four months in a half-way house, with three years of probation.

Austin's probation stipulates, among other things, that (1) he cannot possess or access a computer of any kind without prior approval of his probation officer; (2) if his probation officer gives permission, the equipment is subject to monitoring and is subject to search and seizure at any time, without notice; (3) he cannot alter any of the software on any computer he uses; (4) he must surrender his phone, DSL, electric, and satellite bills, (5) he cannot associate with any person or group that seeks to change the government in any way (be that environmental, social justice, political, economic, etc.), and (6) he must pay over $2,000 in fines and restitution.

Dispatch from Sherman Austin

On Jan 24, 2002, my home was surrounded and raided by approximately 25 heavily armed FBI and Secret Service agents in one of the legal observers I was being arrested. I was hurried out of my home, grabbed my neck and told me to shut the fuck up while I tried to tell one of the legal observers I was being arrested. I was humiliated out of the court house into a black SUV where I was driven to a federal building. I was then taken to lower Manhattan MCC maximum security 24 hour lockdown federal jail facility. At my bail hearing the FBI called me a “man on a mission” and said I drove 3,000 miles to carry out my alleged plot”. The judge said I was a “threat to the community” and denied me bail, and I was to be extradited back to California to face my charges.

After 11 days I was shackled and taken to an airforce base where federal inmates are boarded onto planes surrounded by guards with M16s and shotguns, like prisoners of war, and flown to a federal jail “bub” in Oklahoma. Once I got there, I learned the next day that the prosecutors decided not to file an indictment. I was released after spending 13 days in custody.

When I got back to Los Angeles I put raisethefist.com back up almost immediately and continued my political organizing within the community, as well as my work with Raise the Fist which developed into a Direct Action Network with chapters setup around the world. Six months later prosecutors contacted my lawyer and said they found nothing to prosecute me for on my computers, but didn't want to “let me off the hook.” They offered me a pre-indictment binding plea agreement which was initially one month in jail, and five months in a community corrections facility. I rejected the plea at first, wanting to go to trial until we discovered the case was eligible for a terrorism enhancement, which could have added 20 years to my sentence.

I therefore decided to enter a plea. I played months of legal limbo until I finally expected to get sentenced to four months in jail and four months in a community corrections facility based on the final sentencing report written by the USPO. The judge rejected the four months saying what kind of an example would it set for future revolutionaries wanting to act in the same manner. He stated that he wanted to give me at least eight to ten months, but first wanted the opinion of the Justice Department and the Director of the FBI in Washington, D.C. (Robert Mueller). My sentencing was rescheduled several times until August 4th, I was contacted for felony distribution of information related to explosives with intent, and sentenced to 1 year in federal prison with 3 years supervised release.

Distribution of information related to explosives is not illegal, what’s illegal is the INTENT part. They have to prove you have intent to use the information to cause further crime of violence...and how do they prove intent? I think Bush made it clear when he said “you're either with us or against us.”

Remember, fascism and a police state doesn't come all at once, it comes piece by piece. How far will we allow it go until we are all locked up in concentration camps?

But if we don't take matters into our own hands and do something about this now, then we are already prisoners of war. Raisethefist.com is not shutting down, and the RTF Direct Action Network will continue to grow and remain active. A one year sentence is not the end of this. It’s just the beginning.
California Court Rules SF Same-Sex Marriages Are Void

On August 12, The California Supreme Court ruled unanimously that Mayor Gavin Newsom lacked the authority to issue the same-sex marriage licenses after the November 4 result, the marriages are void. Over 3900 same-sex couples were married at San Francisco City Hall earlier this year during the month-long window before the Court issued an injunction to halt the unions, leaving nearly 2000 of them off the waiting list. The court, however, has yet to rule on the issue of whether or not same-sex marriages should be legal. Marriage equality activists responded to the nullification decree with simultaneous rallies and marches in cities across the state. The suit to halt same-sex marriages was brought by State Attorney General Bill Lockyer and joined by by the conservative Christian group the Alliance Defense Fund.

Bay Area Fights Section 8 Evictions

Section 8 tenants in the city of Alameda (CA) won a battle this week in the struggle to keep affordable housing from being robbed of the ability to provide quality care. “We simply cannot provide care to 120 patients in the emergency room without additional resources,” said the hospital spokesperson. “With no increase in ER visits in 2003-2004. Nevertheless, Cambio is prepare to slash 25 percent of its staff, leaving one nurse to perform the work of seven. Cambio has targeted 1200 Section 8 tenants in the city of Alameda County, according to Alameda County Medical Workers Fight Service Cuts

Former Prisoners Fight for Rights

National Campaign Kicks Off with All of Us or None Summit Oakland

BY SEBRA NIEVES

Apartheid—the systemic political, economic and legal discrimination against a group of people—still thrives in the United States. Most people recognize apartheid as a condition that existed in South Africa. Almost all African American communities are communities segregated from mainstream society. Mayors, cops, and politicians frequently demonize them for their city’s problems. And some say this group never should have been brought in the first place. The group is an inarticulate one, they made up of hundreds of thousands of former prisoners, and many of them out of prison. Imagine scheduling a routine doctor’s appointment and learning that earliest available time is in six to nine months. On the day of your appointment imagine waiting four hours to see a doctor and another two to four hours to have your prescription filled. Imagine waiting two more hours for a hospital stay. 256 families in that city—over 2600 couples on the waiting list. Imagine getting staff and services on the feet of Alameda County with overwhelming support for a 0.5 percent increase in the sales tax to bolster ACMD and expand medical care. The goal of Measure A, passed last March by a 70 percent majority, is to provide much needed funds to pull ACMD out of the red without any service cuts. ACMD employees, working in coalition with community organizations, played a key role in building support for Measure A in a campaign to save county healthcare. Bidding the wishes of residents and ACMD workers, consultants are lining their pockets with money intended to save the very services they propose cutting.

Outraged Medical Center employees have mobilized to stop the cuts. Giving up on the legal route, 1300 workers rallied on July 20 to defend services. Attending Board of Trustee meetings demanding accountability to patients and staff, employees of ACMD have expressed their frustration at being asked to save each day. “We must provide access to services for patients with this cuts,” said Kowara Imani, a registered nurse at Highland Hospital.

FORMER PRISONERS FIGHT FOR RIGHTS

The Mendocino Model

Californians Support Sustainable Agriculture

BY BRADLEY ALLEN

The overall risks associated with the cultivation of GE crops include: 1) exposure to chemicals linked to cancer; 2) the poisoning of the environment through genetic pollution which poses dire consequences for species such as the Mendocino Model, and 3) environmental devastation. The Mendocino Model—also known as Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)—within their county. Using this measure as a model, local residents in at least a dozen other California counties are well on their way to passing similar measures. On August 3, Trinity became the second California county to go ‘GE FREE.’ County Supervisors voted to ban GE crops and animals in an effort to protect Trinity’s local economy and environment. Organizers in Butte, Humboldt, Marin and San Luis Obispo counties have already collected enough signatures to place measures on the November ballot that would ban cultivation of GE crops. Alameda, Napa, Placer, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, and Sonoma counties are among the other groups working to pass similar measures on the ballot. The Mendocino Model—also known as Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)—within their county. Using this measure as a model, local residents in at least a dozen other California counties are well on their way to passing similar measures. On August 3, Trinity became the second California county to go ‘GE FREE.’ County Supervisors voted to ban GE crops and animals in an effort to protect Trinity’s local economy and environment. Organizers in Butte, Humboldt, Marin and San Luis Obispo counties have already collected enough signatures to place measures on the November ballot that would ban cultivation of GE crops.

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Alcoholics Anonymous is a 12 step fellowship that helps people in recovery from alcoholism. It was started by Dr. Bob Smith and Bill Wilson in 1935. Alcohols Anonymous is a fellowship that helps people in recovery from alcoholism. It was started by Dr. Bob Smith and Bill Wilson in 1935. Alcohols Anonymous is a fellowship that helps people in recovery from alcoholism. It was started by Dr. Bob Smith and Bill Wilson in 1935.

