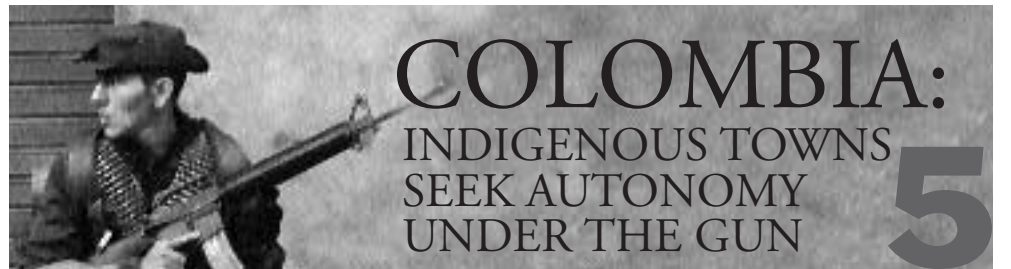


CRITICAL MASS
A ROLLING REVOLUTION 6



COLOMBIA:
INDIGENOUS TOWNS
SEEK AUTONOMY
UNDER THE GUN 5

THE INDYPENDENT

THE NEW YORK CITY INDEPENDENT MEDIA CENTER

ISSUE #39 OCTOBER 15-24, 2011

WWW.NYC.INDYMEDIA.ORG



FREEDOM RIDING

A NEW MOVEMENT FOR
IMMIGRANT RIGHTS IS BORN

p8

FROM THE USA TO CAMBODIA CLINTON-ERA LAW SENDS 'EM PACKING

A WORLD TORN APART

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia – Kloeung Aun says when he returned to Cambodia after a 27-year absence in June 2002 he arrived “with nothing – one set of clothes, whatever money I had in my account, no luggage, nothing.” Having left at age seven as a refugee, Aun has no family in Cambodia. The 34-year-old from Texas was forced to leave them behind in the United States as one of the first Cambodian-American returned under an agreement enforcing a 1996 U.S. law that mandates deportation for aliens convicted of a felony.

BY MICHELLE GILKES

The deportation came as a shock. If I had known about my deportation I could have prepared my family, saved money. But they did not prepare me. As a refugee I had more belongings going to America than when I returned to Cambodia.”

When Aun arrived with the first group of six deportees in June 2002, immigration officials had no idea what to do with the group. The six were detained for varying amounts of time and then released to make their way in what was essentially a foreign country to them.

Aun feels it has been easier for him to adjust than other returnees because he retains memories of Cambodia, even if they are of working in rice fields as a child under the Khmer Rouge.

Bill Herod, founder of the Returnee Assistance Project (RAP) in Phnom Penh, says the deportees are often unable to navigate their new homeland. “The INS does not prepare detainees for the country of destination. Basic information, like not drinking tap water, the exchange rate or current political climate, is a mystery to most returnees.”

Aun eventually received help from RAP, which helped him find a job at a restaurant where his English was an asset. RAP offered Aun and the others orientation to the new culture, housing and employment assistance, lessons in Khmer literacy, psychological and substance abuse counseling, medical assistance, communication to families left behind, and most important, a safe place for returnees to ease the stress of being severed from family and familiarity. Now Aun is a RAP program officer, soon to be assisting other returnees.

The 1996 immigration law mandating deportations was never enforced on Cambodian-Americans because the two countries lacked an extradition agreement. The Bush administration reportedly threatened to deny visas to Cambodians entering the United States and impede World Bank and IMF assistance unless a deal was reached. An agreement was finalized in March 2002. The trickle of 67 deportees who have been sent back since then will become a flood over the next decade as 1,400 other Cambodian-Americans are expected to be deported. The 1996 law works retroactively, so even those who completed prison terms decades ago are still subject to deportation.

Aun says, “I feel dumped by the U.S. government but I cannot blame them because I put myself in the situation. But I wish they had given our community a chance. As refugees they could have told us of our rights or lack of rights. One conviction of a felony and boom – you’re out.”

Herod is frustrated with the law as well: “I really react to the suggestion that these returnees are criminals. These are individuals who have had some incident of criminal activity somewhere in their background. Some got into trouble in their late teens and now they are being penalized for life for a single mistake they made at 17 or 18.”

For many Americans, returning immigrants to their home countries may seem like a reasonable response to crimes committed by those who do not have full citizenship status. But Nil Samorn, Director of Social Services at RAP, says Cambodian deportees have exceptional circumstances.