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Slave-Mart Comes to Oakland
Community leaders demand living wage jobs

“I don’t like it to be here, but for a minute, when they open I will apply for a job,” 16-year-old East Oakland resident Miguel Coelho told me as he pushed his way forward, glistening sweat off of his eyes, speaking over the grinding traffic south on Hegenberger Road. We were huddled on the tip of the median strip on Edgewater Road near the Oakland Airport as part of a rally on July 31 against the impending development of another Slave-Mart (oh excuse me, Wal-Mart) Store.

By TINY

And so it goes, the frightening paradox of low-income, conscious, intelligent youth like Miguel who although he is poor, down with the 40 million dollar corporate welfare deal struck between the City and Port of Oakland and Simon Commercial Properties that will bring the first Wal-Mart store to Oakland, he needs a job.

Wal-Mart, as the largest employer in the US with 1.4 million workers, always has a lot of jobs, albeit low-wage, non-unionized jobs with no benefits and racist, sexist employment practices.

“We’re out here today, cause we just found out that the City provided a huge amount of dollars to bring a Wal-Mart into Oakland and it’s community input,” said Alicia Schwartz, an organizer with Just Cause, “and we are letting folks know that they have a right to deserve more from Oakland City Government and from the kinds of large corporations, especially when they are getting our tax dollars.”

Studies show that when Wal-Mart enters a community, 3 jobs are lost for every 2 jobs gained, due to job losses at local small businesses, and tax receipt growth actually declines.

“In Berkeley, large corporations are forced to give back to the community by funding youth apprenticeship programs and job development,” said Alicia. As to the kinds of give-back programs that Wal-Mart could do in the very poor city of Oakland, she concluded, “Our schools need money, our communities need money.”

“So we already know that Wal-Mart is shady, that they are unfair to Black people and females, and we know that Wal-Mart has the money to hire lobbyists inconsiderate of the impact they will receive a multi-million dollar payoff to come here,” said Theresa, a young African Descendent woman as she summed up the goal of the morning community at this rally, “So what I want is a job with a living wage so I can support my family, career development and self-sufficiency, and we’re hoping for Wal-Mart and Simon development to create a fair partnership with the community so that we can all live while Wal-Mart is here.”

For more information on the effort to demand a fair partnership from the two companies and elected officials call Just Cause at (510) 763-5877.

Get Involved

This article is an adaptation of Poor News Network report. To read more about resistance to unfair labor practices and labor injustice by low-income workers themselves, check out http://www.poornews.org and click on Labor and Unrecognized work.

By GABRIELA REASON

For decades, US policy towards Cuba has consisted of enforcing an economic embargo that prohibits US companies from trading with Cuba. When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1990 and Cuba lost over 80 percent of its imports, it began developing its tourism industry and established a dual-economy that would permit the influx of dollars. Thus, the Cuban government could obtain the hard currency it needed for importation of capital goods and essential imports, while the population could participate in the international market. Remittances coming from Cubans living abroad, particularly the US, have also added the shock–to the already struggling Cuban economy in recent years.

Among the new measures are those restricting Cuban-American travel to the island for “insufficient” financial motivation. Until April and July, Cuban-Americans wishing to visit family were legally permitted to travel once per year under a general license granted by the US Treasury Department subject to little with little obstacles. Under Bush’s new policy, the travel license application process to visit family abroad will be a long one of 14 days and their spending cap will be reduced from the previous $164 to only a $50 daily allowance.

Still, the 480-page “Report of the Commission for the Assessment of the Deal Unveiled by the State Department on May 6, includes much more. Most striking is the $59 million taxpayer dollars allocated in the next two years to destabilize the Cuban government. The funds will be spent on recruiting and funding Cuban counter-revolutionary groups in their bid to help the opposition in Cuba, recruiting Cuban counter-revolutionaries to study in US universities and prepare them for post-Castro Cuba and it designates $5 million to the spread of anti-Castro propaganda worldwide. Most Cuba and it designates $5 million to the spread of anti-Castro propaganda worldwide. Most

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Still, the 480-page “Report of the Commission for the Assessment of the Deal Unveiled by the State Department on May 6, includes much more. Most striking is the $59 million taxpayer dollars allocated in the next two years to destabilize the Cuban government. The funds will be spent on recruiting and funding Cuban counter-revolutionary groups in their bid to help the opposition in Cuba, recruiting Cuban counter-revolutionaries to study in US universities and prepare them for post-Castro Cuba and it designates $5 million to the spread of anti-Castro propaganda worldwide. Most
BY KALONJI JAMA, CHANGA CHIEF COORDINATOR FOR PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE COMMITTEE

Black August 2004 has officially begun. I have received emails from all over the country about different events dealing with the celebration of Black August, and I have had different comrades asking about the origin of Black August. So I reached out to the Brother O.G. Shaka aka Shaka At-Thinnin, a comrade of Field Marshal George Jackson, to find out, "What's Really Hood"?

Kalonji: For those people who are not familiar with you, can you hit us with a brief bio?

Shaka: I am one of George Jackson's original soldiers. He was my Commander in Chief along with several other brothers; some who have passed, some who remain behind enemy lines and others who have been released. I did close to ten years. I was released in 1977. I came out on fire. I expected the revolution to start tomorrow. In the joint, it was about conditioning mind and body equally, getting in physical shape, honing our skills and learning to fight off racist guards, etc.

Kalonji: Tell us about San Quentin.

Shaka: I was in San Quentin in Max B, which is five tiers stacked on top of each other—it's like being in a barn with an open space in between each tier. There were two catwalks with guards patrolling all day and all night. They carried 30/30 Winchesters and a .38 on their hip.

Kalonji: Jonathan was called "man child." He had a deep respect for his brother (George) and his teachings. He had his own deep intelligence. His intelligence grew beyond his years. He was 17 when he was assassinated.

Kalonji: Tell us about Jonathan Jackson.

Shaka: He died in the Marin County Courthouse. He went to liberate the Soledad Brothers. He ended up liberating William Christmas, Ruchel McGee and James McClain. They were planning on going to a radio station to broadcast the conditions of San Quentin, Soledad and other camps. They took hostages including the judge, the district attorney and some jurors. The guards knew something was going to happen; San Quentin sharp shooters were on the roof. They opened fire on the van, killing everyone except the DA and Ruchel McGee. Jonathan Jackson was the Chavez Urbano in the courtroom—he wasn't playing.

Kalonji: Who were the Soledad brothers?

Shaka: George Jackson, Fleta Drumgo and John Cluchette. They were charged with killing a prison guard, in response to the guard killing three soldiers on the prison yard. The three soldiers were very prominent figures that inspired George himself. George took a lot of direction from W.L. Nolan, Abin Miller and Cleveland Edwards. They were shot in the yard and left to bleed to death. All of this happened in 1970.

Kalonji: This month is Black August. When was it started and why?

Shaka: Black August began at the end of 1979. It began as a commemoration for all those who died after 1970 and all others who died in prison at the hands of the racist state. Khatri Gaulden, the leader who took over after George, was the last soldier to die that really set our hearts and minds to how black our conditions were inside.

So we formed the concept Black August. On the inside, brothers fasted the days of the assassinations of the brothers (24-hour fast). On the other days, they didn't eat until sundown. Physical training and education was increased. We formed the Black August Organizing Committee outside to commemorate the assassination of soldiers behind the wall and to make the outside community aware of the terror going on inside. We staged our first demonstration outside of San Quentin. That was the beginning of that type of Black August movement. Each year after the death of George and Jonathan, we made sure the guards knew we were there. We never let them forget.

Kalonji: I heard that Black August was trademarked. Is there any truth to this?

Shaka: Yes. For us, Black August is a memory and a pain that lives with us. We never intended for Black August to be used as a tool to gain notoriety or to make money. It's like when you go to a graveyard and put flowers on their graves, that's Black August to us. It was not intended for the mass media or to become the circus event it is now. Black August is an acknowledgement of our pain. It is a renewal of our commitment to fight and stand firm for those who still stand firm inside. As far as copyright is concerned, it is a slap in the face to all those who are gone and those locked behind enemy lines.

Just consider that from the day they assassinated George in San Quentin, the guards instigated a reign of terror. They were breaking brothers' legs, kicking them, spitting on them, beating them with rifle butts and axe handles, while they lay face down in handcuffs. They made them crawl like animals on their bellies across the yard to their cells. They tortured Yogi for years. He is still confined because he and George were so close. He is there as a token of terrorism. That is what we think of when we think of Black August. Now how can you copyright that?

Kalonji: This being the 25th anniversary, what do you wish to accomplish?

Shaka: We want to bring people back to the commitment. We want people who are new to the concept of Black August to understand where it came from, why, what it stands for and commit themselves to fight for the liberation of our people. We hope that this will be unification of our people in the struggle to free all of our people locked in the concentration camps.

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**Island of Exploitation**

**US bankrolls Haitian labor and political repression**

BY JAMIE HURLBUT

The mainstream US press has offered little information about the situation in Haiti since the February 29, 2004 coup which forced Jean Bertrand Aristide from office. Most coverage has stressed political instability violence plaguing the impoverished country but has offered scarce background information on the mass movement known as Lavalas that has supported Aristide through multiple coup attempts.

US journalists have also provided little information about conditions for Haitian workers and the role Washington and US corporations play in perpetuating systematic, outrageous abuses of these workers. To get hard information about the situation faced by Haitian workers, I spoke to Dave Welsh, a member of a recent San Francisco labor council delegation to Haiti. Dave is a longtime Haiti solidarity and Bay Area labor activist who had been to Haiti once before following the first coup in 1991 against Aristide.

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**The Lavalas movement, pressure from below**

Lavalas is a collection of local organizations spread throughout the poverty-stricken rural villages of Haiti. “It grew out of the mass movement to force Baby Doc Duvalier [Haitian “President For Life” who was driven from power in 1986] out of office and to flee and has its strongest base of support in the very poor in the cities.” Dave described Aristide and the Lavalas movement as dedicated to improving the lives of common people: “the priority is to bring in basic services. Aristide said that ‘we have to raise the people from misery to poverty with dignity’.

The word Lavalas means “flood” in Creole. Dave explained that the name originated from the concept of mountain streams coming together to form a river and then rivers coming together to form a flood. “It’s a metaphor for collective action, for overcoming the rule of unrepresentative elites to run the country themselves and to achieve the original objectives of the Haitian revolution.”

In contrast, Dave explained that FRAPH, the death squad that has long plagued Haitian democracy, means ‘to hit’ in Creole. It was formed with the assistance of the CIA to terrorize the population.” Many leaders of the US backed “rebels” that overtook Haiti in the lead-up to this year’s coup perfected their terror tactics in FRAPH.
It was a sweaty, steaming night in August, 1791, when a group of African captives gathered in the forests of Marne Rouge, near Lavalas. Among these men was a Voodoo priest, Papaloi Boukman, who preached to his brethren about the need for revolution against the cruel slave drivers and torturers who made the lives of the African captives a living hell. His words, spoken in the common tongue of Creole, would echo down the annals of history, and cannot fail to move us today, 213 years later:

The god who created the sun which gives us life, who raises the waves and rules the storm, though hidden in the clouds, he watch-es us. He sees all that the white man does. The god of the white man inspires him with crime, but our god calls upon us to do good works. Our god, who is good to us, orders us to recon- cile our wrongs. He will direct our arms and aid us. Thrice aye the symbol of the god of the white who has so often caused us to weep, and listen to the voice of liberty, which speaks in the hearts of us all.

The Rebellion of August 1791 would eventually ripen into the full-fledged Haitian Revolution, lead to the liberation of the African Haitian people, the establishment of the Haiti Republic, and the end of the dreams of Napoleon for a French-American Empire in the West. Two centuries before the Revolution, when the island was called Santo Domingo by the Spanish Empire, historian Antonio de Herrera said, “There are so many Negroes in this island, as a result of this trade…” and that the land seems an effigy or an image of Ethiopia itself.

Haiti was the principal source of wealth for the French bourgeoisie. In the decade before the Boukman Rebellion, an estimated 29,000 African importations were imported to the island annually Conditions were so brut-tal, and the work was so back-breaking, that the average African survived only 7 years in the horrible sugar factories.

In 1804, Haiti declared Independence, after defeating what was the most powerful army of the day: the Grand Army of France. Haiti’s Founding Father, Jean-Jacques Dessalines, at the Haitian Declaration of Independence, proclaimed, “I have given the French capitalists blood for blood. I have averaged America.”

With their liberation, Haitians changed history, for among their accomplishments: a) It was the first independent nation in Latin America; b) It became the second independent nation in the Western hem-sphere; c) It was the first Black republic in the modern world; d) It was the “only” inci-dence in world history of an enslaved people breaking their chains and defeating a powerful colonial force using military might.

What did “Independence” bring? It brought the enmity, and anger of the Americans, who refused to recognize their southern neighbor for 58 years. In the words of South Carolina Senator Robert Hayne, the reasons for US non-recognition were clear: “Our policy with regard to Haiti is plain. We never can acknowledge her independence…The peace and safety of a large portion of our Union forbids us ever to discuss [it].

In many ways, Black August (at least in the West) begins in Haiti. It is the black-est August possible—Revolution, and resultant Liberation from bondage. For many years, Haiti tried to pass the torch of liberty to all of her neighbors, providing support for Simon Bolivar in his national-ist movements against Spain. Indeed, from its earliest days, Haiti was declared an as-yet unexplored country, a place of refuge for any person of African or American Indian descent.

On January 1st, 1804, President Dessalines proclaimed: “Never again shall colonist or European set foot on this soil as master or landowner. This shall hencefor- be the foundation of our Constitution.”

It would be US, not European, imperi-alism that would consign the Haitian people to the cruel reign of dictators. The US would occupy Haiti and impose their own rules and dictates. After their long and hated occupation, Haitian anthro-pologist Ralph Trouillot said, “[it] improved nothing and complicated almost everything.”

Yet, that imperial occupation does not wipe out the historical accomplishments of Haiti. During the darkest nights of American bondage, millions of Africans, in America, in Brazil, in Cuba, and beyond, could look to Haiti, and dream.

Mumia Abu-Jamal is an award winning author and broadcast journalist. He has been languishing on Pennsylvania’s death row for over 23 years. Writing from a solitary con-finement cell, his essays have reached a worldwide audience. Mumia is the author of five books including “Live From Death Row,” “Death Blossoms,” “All Things Considered,” “Punishment of Fools,” and the recently released “We Want Freedom.” They have sold over 150,000 copies and been translated into seven languages.

Dave met with several leaders of the public transit workers union who had formed a bus co-op before the coup. “The co-op was formed by an alliance between Aristide and the union. The union ran the bus company and got the money to buy the busses, while the members had collective decision making powers to run it.” Immediately following Aristide’s exile the yard of busses were burned in the night, probably because it was a Lavalas project.

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USS Involvement in the Coup

Much of the funding for political opposition in Haiti comes from the US. “There are many NGOs and groups that backed the coup directly or indirectly,” Dave said. “They were working against Aristide by funding alternative economic structures with no respect for sover-eignty or democratic rule.” Dave talked to many Haitians about the role the US has played in Haitian politics. “Many people said that the US embassy is running the show now.”

Dave observed that the lead story of one of the French language papers (read by Haitian elites) featured the American ambassador addressing the American chamber of commerce over how Haitian democracy should work. “The only Haitian featured on the front page was the new US installed “prime minister” who hasn’t lived in Haiti since the late 80s. “Haitians refer to him as the prime minister of Boca Raton, because that’s the Florida city where lived for many years until the US installed him in office”.