Samorn explains that many immigrants from other countries entered the United States illegally as adults to work, and have families in their countries of origin and familiarity with the culture they rejoin when deported. Cambodians, on the other hand,

“were political refugees who became legal residents, invited to the U.S. when very young. They have their families, wives, children, childhood friends, not to mention childhood backgrounds, in the States.”

Hawaii, a returnee nicknamed after his home state, embodies this situation: “Having an American wife and three kids, growing up in the States and knowing nothing else... I thought I was a citizen, period. My grandmother told me that after living in the country for seven years and marrying an American one automatically has citizenship. I never knew I had to fill out papers and all that. I had to tell my wife to go on with her life because she would never see me again.”

In addition to the shock of being torn from their families and the culture they know, returnees have had to contend with discrimination in Cambodia. Some employers are skeptical of giving returnees work, and there are families who are afraid to allow them to court their daughters. RAP tries to intercede with potential employers by explaining that the returnees have completed their sentence in the States and were functioning in society before being deported.

RAP has also taken on the role of advocate for returnees who suffer from mental health problems such as manic depression. Herod recounts a story of one such returnee whose family had chained him to a chair because he was out of control. No one was

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WHAT IS INDYMEDIA?

With autonomous chapters in more than 100 cities throughout the world, the Independent Media Center is an international network of volunteer media activists.

The IMC seeks to create a new media ethic by providing progressive, in-depth and accurate coverage of issues. We are a community-based organization using media to facilitate political and cultural self-representation. We seek to illuminate and analyze issues impacting individuals, communities and ecosystems by providing media tools and space to those seeking to communicate. We espouse open dialogue and placing the means of communication and creativity back in the hands of the people, away from the drive of profit.

The Independent is funded by benefits, subscriptions, donations, grants and ads from organizations and individuals with similar missions.

WHAT CAN I DO TO GET INVOLVED?

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

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

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PEACE BEGINS WITH



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THE INDEPENDENT

has open meetings every Tuesday, 7 pm at 34 E. 29 St., 2nd floor.

To submit events for the calendar, call (212) 684-8112

FRIDAY, OCT 17

1 pm - Every Friday & Sunday
Food Not Bombs - Prepare and serve vegan food to the homeless in Tompkins Square Park.
ABC No Rio, 156 Rivington St. (btwn Clinton & Suffolk)

4 - 7 pm • \$65/\$25 one day
Thru October 19th
Bioneers East

For more than a decade bringing together activists and thinkers from a wide range of fields, from green biology to independent media.
CUNY Graduate Center
365 5th Avenue (at 34 St.)
web.gc.cuny.edu/cepp

6 pm
DUMBO Art Under the Bridge

Opening night kick-off, open studios, gallery exhibitions, installations, live music, and more. Continues thru Oct. 19.
www.dumboartscenter.org

6:30 pm
Vigil - Park Slope Safe Homes Project Domestic Violence Remembrance

10th Annual Remembrance Vigil in honor of those persons who have died as a result of domestic violence

during the past year in Brooklyn.
P.S. 321, 180 7th Avenue
Contact: Cynthia Dansby, (718) 788-6947

SATURDAY, OCT 18

10 am - 4 pm
Brooklyn Peace Fair
Workshops and activities to learn about peace in a fun way. For adults and children of all ages.
Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture
53 Prospect Park
(718) 624-5921

10 am
Training - Mount Sinai's Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Program (SAVI)

is seeking compassionate women and men needed to support survivors of rape and domestic violence. A 40 hour training program.
Contact: Lauren Moran, (212) 423-2140

6 pm - \$5 suggested
Beyond the Headlines in Iraq and Into the Human Side of War - Panel Disc.

Speakers include Rev. Pat Ackerman, Rev. John A. Buehrens, Lee Gough, and G. Simon Harak.
Unitarian Church of All Souls
1157 Lexington Avenue (80 St.)
Contact: Hanan Watson, hswatson@nyc.rr.com

SUNDAY, OCT 19

11 am
Spirituality & Activism
Starhawk, veteran activist and writer, hosts Spirituality and Activism worship service and discussion.
Community Church of NY
40 East 35th Street

1 - 2 pm • free
Public Forum: Economics of Empire, Staten Island & NYC
Unitarian Church of Staten Is.
312 Fillmore Street
(718) 447-2204

1 - 5:30 pm - \$10
Radical Walking Tour of Harlem
Bruce Kayton leads the group through an informative tour of Harlem that includes Malcolm X, Marcus Garvey, Langston Hughes, and more. Meet in front of Starbucks, Lenox Avenue & 125th St.
www.he.net/~radtours

4 pm
Books Through Bars
An all-volunteer project which provides historical and political literature to inmates.
ABC No Rio, Zine Library
156 Rivington Street (btwn Clinton & Suffolk)
btb@abcno.rio.org

TUESDAY, OCT 21

8 pm • \$10
"I'm Gonna Kill the President," a play by Heironymous Bang

A MARCH TO END THE OCCUPATION OF IRAQ

A broad coalition of anti-war activists are calling on all those who oppose the invasion and occupation of Iraq to unite on **Saturday, October 25 in Washington, D.C.** unitedforpeace.org

Shows Oct 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 31, November 1, 2. All shows 8 pm. Additional show, Sunday at 2 pm. Undisclosed location. Meet at the corner of Jay and Water Streets, DUMBO at last hour before scheduled performance. 718-625-3790

7 pm - \$5
Homotext: New Lesbian and Gay Literature curated by Pamela S. Booker
172 Allen Street (btwn Stanton & Rivington)
(212) 777-6028
www.bluestockings.org

WEDNESDAY, OCT 22

National Day of Protest to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation
4 pm
Rally at City Hall
5:30 pm
March begins.
6 pm
Rally at Union Square
Families and friends of

Panelists Hector Figueroa, Bill Granfield, Margie McHugh, Kate Pfordresher & others.
Brecht Forum
122 West 27th Street
brechtforum.org

FRIDAY, OCT 24

National Take Back

Your Time Day

Join thousands of Americans in saying NO to the overwork, over-scheduling and overstress that threaten to overwhelm our lives. Take the day or part of it off work, relax and contemplate the work/life balance and how to reclaim it.
timeday.org

4 - 7 pm
Patriot Act Un-Birthday Bash

An evening of workshops and artistic performances against the Patriot Act
Judson Memorial Church
241 Thompson Street
ygonzalez@nyclu.org

6:30 - 9 pm
Ashanti Alston Speaking on Black Anarchism

Presented by the Institute for Anarchist Studies
Hunter College, 695 Park Avenue, Room 714 West
anarchist-studies.org

MONDAY, OCT 27

7 - 9 pm - \$15 materials fee
African Fabric Printing Workshop

Artist Filomena Nojamba Cornelio will teach the art of West African fabric printing canvas handbags using carved linoleum plates, and the history and traditions of fabric printing in various African cultures.
Melville Gallery, 213 Water St
(212) 748-8735

WEDNESDAY, OCT 29

7:30 pm - \$6/\$8/\$10
Waste Management and Environmental Racism in the Bronx: Film & Discussion

Screening of Heather Roger's short film, *Gone Tomorrow, the Hidden Life of Garbage* and panel discussion with activists involved in a campaign against Waste Management Inc.
Brecht Forum
122 West 27th Street
brechtforum.org

THURSDAY, OCT 30

7 pm
The Revolution Will Not Be Televised: Movie Night at the IMC

Amazing documentary footage of the attempted coup in Venezuela & general situation.

FRIDAY, OCT 31

7 pm • free
Special Halloween Critical Mass Ride
Gathers at Union Square.

7 pm • free
Village Halloween Parade
Sixth Avenue from Spring to 22nd Streets

HARLEM FUMES OVER BUS DEPOT

BY ISRAEL TORRES PENCHI



I MOCKED THE LAW AND THE LAW WON: Police look on impassively as street demonstrator sarcastically reminds populace of the truth.

OVER 2,000 POLICE KILLINGS IN THE U.S. IN PAST DECADE COPS ARE OUT OF CONTROL

BY A.K. GUPTA

Police abuse remains one of the most serious and divisive human rights violations in the United States," wrote Human Rights Watch in a 1998 report entitled "Shielded from Justice: Police Brutality and Accountability in the United States."

"A few bad apples" is the official refrain every time police misconduct emerges. Yet every few years a big-city scandal seems to erupt involving dozens of cops, a whole division or an elite unit. In New York City it was the killing of Amadou Diallo that exposed the thuggish tactics of the Street Crimes Unit. The New Orleans police department became known as the most corrupt department nation in the 1990s. The Chicago department has been accused of engaging in systematic torture of suspects for decades.

Even the FBI was caught in a 1997 scandal when its crime lab was said to have doctored evidence in hundreds if not thousands of cases. And most, recently, the Houston department has been embroiled in a similar flap over its crime lab involving contaminated evidence and sloppy science, prompting the local district attorney to review DNA evidence in more than 1,300 cases dating back to 1988.

Human Rights Watch examined 14 of the biggest cities around the nation. It concluded "police brutality is persistent in all of these cities; that systems to deal with abuse have had similar failings in all the cities; and that, in each city examined, complainants face enormous barriers in seeking administrative punishment or criminal prosecution of officers who have committed human rights violations." As for efforts to clean house, the report said: "meaningful reforms have fallen short."