In Dave’s view, the US is interested in maintaining a repressive power structure in Haiti partly because “many of the Haitian factories produce goods for major American corpora-tions like Disney and Wal-mart. In fact none of the assembly factories owned by American Andre Aped are currently unionized” Aped is a key player in the Washington backed “Democratic Con-struction”, an ironically named foundation or the electoral process in driving President Aristide out of the country “The US was put-ting pressure on Aristide to privatize the state industries, but he resisted.” Although many Haitians disagree with the best approach to achieving self determination, almost all are in agreement that the president should have the opportunity to complete his term. “Five full years” with your hand outstretched to show five fingers is a popular slogan amongst the people of Haiti.

For further information, see www.haitiaction.net

By Among these large bodies, the little community of Haiti, anchored in the Caribbean Sea, has had her mission in the world, and a mission which the world had much need to learn. She has taught the world the danger of slavery and the value of liberty. In this respect she has been the greatest of all our modern teachers.

— Hon. Frederick Douglass, former US Minister to Haiti Lecture on Haiti (Jan. 2, 1893, Quin Chapel, Chi.)
Food, as a commodity, has always played a role in the creation of oppressive systems since the inception of European colonialism, when Indigenous peoples throughout the world were robbed of their land in order to mass produce commodity crops for export, such as coffee, tea, sugar, bananas, cattle and cotton. Africans and other indigenous groups were then enslaved to farm these large scale plantation operations. The modern food production system is a continuation of the very same colonial food system established over 400 years ago.

Today, the exploitation of people of color continues to play out within a globalized food system in which the working conditions of food production, both on the farm and in food processing plants, are oppressive. The industrialized food system, focused on mass production through large-scale conglomerate farming operations, is rapidly exterminating farmers of color from across the globe. This is evident in the migration of Mexican farm workers who have lost their own farms to the United States in search of new livelihoods. Another example is the rapidly shrinking number of black farmers in the United States. In 1920 one out of every seven farmers was black; in 1982, black farmers counted for only one out of 67 and operated only one percent of the total farms in the US. The current rate of farm loss by black farmers is over double that of other American farmers.

Yet, institutional racism does not just occur on the production side of the food system. It also emerges at the other end of the food chain where we, the consumers, are most closely connected: the grocery store. Or, more accurately, the absence of grocery stores for many communities. West Oakland, California, for example, is a predominantly black community of over 30,000 people that only has one grocery store. Because there are not enough grocery stores, many people in West Oakland are forced to rely on the 40 liquor stores (with 30-100 percent higher prices than supermarket) and numerous fast food restaurants that sell nothing but fatty, high cholesterol foods. In contrast, the neighboring city of Emeryville, a predominantly white and affluent community merely 7,000 residents, has three grocery stores within its city borders.

With severely limited access to healthier foods, people of color have little choice but to consume foods that are low in nutrition, high in saturated fats, and covered in chemicals, shortening the life spans of children and adults alike. The result is an epidemic of diet-related chronic diseases such as obesity, heart disease, diabetes, stroke, kidney disease, infertility, and cancers. Although these diseases are affecting a large portion of American society as a whole, communities of color are disproportionately affected and experience higher rates of mortality from these diseases.

In West Oakland, the leading cause of death is heart disease, accounting for 28 percent of all deaths. In the largely black area of Central Brooklyn four times as many people die of diabetes than on the predominantly white Upper East Side of Manhattan. And a 1990 study found that so many African-Americans were dying from heart disease and cancer that black men were less likely to reach age 65 than white men in Bangladesh.

When communities are attacked by both environmental racism through toxic exposures and by a racist food system through toxic and deficient foods, there is a double-layered assault on people's health. The consumption of unhealthy, commercially-processed foods further compounds the effects of environmental toxic exposures. Conversely, poor nutrition increases vulnerability to toxins by weakening the immune system's ability to resist such toxins and flush them from the body. For example, the bodies of malnourished children tend to fuse lead and other heavy metals with nutrients and try to use these metals, embedding them into their bone structure and body tissues.

Environmental racism and lack of healthy food are just two components of an overall unjust social system in which people of color are targeted. Yet, just as there is a grassroots response to environmental racism in the form of the environmental justice movement, there is an equal grassroots response to a racist food system in the form of what some people are now calling the food justice movement.

Based on principles of racial justice, human rights, and grassroots organizing, the food justice movement is working to ensure that all people, regardless of race, class or gender, have a fundamental right to healthy, fresh and affordable foods that nurture health and provide people with the strength and energy to uplift their communities. All across the country a grassroots response is arising from people who are organizing to determine for themselves what food is on their table.

Bayview, continued from front page...
Even though the re-licensing evaluation that would ensure the presence of dams along rivers in Southern Oregon and Northern California for another half a century is two years away, native tribes and environmental supporters have stepped up the fight to protect regional salmon populations. Encouraged by a recent court victory regarding water flow for the Trinity River, 150 people marched through Klamath Falls/OR to a Republican rally on July 17 to urge lawmakers to consider the economic and cultural impacts of salmon extinction. Later that week, 26 people, including leaders of four Klamath River tribes traveled to Scotland for meetings with representatives and sharehold-ers of Scottish Power, the parent corporation of dam-operating company PacifiCorp.

“During the shareholders meeting, the people completely embraced us,” said Merv George, director of the Klamath Inter-Tribal Fish and Water Commission (KIPFWC) and member of the Hoopa Valley Tribe. “It was amazing to see the level of support we received. The Klamath River is definitely on Scottish Power’s radar now!”

Despite the pronouncement of Scottish Power CEO Ian Russell that he is “committed to finding the right solutions” to the issue of PacifiCorp’s dams, which block over 350 miles of historic spawning ground and degrade water quality, tribal representatives still have an uphill battle. “Did we get a firm commitment from the corporation? No,” said Leaf Hillman, vice-chairman of the Karuk Tribe and KIPFWC chairman. “Russell committed to maintaining an open line of communication and working toward a solution. That is not much different from what we have been hearing from PacifiCorp in the US during the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Renegotiation process.”

PacifiCorp officials have solicited input from the tribes and stakeholders over the past four years in drafting their license application to the FERC. However, the final 80 pound document didn’t include salmon restoration strategies or an evaluation of dam removal, two fundamental issues raised by the tribes, environmentalists and fisher-men. Since the construction of the first dam in 1917, salmon populations have plummeted to ten percent of their pre-dam levels in what was once America’s third-greatest salmon-producing river, and some runs have gone completely extinct. Other fish, such as the sturgeon, lamprey and candlefish have also vanished from the Klamath.

The Hoopa, Yurok, Karuk, and Klamath tribes have lived along the banks of the Klamath River since “time immemorial.” These cultures still depend on the fishery for food, recreation and to form the basis of the tribes’ cultural and ceremonial practices. Despite these facts, government policy over the past few years has increased the drastic threat to salmon populations. In 2006, the Department of Interior, under pressure from Bush’s political strategist Karl Rove to curry favor among agribusiness for the reelection campaign of a Republican Senator in Oregon, decided to cut off flows for fish and divert them to subsidized agriculture in the Klamath Basin. This change in water policy by the Bush administra-tion resulted in the largest fish kill in recent history in September 2002 when over 34,000 salmon perished. The majority of these fish were destined for the Trinity River, the Klamath’s largest tributary.

Reversing the Flow

Since this ecological disaster, The Klamath River tribes have fought to prevent another massive fish kill. The most recent victory came on July 13, when the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ordered the release of flows prescribed under the Trinity River Record of Decision (ROD) of December 2000. “Nothing remains to prevent the full implementation of the ROD, including its required flow plan for the Trinity River,” the Court ruled.

“We’re just elated,” said Clifford Lyle Marshall, chairman of the Hoopa Valley Tribe. “Hoopa is a very happy town. The takeaway from the decision is that we were told the decision could go either way.”