Police abuse experts also emphasize that the public scandals are just that: public. Given official complicity, the "Blue Wall" of silence, laws shielding cops from prosecution and even investigation, no one knows how deep the problem goes. One thing is known, that cops killed more than 2,000 people during the 1990s (the evi-

dence has been compiled by the Stolen Lives Project at stolenlives.org.), and they are commemorated every Oct. 22 on a day of remembrance and action against police brutality.

Atlanta: This department's poor handling of civilian complaints came to light after a shoot-out during a reported robbery in a motorcycle shop in December 1995 that left a customer dead. It eventually was revealed that police deliberately ignored numerous witnesses who saw Officer Wayne Pinckney shooting customer Jerry Jackson "as he lay prone and unarmed on the sidewalk outside the store."

Human Rights Watch observes that among many in Atlanta "there is a perception that the internal affairs unit is not interested in pursuing complaints against police officers," and as a result many victims of police abuse "do not file formal complaints."

Chicago: Amnesty International released a report in 1990 on the use of torture by Chicago's police department. One case involved Andrew Wilson, who was accused, and later found guilty, of shooting and killing two officers on Feb. 9, 1982. Wilson was questioned on Feb. 14 at the South Side Area 2 station. According to Human Rights Watch, "he claimed that officers supervised by Commander Jon Burge tortured and brutalized him during an interrogation that lasted for seventeen hours. He claimed electric shocks were administered to his head and genitals and that police cranked a 'black box' to produce electric currents after clips were attached to parts of his body."

A subsequent investigation by The People's Law Office "identified sixty-five suspects who were tortured by Burge or other officers and detectives between 1972 and 1991 in Areas 2 and 3."

An internal police investigation concluded that physical abuse was "systematic" and "included planned torture." As for higher-ups: "Particular command members were aware of the systematic abuse and perpetuated it either by actively participating in same or failing to take any action to bring it to an end."

New Orleans: From 1993 to 1996 at least 50 cops in the Big Easy were arrested for felonies ranging from murder to rape and robbery. In 1997 the department instituted controversial "quality of life" tactics popularized by the Giuliani administration. The New Orleans department's own statistics found a 27 percent rise in civilian complaints of aggressive policing from the previous year.

New York City: Formed in 1992 after a series of scandals, the Mollen Commission hearings featured former officer Bernard "The Mechanic" Cawley. He told the Commission: "We'd just beat people in general... to show who was in charge," and admitted to some 400 beatings himself involving the use of lead-lined gloves, a flashlight and nightstick. The Mollen Commission was preceded by two other inquiries that uncovered systematic abuse and corruption in the NYPD, the Knapp Commission in 1972 and the Curran Commission in 1987. Mollen revealed widespread police perjury, resulting in more than 100 overturned convictions. In the past year, the NYPD has once again come under scrutiny for a series of botched "no-knock" raids where cops have stormed into the wrong apartments, leading to the deaths of at least two innocent New Yorkers.

Los Angeles: The Ramparts scandal exploded into the open in March 1998 when LAPD Officer Rafael Perez fell under suspicion for stealing six pounds of cocaine from the division's evidence room. After a failed prosecution, Perez cut a deal with prosecutors and began to sing. He declared, according to PBS' Frontline, "that bogus arrests, perjured testimony and the planting of 'drop guns' on unarmed civilians were commonplace," and eventually implicated about 70 officers in misconduct, including unlawful shootings. As a result, nearly 100 convictions were overturned and 140 civil suits filed that the city estimated would cost \$125 million to settle. In addition, Los Angeles signed a consent decree in November 2000 that calls for a federal judge to monitor and oversee reforms in the department for five years.

On Sep. 7, a bus depot was inaugurated on 100th St. and Lexington Avenue in El Barrio. It will house 115 diesel buses. Its exhaust fans spew out diesel gas and very powerful lights illuminate the sky all night. Recent studies indicate that children living in the neighborhood suffer from the highest levels of asthma in New York City. The pollutants that the buses emit are also linked with cancer.

The irony is that while officials were opening the depot in a community of many low-income residents, a similar one on Hudson Street in the West Village was being closed to build a park.

A lawsuit recently filed by West Harlem Environmental Action alleges that MTA practices discriminatory politics in constructing their bus depots and stations north of 96th Street, in neighborhoods where mostly African-Americans and Hispanics reside. The numbers are startling: of the eight depots in Manhattan, seven are located north of 96th Street.

Here are some other recent examples of environmental racism in El Barrio and the South Bronx:

*The Department of Sanitation plans to divide Manhattan in two halves and rearrange the garbage disposal system. All of the garbage from the East Side, from 14th Street to 148th Street, will be taken to a transfer and compacting station on 91st Street, where it will be loaded onto barges and transported to other destinations. "Why don't they divide Manhattan into four zones, and each area be responsible for a part of the garbage? Why do they have to bring the garbage from 14th Street all the way uptown?" Asks Jimmy Vázquez, a legislative aide to Senator Olga Méndez.

*In the South Bronx, Waste Management Inc. has requested a permit to add 1,000 to 3,000 tons of garbage to the load sent to the Harlem River Rail Yards on 132nd Street and St. Ann Avenue. It is safe to say that more garbage for this location means more vehicle traffic and a deterioration of air quality.

*The New York Power Authority constructed 11 power plants, all of them in communities of color, in 2000. Four of the plants are in the Harlem River Rail Yards and Hell's Gate in the South Bronx, adding another source of pollution in poor communities. These plants were to be temporarily operational during summer months in the period of high energy consumption. But the Authority is seeking a permit for five additional years that would permit them to exceed the current limitations on pollution.

Meanwhile, one department's effort to reduce pollution levels was cancelled out by the practices of other departments. For example, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection has a program to combat restaurants throwing fat into the sewage system. Sewage treatment plants aren't prepared to treat such fat, and restaurants must install grease "traps."

However, on 99th Street in El Barrio, garbage trucks are washed and all the fat goes into the sewage system and eventually into the East River, a river in which the Department of Environmental Protection has invested around \$70 million to improve water quality.

A version of this story originally appeared in Siempre.

WHAT'S HOLDING UP A MALARIA VACCINE?

BY ALEC HIGGINS

MILITARY BRASS PLANTS BOGUS "LETTERS HOME"

As if things couldn't get worse for the military high command, reporters found that letters from soldiers describing their successes rebuilding Iraq appearing in small-town newspapers across the country were identical, despite the signatures of different GIs. It turns out that their commanding officer had written the letters, "suggesting" they send them home to help boost morale.

The five-paragraph letter talks about the soldiers' efforts to re-establish police and fire departments, and build water and sewer plants in the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk, where the unit is based.

"The quality of life and security for the citizens has been largely restored, and we are a large part of why that has happened," the letter reads. It describes people waving at passing troops and children running up to shake their hands and say thank you.

Despite the fact that the form letters were discovered, the military has not disciplined the officers involved or taken responsibility for misinforming civilians.

A USA Today-CNN-Gallup Poll released Sept. 23 found 50 percent believe that the situation in Iraq was worth going to war over, down from 73 percent in April.

NY WORKERS WIN FIRST AMENDMENT SUIT IN ALBANY

Nearly one year after injured workers and September 11 victims led a march to the Governor's Mansion in Albany and were brutalized and arrested by the police, workers' rights groups have won a settlement of a First Amendment lawsuit against the City and Police of Albany. The lawsuit challenged the constitutionality of Albany's Parade and Assembly Ordinance and the discriminatory way in which the ordinance was administered by City Hall in issuing permits to conduct events such as marches.

Gov. Pataki denied injured workers and September 11 victims the right to protest in the streets and speak out against his health policies last Oct. 15, just before the gubernatorial elections, despite the fact they had a permit to march. As a result of the settlement, Albany has accepted a revision of its parade regulations and policies.

NUKE FOGGY BOTTOM FOR JESUS

Conservative televangelist and former Republican presidential hopeful Pat Robertson wants to do away with the State Department, literally. During a recent broadcast of The 700 Club, Robertson said that after finishing reading a book by State Department critic Joel Mowbray, he had thought to himself: "If I could just get a nuclear device inside Foggy Bottom, I think that's the answer." Foggy Bottom is a nickname for the State Department.

"I mean, you get through this, and you say, 'We've got to blow that thing up,'" Robertson said.

Robertson caused a similar stir this summer when he asked supporters to pray for the deaths of three Supreme Court justices.

FORMER MISS AMERICA PUNKS BICYCLIST WITH SUV

Former Miss America Heather Henry fatally struck a bicyclist October 11 in Louisville, KY. Henry, wife of Kentucky Lt. Gov. Steve Henry, was making a left turn into the sun with her Lincoln Navigator when she hit Karola Stede, 44, of Germany. Stede was not wearing a helmet at the time of the accident and died of multiple injuries hours later. Henry will not face criminal charges, police say.

impoverished continent \$12 billion each year.