Marshall said the decision would compel the federal Bureau of Reclamation to release 47 percent of river flows for fish and 53 per-cent for agriculture and power. Prior to the ROD, up to 90 percent of the river had been diverted to agriculture and power users, resulting in dramatic declines in salmon and steelhead populations.

“This decision is awesome,” said Marshall. “The river is a vital part of the economy of our tribe and the Northern California economy. The decision gives the river the priority it deserved in the first place. It means that the river will get water, salmon runs will come back, tourism will return, recreational fishermen will come back, people will come to our local restaurants, and the commercial salmon fishery may be sustained.”

Although Marshall said the court made its decision based on the law and over 20 years of scientific studies, the court’s support for Trinity River restoration by the public, newspapers and politicians through the state had a lot to do with the victory.

“It wasn’t a case of Indians versus farm-ers,” emphasized Marshall. “The people of California raised their voice to support the Trinity River. The river should be regarded as a national treasure. We had a great alliance of people, with lot of efforts on many fronts. Public opinion drives public policy - and the people of California decidi-ed that for a small price, the Trinity River could be restored.”

The Westlands Water District, in con-junction with the Northern California Rural Association and Coordinating Council of Indian Tribes, commercial fish-ermen, recreational anglers and environ-mentalists of numerous grassroots organizations filed suit against the federal government in 2000 right after former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt issued his ROD. However, the broad coalition of Indian Tribes, commercial fish-ermen, recreational anglers and environ-mentalists of numerous grassroots organizations filed suit against the federal government in 2000.

Whether Westlands, the largest federal irrigation project in the country, will appeal the case to the next step, the U.S. Supreme Court, is unknown at this time. “We are still in appeal, so officials from the next ground,” said Tupper Hull, spokesperson for the Westlands Water District. “It is a compli-cated decision although it appears to over-turn the Westlands Water District.”

Hull noted that Westlands is continuing to pursue settlement talks with the Tribes, even though these talks have been unsuc-cesful in the past. “We believe that there is still an opportunity for people of goodwill to look at these issues from all different parties to protect their interests, including the Trinity River fish-ery,” said Hull.

Dan Bacher contributed to this article. For more information about this issue visit Cascadia Rising or Rogue Valley Indymedia.

GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS UNITE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Report from Central California Environmental Justice Network

“We, the people of color, gathered together at this summit to begin to build a national and international movement of all peoples of color to fight the destruction and taking of our lands and communities, do hereby re-establish our spiritual interdependence to the sacredness of our Mother Earth; to respect and celebrate each of our cultures, languages, and beliefs about the natural world and our role in healing ourselves; to insure environmental justice; to promote economic alterna-tives which would contribute to the development of environmentally safe livelihoods; and to secure our political, economic and cultural liberation that has been denied for over 500 years of colonization and oppression, resulting in the poisoning of our communities and land and the genocide of our peoples, do affirm and adopt these Principles of Environmental Justice.”

-from the first People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, October 1991

Environmental Justice demands that public policy be based on mutual respect and justice for all peoples, free from any form of discrimination or bias. Environmental Justice mandates the right to ethical, bal-anced and responsible uses of land and renewable resources in the interest of a sus-tainable planet for humans and other living things. Environmental Justice protects the right of victims of environmental injustice to receive full compensation and reparations for damages as well as quality health care.

In keeping with these principles, a coalition of numerous grassroots organizations who decided that rural communities in the Central Valley were suffering disproportionate amounts of negative health, social and financial impacts as a result of environ-mental racism and environmental degrada-tion formed the Central California Environmental Justice Network in 2000. CCEJN educates and empowers community to advocate for themselves by providing them with a way to network and assist each other and have a united, stronger voice.

The organizations in CCEJN work on a variety of issues. One organization, the California Prison Moratorium Project is fighting the expansion of countless prisons in the Central Valley. CPM targets prison building as a form of environmental racism because prisons take up valuable resources from the environment and give nothing back to the communities where they are located. Another grassroots organization, El Comite Para Bienestar de Earlimart, fights against pesticide exposure and pesticide drift. They provide exposure linked to numer-ous health problems, including asthma, birth defects and cancer, but is all too com-mon an occurrence in the Valley. The Central Valley Neighborhood Center is fighting against incinerators and landfill expansions. While you will never find a trash incinerator in a rich neighborhood, they are abundant in poor neighborhoods of color in both rural and urban settings.

Many government agencies and rich cor-portations continuously locate polluting industries in low-income communities of color in the Central Valley. The Cerrell Report was a document produced in 2001 by a consulting firm for The California Waste Management Board to assist toxic waste companies in placing their facilities within “officials from the next ground” from different parties to protect their interests, including the Trinity River fish-ery,” said Hull.

If you’re outraged by this exploitation, contact CCEJN at (209) 895-3352 to get involved. - John Mataka-Vice-President Central California Environmental Justice Network

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SALMON DEVASTATED BY DAMS

Some dams already have fishladders, but many, such as this fishladder at the John C. Boyle Dam, which is just bare cement covered with nitrate foam and algae blooms, are insufficient.
ENFORCED DEMOCRACY IN BOLIVIA

Record-breaking numbers boycott mandatory gas referendum to protest transnational ownership

People boycotting the referendum stand vigil at their road blockade in the Senkata neighborhood of El Alto.

As people began to pour in, a large crowd gathered outside the station entrance. A man in his mid-20s, who wore a balaclava and didn't wish to give his name, exclaimed, "Out with all the transna- tionals!" The crowd was far from peaceful. They were angry, and their anger was directed at the capital, La Paz, which they were fiercely loyal to. "Why are they taking our water, our land, and our gas? We want it to be under our control." The group I have come with is ready to go, and so we head down a narrow road into the town of El Alto, where the majority of the Bolivian population lives. The road is steep, and the air is thin, but the crowd is determined. "We will not be intimidated by the government...or is it? With forty percent abstention and fif- teen percent for the no option, we can't possibly lose."

At one station, a large crowd had gathered. The people were chanting, "Mesa, Ayo Ayo!" The crowd was large, and the atmosphere was tense. A man named Ayo would be the center for justice for the entire Altiplano, and the crowd was determined to make sure that justice was done.

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December 3rd marks the 20th anniversary of the world's worst industrial disaster, the 1984 Union Carbide gas disaster in Bhopal, India. The explosion inside the poorly designed and under-maintained pesticides plant released a 27 ton cocktail of lethal toxic gases into the heart of the teeming old city that caused as many as 8,000 deaths and more than 500,000 injuries within a few days. In the 20 years since "that night" thousands more people have died from the long-term health holocaust, with an estimated additional 30 deaths every month.

By Diana Ruiz

Since 1984, although Union Carbide, majority owner of Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL—the Indian subsidiary operating the factory), was contractually responsible for the design, safety and ongoing operation reviews of the plant, it has evaded all attempts to be held accountable for the catastrophe. Numerous studies have concluded that it was the parent company’s attempts to save money in Bhopal by using inexpensive technology, under-designing safety and warning systems, slashing staff and bulk buying of dangerous chemicals that made the accident not an accident but a near certainty. The gas leak occurred at a time when the safety measures that were designed to prevent such a disaster were turned off.

Over the past twenty years Carbide has taken elaborate steps to protect its financial interests in ways that have directly prolonged and deepened the physical, social, environmental and economic miseries of those left alive in Bhopal. The company has steadfastly refused to release toxicological studies on the principal toxin, methyl isocyanate, or vital information on the composition of the gas cloud that seeped over Bhopal. Because treatment protocols to combat the many manifestations of gas exposure, such as lung injury, immune disorders and chronic neurological damage, do not exist, physicians have been prevented by Carbide from properly treating victims.

To this day, there has been no clean up of the disaster site, and carcinogenic and heavy metals continue to seep into the water supplies of an estimated 20,000 people in the surrounding communities. Residents have no choice but to drink, wash, and cook with the water daily; mothers that were exposed to the gas from “that night” have no choice but to breast-feed their children mercury and organochlorines.