The problem is huge, but so distant and contained that the media has no trouble ignoring it. Nor does our government, though this was not always the case. When 100,000 American troops caught the disease in Vietnam, the United States spent freely on malaria research. When the forces were withdrawn, so was the funding.

Malaria could be eradicated once and for all within five years, according to Professor Adrian Hill of Oxford University. The key is the development of a vaccine, and GlaxoSmithKline has already tested a prototype on people in Gambia and Mozambique.

The science is tricky, but the greatest difficulties facing vaccine developers are logistical and economic. One problem, according to the Malaria Vaccine Initiative, is that a vaccine will require a multitude of antigens – the basic ingredient of any vaccine – many of which are being independently developed and patented. The Vaccine Initiative surmounts this problem by creating partnerships that link important scientific and industrial players with a common goal.

Although an effective vaccine is tantalizingly close, says Dr. N. Regina Rabinovich

of the initiative, financial difficulties are delaying – possibly preventing – its arrival.




Because a malaria vaccine would be used largely by poor people in developing countries, market forces alone cannot drive research to completion. The MVI was set up with a \$50 million grant from Bill Gates' Foundation. However, global funding for a malaria vaccine is a fraction of what is required, and federal contributions add up to under \$60 million: the average price of developing a vaccine is around \$400 million.

Spending must be increased to complete development of the vaccine.

A coalition of advocates working on prevention of malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS have proposed several shared legislative priorities. The measures suggested include giving the vaccine a guaranteed market by arranging pre-commitments to purchase in the international community, and expanding tax breaks for companies involved in its research and production.

But central to any proposal is increased public awareness. Legislation and funding to aid malaria research will never be forthcoming if the public does not take up the issue and put pressure on the government to do the same.

Examples of how diverse environmental changes affect the occurrence of various infectious diseases in humans

ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES	EXAMPLE DISEASES	PATHWAY OF EFFECT
Dams, canals, irrigation 	Schistosomiasis _____ Malaria _____ Helminthiasis _____ River blindness _____	[+] Snail host habitat, human contact [+] Breeding sites for mosquitoes [+] Larval contact due to moist soil [-] Blackfly breeding, disease
Agricultural intensification	Malaria _____ Venezuelan haemorrhagic fever _____	Crop insecticides and [+]vector resistance [+] rodent abundance, contact
Urbanization, urban crowding	Cholera _____ Dengue _____ Cutaneous leishmaniasis _____	[-]sanitation, hygiene; [+] water contamination Water-collecting trash, [+] <i>Aedes aegypti</i> mosquito breeding sites [+] proximity, sandfly vectors
Deforestation and new habitation 	Malaria _____ Oropouche _____ Visceral leishmaniasis _____	[+] Breeding sites and vectors, immigration of susceptible people  [+] contact, breeding of vectors [+] contact with sandfly vectors
Reforestation	Lyme disease _____	[+] tick hosts, outdoor exposure
Ocean warming	Red tide _____	[+] Toxic algal blooms
Elevated precipitation	Rift valley fever _____ Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome _____	[+] Pools for mosquito breeding [+] Rodent food, habitat, abundance

THE LAW TAKES ON WARMING

BY MIKE WU

In July 2003 the World Meteorological Organization stated that increased incidences of extreme weather events are consistent with the onset of global warming – and such events will increase in the future.

This statement is significant in that it ties recent extreme weather phenomena directly to global warming, and that it comes from a neutral and highly respected United Nations authority normally associated with dry statistical reports.

Citing such events as Switzerland's hottest June in at least 250 years, the United States' record 562 tornadoes in May, which caused 41 deaths, and Sri Lanka's Tropical Cyclone 01B which killed at least 300 people, the WMO said:

"New record extreme events occur every year somewhere in the globe, but in recent years the number of such extremes have been increasing."

Since the report, France has endured record-breaking heat that has killed thousands, and scientists addressing a climate

change conference in Moscow said that global warming kills about 160,000 people a year, with children in developing countries being the most vulnerable.

Still the United States, the largest emitter of greenhouse gases, continues to do nothing to stem its emissions. In late August, when most of the media wasn't looking, President Bush made dramatic rule changes through administrative rulings that kept the laws in place, but undermined the regulations and agencies relating to them.

The decisions included the dramatic easing of rules requiring coal-fired power plants to install new pollution controls when they make big upgrades, and reversing a Clinton administration legal opinion that carbon dioxide is a pollutant and therefore can be regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency.

In response to the change in the carbon dioxide classification, California and nine other states, as well as the Sierra Club and the National Resources Defense Council, are expected to sue the EPA. This case may resolve whether greenhouse gases will be classified as air pollutants, and it may also

help to stave off challenges to California's plan to regulate automotive emissions of greenhouse gases. Several states have already filed suits challenging the loosening of regulations over power plants.

Using the courts to combat global warming is a growing trend. One avenue is being pursued by the newly formed Climate Justice Programme, an alliance of 70 environmental organizations, lawyers, academics and individuals in 29 countries. Its aim is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through laws that are already in place. For instance, it is illegal under domestic law in many countries for polluters to cause nuisances to the public and to market defective products. Also, international and domestic laws prohibit human rights violations.

The argument goes that companies which produce greenhouse emissions are liable for their effects. It is a radical idea that has parallels to the litigation against tobacco and asbestos. It also does an end run around do-nothing politicians to enact change.

See www.climatelaw.org



MEN WITH GUNS: Government soldier on patrol. Colombia's civil war has divided society for decades, suffocating the roots of popular sovereignty. PHOTO: Maria Anguera de Sojo

'WE ARE BUILDING A NEW POLITICAL PROCESS' AUTONOMY IN ACTION

BY BILL WEINBERG

TORIBIO, Colombia—"We have come to stay," said a colonel in the Special Anti-Guerrilla Forces. "In the name of President Alvaro Uribe, we have come to bring peace to this village!"

At precisely that moment a loud popping noise rang out on the streets of Toribio, high in the Cordillera Central of Colombia's conflicted southern department of Cauca. The police raised their rifles and scrambled toward the popping sounds.

It suddenly dawned on me that they were under fire from guerrillas. I slammed the door shut and dove under the bed, giggling hysterically to relieve the tension. The rhythm of gunfire quickened; so did my nervous giggling.

The popping was coming from both sides of the house now. Don Tomas Poto, a member of the local Nasa Indian community, continued to smile serenely.

"It's too bad we don't have the right herbs," he told me under the bed. "You take some coca leaf, some hierba alegre and some aguardiente. You drink a little and bathe with the rest, and you can escape any enemy."

Yes, too bad we don't have any, I agreed.

Earlier in the day, as the troops established themselves in the village square, Luis Evelio Ipia, one of the leaders of Project Nasa, the local indigenous-based development initiative, sat down with me. "The Nasa people have always resisted," said Luis. "And we are still resisting today."

At 200,000, the Nasa, who live around Toribio, are one of Colombia's largest indigenous groups. Toribio municipality includes three Nasa reservations, or "resguardos." The *resguardos* are made up of communally held land, with official indigenous jurisdiction under the 1991 constitutional reform. Each *resguardos* includes several "veredas," or unincorporated hamlets, each with its own traditional indigenous leaders known as *cabildos*.

The *resguardos* are protected under the constitution, but that doesn't mean much in a village under military occupation.

The indigenous people of southern Colombia have been struggling for autonomy since the 17th Century. Numerous wars and revolutions have followed.

In 1986, in response to a national reform limiting power of governors to impose municipal candidates, the *Movimiento Civico* emerged, fronting candidates who were not part of the official parties.

In 1995, the first indigenous-supported mayor was elected in Toribio. The first Nasa mayor, Ezekiel Vitonas, was elected in 1998, and the incumbent Mayor Gabriel Pavi is also Nasa.

In 2000, Floro Alberto Tunubala, a Guambiano Indian from Silvia resguardo, was elected governor of Cauca on the ticket of a new group not linked to the traditional parties, the *Bloque Social Alternativa*. The *Bloque* first came together to develop an indigenous-based alternative to Plan Colombia.

Tunubala's election was part of a regional trend, as five other neighboring departments also elected governors from independent political movements, in what became known as the "Alliance of the South."

Additionally, the *resguardos* began developing parallel governments under the 1991 constitutional reform. Each of Toribio municipality's 62 *veredas* has a *cabildo*, and the three *resguardos* each has a governor. (Don Tomas Poto is the former governor of San Francisco resguardo.) The *cabildos* make up a Permanent Assembly for each *resguardos*, with commissions on health, education, economy and culture.

"When they speak of Colombia, they speak of the narco traffic, they speak of war and violence," says Luis Evelio Ipia. "They don't speak of the new political process we are building." Like Radio Nasa, Project Nasa's own micro-transmitter, which has been broadcasting since 1996.

Ipia says the work of the Permanent Assemblies is to make life sustainable on the *resguardos* and halt the exit of the population for the cities. "When people leave for Cali [Colombia's second largest city], they don't come back."