In 2001, as a condition of its merger with Union Carbide, Dow Chemical Corporation is now legally and ethically responsible. However, Dow has refused to provide for environmental, economic and medical rehabilitation for the people and environment affected by Carbide’s negligence. Survivor groups in Bhopal and communities and organizations affected by Dow activities around the world are now demanding that Dow settle its debts. Groups are also demanding that a legally binding mechanism be adopted and enforced world wide to hold multinational corporations accountable.

Following are the some of the most recent developments in the campaign for justice in Bhopal:

Compensation funds released: On July 19, India’s Supreme Court ruled that $330 million (US) in compensation be distributed directly to the victims and no longer held by previously earmarked funds should have been treated victims.

The next Safeway Battle is heating up!

A vegetarian diet is the acid test of humanitarianism.

Leo Tolstoy

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

Environmental havoc caused by modern factory farming:
www.earthsave.org

Health benefits of a vegetarian diet and related issues:
www.pcrm.org

While you may be too young to vote, you can still play a role in examining the ramifications of what you put in your body every day.

The Union’s “Safeway Battle” is clearly about raising awareness of the meat-based diet as one of the most harmful things we do to our environment.

By going vegetarian (or vegan) today, you can affect positive change right now.

Diana Ruiz is the US Coordinator of the Bhopal Campaign and Dow Accountability Project

www.indybay.org/labor

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Berkeley, California 94702
(510) 548-3402
www.ecologycenter.org
One Block south of Dwight Way on San Pablo Ave.

www.vegetarianstarterkit.com

Check out Indybay’s Labor page for updates and ongoing coverage of working class issues.

While no one can tell you what to eat, you owe it to yourself to examine the ramifications of what you put in your body every day.

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"SHUT UP! IT'S OUR TURN TO TALK" FCC berated by public at hearing on broadcast localism

airswaves that are saturated with homogenous, syndicated content. The confrontational remarks about “breaking the rules” made by Dan San at the hearing reflect more than just syncri- cism on the part of those who have been strug- gleing to provide an alternative to mainstream media for years; the pioneers of the microradio movement will be exposed even if Congress does decide to grant more LPFM licenses this fall. “We're not eligible for an LP license," said FRSC veteran DJ Vinny Lombardo AKA V- Man. “There's no amnesty for pirate radio broadcasters who have been previously warned by the FCC, even though they wouldn't have even realized their illegal status had we not if it weren't for the thousands of microbroad- casters that have been going on the air for years in this country.”

Around the time FRSC was founded ten years ago, dozens of pirate microradio stations were popping up on the airwaves from Miami to Seattle. Some were created to promote local, underground music scenes, others served as vehicles for radical (right and left wing) political agendas, but, due to advanced tracking equip- ment, the conservative Bush administration, and the threat of massive fines, most of these stations have gone off the air. In the spring of 2001, the FCC issued a license for 96.3 FM, the frequency that FRSC had been using for almost a decade, to a Christian rock radio chain. FRSC changed its frequency to 101.1 FM and moved their studio, but five days later, FCC agents appeared with a cease and desist order. They never stopped broadcasting,” said V-Man. “There’s no amnesty for pirate radio stations, no grace period. If you turn the FCC down, SFLR is trying to bring the issue of microradio stations, but the SFLR collective is pursuing the suit for reasons beyond retribution. Along with other Bay Area microradio stations, such as Free Radio Berkeley, which have chosen to publicly challenge the FCC instead of back- tricky on the public interest. The key is grassroots organizing, education, and constant pressure on the FCC and Congress. The primary duty of the FCC is supposedly to ensure that broadcasters who have been given monopolistic control of the public spectrum serve the needs and interests of their communi- ties of license. One major criticism of the FCC is that they have shirked this duty through lax enforcement of public service requirements, as recent investigations by Media Alliance and the SF Bay Guardian have shown. Instead, the FCC has focused its resources on fighting unlicensed broadcasters, such as San Francisco Liberation Radio. Although, patrolling the airwaves for...
SHHH! WE'RE TRYING TO WIN AN ELECTION

Kerry ignores anti-war contingent

By Ben Terrell

In his acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention festivities in Boston, John Kerry reassured the corporate establishment that he would restore sanity to the maintenance of empire. He said, “We need to make America once again a beacon in the world. We need to be looked up to and not just feared.” But Kerry’s “solution” is to increase the size of U.S. special forces in order to fight “terrorist campaigns.”

On the convention floor, over 95 percent of delegates opposed the Iraq war. But the rule was zero tolerance for peace activists: police dragged from the podium John Kady, director of Global Exchange) out in handcuffs for unfurling a banner reading “End the Occupation of Iraq” and guards repeatedly confiscated anti-war signs and scarves from delegates upon entry. From the stage, speakers nearly evaded the messy truths, with no mention of torture, Abu Ghraib, or Iraqi casualties. And the deafening silence as no John Kerry’s vocal membership in Vietnam Veterans Against the War sent a clear message, nicely spilled out by commentator Jonathan Schell: “Military courage in war is honored, civil courage in opposing a disastrous war is not honored.”

In Boston, several days before the start of the DNC, the group Veterans for Peace (VFP) held its national conference, where it committed to pressing Kerry on his pro-war stance. Attendees were united in their opposition to Bush’s rabid warmongering, but spanned a range of opinions on how much to oppose or support Kerry. National VFP president, David Cline, who received three purple hearts in Vietnam, explained, “we want to beat Bush and get our foot up Kerry’s ass.”

“It has been one continuous war, beginning with the first gulf war on through the pro-Kerry veterans’ caucus, and were actually asked to leave when one of them was asked of asking every speaker that left the podium why they supported Kerry’s total embrace of Ariel Sharon and the brutal Israeli policies in Palestine.”

Diane Rejman, from the Redwood City chapter, said that most veterans in Boston may have been for Kerry, “I haven’t talked to anybody in any circle that believes that if Kerry gets in, everything will be fine. If he gets in, that’s a start.” Rejman stressed the importance of a new organization called Iraq Veterans Against the War and pointed to a new VFP resolution titled, “To White House Occupant After Jan. 20, 2005,” which demands: “...that the next U.S. president announce, within ten days of taking office, that he will withdraw all US troops from Iraq within 60 days, and that if this ten-day period following the inauguration passes without a public announcement that he will immediately withdraw all troops from Iraq within 60 days, Veterans For Peace chapters around the nation will begin a wave of decentralized, but not limited, petitions calling for the impeachment of the president.”

It further states, “The United States’ presence in Iraq is causing, not preventing, destabilization and violence. Veterans for Peace is committed to ending this immoral, unjust empire of regime change regardless of who wins the 2004 U.S. presidential election.”

With both major candidates openly committed to perpetuating U.S. military aggression in Iraq and around the world, now is the time for people to press Kerry and make a persuasive statement for peace. See you in New York.

For more information: www.veteransforpeace.org • www.mfso.org • www.ivaw.net

BUSH BUYS MORE BOMBS

By Mitchell Anderson

Since the Cold War, US nuclear policy has supposedly been a balancing act between maintaining a reliable cache of nuclear weapons for deterrence objectives and staying within the defined borders set by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

But, judging from the aggressive shift in U.S. nuclear policy over the last several years, it appears that the Bush Administration cares not this delicate balancing act of nuclear policy. All in all, it is clear that the delicate balancing act of nuclear policy the tonnage of each bomb dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Perhaps the most frightening aspect of this weapons program is that the Bush Doctrine these weapons have been called “more useable”, and could very well be used as substitutes for conventional weapons.

Clearly, these developments are reason for worry in countries where they might be deployed. They also send a clear and dangerous message to the world: proliferation at all cost.

And even more, what a dangerously ironic message to be sending at a time when we are tussling about Iran over their alleged nuke program, and scouring the dry deserts of Iraq for traces of WMD’s. But despite all the facts, officials at the DOE and the Livermore Lab insist that there are no plans to push forward with these programs, saying that they are “in the paper work” phase. If so, it is very expensive paper work, costing U.S. taxpayers close to $500 million over the next five years.

In February, President Bush solicited $27.6 million for research and design of RNEP for 2005, and an astounding $485 million over the course of the next five years. Also, he requested $9 million for conceptual research on the ‘mini nuke’.

“What is happening here is that the Department of Energy understands the sensitivity regarding nuclear weapons research,” Stephen Schwartz told me. Schwartz is publisher of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, a magazine dedicated to educating citizens about the continuing dangers posed by nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. Schwartz said, “There are very clear plans to revive nuclear weapons programs and to begin testing. The DOE is just trying to deflect criticism.”

Despite DOE attempts at veiling the nuclear work being done at the Livermore and Los Alamos Labs, the proliferation risks that these new programs pose are apparent. “The DOE can try to mask these programs all they want. The proliferation risk is a matter of perception,” said Schwartz. “And the perception is that we are developing new nuclear weapons.”

And even worse, the work being done on the RNEP and the ‘mini nuke’ pales in comparison to the most recent proposal for the nation’s nuclear weapons labs. Buried in a beastly 2500 page environmental study by the DOE, the new proposal calls for the facilities to begin preparing for a return to full-scale nuclear testing and to begin the development of up to 500 plutonium pits (nuclear bomb triggers) per year at a yet-to-be-determined location.

The Bush Nuclear Posture Review quite significantly changes the United States nuclear strategy. It is no longer defensive nor strategic, as it was during the Cold War. Under George W. Bush, we are looking at, for the first time in history, a first strike nuclear policy.

All in all, it is clear that the delicate balancing act of nuclear policy during the 90’s has given a way to crackbrained inebriation. We mustn’t let these developments unfold before our eyes. The Bush Administration is working tirelessly to erase the moral and ethical barriers against the use of nuclear weapons. We acquiesce at the world’s peril.
The Dawn

August 2004

Arts and Action

The Clash Between Freedom and Control is Hacking the Real World and Crashing the System by Siva Vaidhyanathan (Basic Books)

Although Diogenes used to express his disregard for societal conventions by mas- king in the steadier place, Siva Vaidhyanathan’s characterization of the ancient Greek “universal citizen” as the archetypical proto-hacker is apt for less laissez-faire reasons. Following the movie industry’s massive and “victorious” legal battle to suppress a DVD decryption device, hacker John Arlen began wearing “I am a circumvention device” t-shirts embla- zoned with the eight lines of illicit PERL script. This “shooting bullets at a cloud of goats” example illustrates the heavy handed assault on a universal citizen ideal of corporate content control, but chapters dealing with human genome patenting and Congressional dissection of intellectual property copyrights are much less humorous. The corporate and govern- mental chilling of information distribution in the digital world of the 90s has, in the fields of science, medicine and aca- demic publishing, essentially killed the hypocrisy of the power elite, proud.

Liam O’Donoghue

WHY THE MC5 MOVIE KICKS THE ASS OF THE WEATHER UNDERGROUND DOCUMENTARY

The reality is that in the early-to-mid 1970s, radical underground bomb and guerrilla groups in the United States were actually fairly com- mon. Witness the map of North America pub- lished by Scanlon’s magazine in the mid- 1970s, depicting all of the bombings in the continental U.S.A. in the previous decade. The fact of the matter is that during this turbulent period, blowing up a military recruiting sta- tion, a bank, or a corporate office, was actually not that big a deal.

What the “Weather Underground” movie fails to illustrate as a political moment was a period, a time when thousands of people all across the country were prepared to engage in radical political activity, if not, to house and help those who were.

It is this observation which could be the most important statement of the “Weather Underground” film, but upon which it barely touches. Is it so hard to imagine a time when hippie houses harbored armed guerrillas, and health food stores provided refuge for on-the- lam-bombers? This was the good ol’ U.S. of A.

In contrast, this is the world which “The MC5: A True Testimonial” is about. The MC5: A True Testimonial is an excellent documentary to come out in the last few years. A band com- posed of five high school buddies from Detroit that formed in 1964, this became the radical music group of 1968, that amazing year of worldwide revolutionary movements that shook up the system to its core. When you listen to the MC5’s recordings, their white-boy-ass-shaking-throes-rock actually feels like being in a police riot. Okay, not exactly, but you know what I mean.

Produced by Chicago-based filmmaker, David C. Thomas, the film goes beyond the band’s story, including rare images and record- ings from the heyday of the 1960s’radical underground, a terrain that the MC5 was a vital part of. It was a fascinating and inspiring collision of explosive politics and free art, including John Sinclair and The Chicago Black Panthers, as well as avant-garde jazz groups like the Art Ensemble of Chicago.

Which brings me to the reason that it whops the proverbial ass of the “Weather Underground” film.

The Weather documentary is an excellent film in many respects. However, it fails in one important area. And that is in its ignorance of the political climate changes that it set out to illustrate. The film presents the Weathermen as acting in a virtual political vacuum, as if they were the only group making bombs or engaging in destructive/creative direct action. Leaving aside for the moment the question of whether or not such actions were/justified, Green’s film treats the Weather Underground as if they were a Vanguard Party above and ahead of the “Masons”, who in actuality were, as Guevara said, the oxygen which the revolutionary breathes.

By Domingo de Santa Clara

GROUNDED DESIGN

The DAWN

August 2004

THE ANARCHIST IN THE LIBRARY

BY DOMINGO DE SANTA CLARA

April 2004 Fault Lines

Be a part of making Fault Lines happen every month by volunteering as little or as much time as you have to offer on something that suits your availability and interests. We are a 100% volunteer operation and can help us cover the costs of each issue. Beyond subscriptions and donations, we need your help in the following areas:

Distribution: help us distribute Fault Lines in your own neighborhood or anywhere you want in Northern California. This is an easy chance to get involved right where you live!

Editorial: work with and find writers to develop features for Fault Lines each month.

Design: use Quark Xpress to lay out our newspaper and can teach you the program.

Advertising: help us cover the costs of each issue. Beyond subscriptions and donations, this is our primary source of revenue to publish Fault Lines every month.

Outreach: Serve as the diplomats for the Fault Lines/Real DMC collective. Maintain relationships with community groups. Set up benefits shown for Fault Lines.

To volunteer in our 666, please email info@faultlines.org or drop by at one of our open door meetings. We meet every Thursday at 7 pm (1st & 3rd Thursdays at 674 23rd Street in Oakland, Unit “M”, and 2nd, 4th & 5th Thursdays at the Bay Area IMC space at 2940 16th Street, Suite 216, in S.F.)

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Confronting Capitalism takes stock of what has shifted in “the globalization movement” in the four years since the Seattle WTO protests in 1999. In his introduction, Eddie Yuen (one of the volume’s editors) adeptly lays out not so much a linear history, but rather a constellation of concerns and tactics.

As contributions by George Katsiafas and others in Part I, “Roots of the Movement,” illustrate, “the recent upsurge against capitalist globalization has its origins not in Seattle but amongst the peoples of the Global South.” For while many of the trade organization meetings took place in the north, the tempest struck the south – Asia, Africa and Latin America – hardest.

Several essays examine how those affected by the IMF structural adjustment programs (SAPs) – UNAM students in Mexico, Brazilian farmers, and Argentinian piqueteros (SAPs) – UNAM students in Mexico, Brazilian farmers, and Argentinian piqueteros – actively fought against them. “By understanding these antecedents to Seattle,” Yuen argues, “the movement in the overdeveloped north, the tempest struck the south – Asia, Africa and Latin America – hardest.

In contrast to the previous sections, which focus on demonstrations, the final sections consider topics that shape the movement’s form. “We Are Everyone! NGOs, Social Forums, and Problems of Representations” presents articles on four issues that confound activists: 1. sectarianism; 2. nongovernmental organizations; 3. racial diversity; and 4. right wing anti-globalization groups. “Articulating Resistance,” contains discussions of how the movement should theorize itself.

The volume also includes articles by Noam Chomsky, Barbara Ehrenreich, Naomi Klein, Arundhati Roy, as well as a map and chronology of global resistance, artwork, photographs, and a glossary by Iain Boal.

Confronting Capitalism, edited by Eddie Yuen and Daniel Burton-Rose and George Katsiafas (Soft Skull Press)

CRYPTO
compiled by Iain Boal


ANSWERS TO LAST MONTHS CRYPTO:


CRYPTO
compiled by Iain Boal


CRYPTO
compiled by Iain Boal


Aug. 12-15: Actions Against HLS Animal Abuse
Join animal rights activists for a weekend of action to shut down Huntington's Life Sciences. Events will include a financial district protest and bringing the message to the homes of some of the people responsible for the animal abuse inside HLS; www.ardac.org.

Aug. 14, 10am: Land Art Workshop
Build "living" sculptures out of bio waste. Fort Funston, SF; jchaplick@parksconservancy.org

Aug. 14, 10am: Restore Rhododendron Island
Volunteers needed at Golden Gate Park site; www.onebrick.org/eventdetails.asp?EventID=608

Aug. 15: Harrison Street Fair
The World’s First Bear Street Fair. In a city famous for it's unique characters, unique streets and unique streetfairs, Harrison Street Party will be no exception. Harrison St between 9th & 10th, SF; www.hairrison.org

Aug. 15: Mushroom Garden Workday
Learn how to grow and harvest mushrooms. Presidio Community Gardens; 415-863-7618

Aug. 15, 7:30pm: "This Is What Free Trade Looks Like"
Shot in Cancún, México on the occasion of the 5th WTO ministerial in September 2003, this film contextualizes the growing international resistance to free trade policies. All the film's music in the film is from the streets of Cancún; national resistance to free trade policies. All the money from the screening will go to the National Committee for a Democratic Constitution.

Sponsored by the original Black August Organizing Committee. A week of events culminating in Convergence Day, August 22, featuring speakers Dr. Oba T’Shaka, Shaka At-Thonia, Chairman Fred Hampton Jr. and more, plus musical performance by Dead Prez and various Bay Area artists. EOYDC, 8200 International Blvd, Oakland. 510-658-7079.

Aug. 17, 8pm: "The Perfect State!"
Bay Area author Marcia Millman discusses her interviews with sisters about the dynamics of their relationships. A Clean Well-Lighted Place for books, 603 Van Ness Ave., SF

Aug. 18, 7pm: "The Gender Frontier"
Author Mariette Pathy Allen appears at A Different Light bookstore, 489 Castro St, SF; (415) 431-0891

Aug. 18, 7:30pm: "An Evening with Arundhati Roy and Friends"
Boots Riley of The Coup, Amy Goodman and David Baranszak. $21. 7:30pm. Berkeley Community Theatre, 1930 Allston Way at Milvia, 2 blocks from Downtown Berkeley BART, Berkeley. 415-392-4400. cityschool-fest.com

Aug. 19, 7pm: Media Monopoly
Educate yourself about what is happening on the media justice and press freedom front and learn about the growing movement of media activists working for meaningful change. Join Jeff Perlstein, executive director of Media Alliance and co-founder of Indymedia.org, and others to discuss grassroots strategies and local efforts used in the FCC media ownership fight and in negotiations with Comcast; $10/Film Arts Founders and Media Alliance members, $15/others. 149 Ninth St; (415) 552-8760

Aug. 19, 7pm: Who Owns Water?
Fortune magazine has predicted that “water is the oil of the 21 century,” and now corporations are rushing to invest in the new get-rich economy of water. Visit the Ecology Center for a discussion with Juliette Beck and John Gibler of Public Citizen’s Citizen’s Water for All Campaign, dedicated to protecting water as a common resource, stopping water privatization and bulk water sales, and defending access to clean and affordable water around the world. FREE. 7-9pm. Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo Ave, near Dwight Way, Berkeley. 510-548-2230.

Aug. 21, 10am: Reclaim the Parks
The homeless in Modesto are still being harassed and driven out of some of the only parks left where they can gather. A day of direct action, and community strength! Tower Park, 27th and G St.

Aug. 21-22: Criminal Injustice Film Festival
Every prisoner is a political prisoner. The festival celebrates the lives and champions the struggles of prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families and communities. Donations accepted at the door, no admittance fee. Saturday 11:30am-9:30pm. Sunday 11am-5:30pm. New College, 766 Valencia, SF. 415-314-0867.

Aug. 28, 10am: Raza Against War
Fresno marches against occupation and injustice. Wishan and Olive Sts, Fresno; (559) 908-6701

Aug. 29-30: United Farm Workers’ 17th Constitutional Convention
Forty-two years ago Cesar Chavez was joined by a group of farm workers and supporters in Fresno for the first constitutional convention of the National Farm Workers Association. Hundreds of farm workers will gather as UFW members set the future course for their union at Fresno Convention Center; www.ufw.org

Aug. 28: The World Says No to Bush
WorldWide Day of Action; protests in NYC during Repub Nat’l Conv. continue thru Sep. 2; coverage at nyc.indymedia.org

Aug. 31, 6pm: Last Journey for the Leatherback
A documentary on the leatherback sea turtle, which could vanish in the next decade; 415-488-0370

Sep. 1, 2pm: Court Hearing for Arrested Protesters
Support those arrested during June 8th Reclaim the Commons actions; $5 Bryant St, Dept. 22; DA’s office (415) 553-9530

Sep. 4-5, 10am: SF Zine Fest
Small press publishers and workshops. CELLspace, 2050 Bryant St, www.zinemakerecon.org

Sep. 11, 11am: Power to the Peaceful concert
Global Day of Solidarity featuring Michael Franti and Spearhead, Golden Gate Park, SF; (415) 865-2170

Sep. 11: Legal Advice and Referral Clinic
If you have problems that may require an attorney, call 415-865-2170 before 2pm to receive a free private consultation before 2pm. Main Library, Lower Level, Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room, 100 Larkin St., SF, 415-999-1616.

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Every prisoner is a political prisoner. The festival celebrates the lives and champions the struggles of prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families and communities. Donations accepted at the door, no admittance fee. Saturday 11:30am-9:30pm. Sunday 11am-5:30pm. New College, 766 Valencia, SF. 415-314-0867.

Aug. 28, 10am: Raza Against War
Fresno marches against occupation and injustice. Wishan and Olive Sts, Fresno; (559) 908-6701

Aug. 29-30: United Farm Workers’ 17th Constitutional Convention
Forty-two years ago Cesar Chavez was joined by a group of farm workers and supporters in Fresno for the first constitutional convention of the National Farm Workers Association. Hundreds of farm workers will gather as UFW members set the future course for their union at Fresno Convention Center; www.ufw.org

Aug. 28: The World Says No to Bush
WorldWide Day of Action; protests in NYC during Repub Nat’l Conv. continue thru Sep. 2; coverage at nyc.indymedia.org

Aug. 31, 6pm: Last Journey for the Leatherback
A documentary on the leatherback sea turtle, which could vanish in the next decade; 415-488-0370

Sep. 1, 2pm: Court Hearing for Arrested Protesters
Support those arrested during June 8th Reclaim the Commons actions; $5 Bryant St, Dept. 22; DA’s office (415) 553-9530

Sep. 4-5, 10am: SF Zine Fest
Small press publishers and workshops. CELLspace, 2050 Bryant St, www.zinemakerecon.org

Sep. 11, 11am: Power to the Peaceful concert
Global Day of Solidarity featuring Michael Franti and Spearhead, Golden Gate Park, SF; (415) 865-2170

Sep. 11: Legal Advice and Referral Clinic
If you have problems that may require an attorney, call 415-865-2170 before 2pm to receive a free private consultation before 2pm. Main Library, Lower Level, Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room, 100 Larkin St., SF, 415-999-1616.