As Colombia's 39-year civil war grinds on, the Nasa continue to oppose both communist guerrillas and the national government's privatization of resources and the rush to join the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

Ipia is especially concerned with corporate designs of the region's rich water resources. He fears that under the FTAA, water will be diverted from indigenous lands to agribusiness interests in the valley below.

"We are opposed to the state, but we don't support the ideology or methods of the guerrillas," Ipia says. "They want to change the country with bullets, and that is not our position."

After leaving Toribio, I received an e-mail from my friends there. Confrontations between the army and guerrillas were continuing on a daily basis. There was no sign that the army or police intended to pull out.

Watching TV one night, Toribio was once again in the news. One of the National Police officers whom I had met and been questioned by spoke to the camera in front of the ruins of the destroyed police station, pledging that it would be rebuilt. No Nasas were interviewed.

For the full report and additional coverage of Colombia, go to ww3report.com.

ATTORNEY GENERAL SHIELDS KARL ROVE, CIA-LEAK INVESTIGATION GOING NOWHERE FAST

THE TIES THAT BLIND



BY AMY GOODMAN AND JEREMY SCAHILL

There is an old saying that you should never let a fox guard the henhouse. The same could be said of the investigation into the latest White House scandal. Attorney General John Ashcroft is refusing to appoint an independent prosecutor to investigate who in the administration leaked the name of a Central Intelligence Agency operative to journalists. This despite the fact that Ashcroft has long-standing ties to one of the main suspects: President George W. Bush's top political advisor Karl Rove.

"I think it's very difficult on its surface for John Ashcroft to be taken seriously as an investigator," said James Moore, author of *Bush's Brain: How Karl Rove Made George W. Bush Presidential*, in an interview with Democracy Now. "In this case, there is a close relationship between someone who is a high-profile suspect and the individual who is leading the investigation of him. And it immediately goes to the question of credibility and validity of that particular investigation."

Rove has been accused of leaking the identity of CIA operative Valerie Plame, in retaliation for her husband, veteran diplomat Joseph Wilson, blowing the whistle on the Bush administration's charge that Saddam Hussein attempted to import uranium for nuclear weapons from Niger.

Rove is best known as the driving force behind Bush's taking of the presidency, but he also worked for Ashcroft over the course of two decades.

"It goes all the way back to the mid-1980s when John Ashcroft first ran for governor and then when he ran for the U.S. Senate against Mel Carnahan," says Moore. "Karl was intimately involved." Intertwined, one might say.

Not only did Rove work as a consultant for Ashcroft in the eighties, but he was one of the main forces behind Ashcroft's controversial appointment to the job he currently holds, attorney general. Rove lobbied intensely for his former employer's nomination after Ashcroft lost his senate seat in the 2000 election to a dead man, the late Mel Carnahan.

While Ashcroft was not Bush's first choice for attorney general, Rove reported-

ly told Bush that spilling some blood over the nomination of the fiercely right-wing Ashcroft was "a no-lose proposition."

Just as George W. Bush profited handsomely from the building of a stadium for his Texas Rangers baseball team, Rove cashed in from the successful campaign in St. Louis to get a stadium built. The governor who signed the legislation?

John Ashcroft. Now, Ashcroft is refusing to hand over the reigns of the criminal investigation of his political ally, former employee, and longtime advisor, Karl Rove.

For weeks, the White House has been besieged with questions on the "burning" of CIA operative Valerie Plame. Scott McClellan, the press secretary and other officials have offered only carefully worded and non-specific responses to reporters' questions as to who leaked the identity of Wilson's wife.

"It is impossible for any of us to believe that this happened without Karl knowing about it," says author Moore. "When you cross this man in the political arena, he gets even; and he gets even in a way that he doesn't just defeat you, he is compelled to destroy you."

According to a recent *Washington Post-ABC* poll, 69 percent of Americans believe there should be a special counsel independent of the administration investigating the White House leak. Yet, in his only news conference to date on the issue, Ashcroft stood firm that his office will oversee the investigation. "The prosecutors and agents who are and will be handling this investigation are career professionals with extensive experience in handling matters involving sensitive national security information."

At a Justice Department news conference, a reporter attempted to question Ashcroft further, "Can you at least say what assurances you can give people that the matter will be handled independently without..."

Ashcroft interrupted, "Are there other questions today?"

Yes, there are. But an independent counsel should be asking them.

Research assistance provided by producers Mike Burke and Sharif Abdel Kouddous. Daily news at www.democracynow.org

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PHOTO: Peter Holderness

BY TED SANANMAN

A man in his early forties, salt overtaking the pepper in his hair, abruptly maneuvers his mountain bike directly in front of a shiny BMW turning out onto Sixth Ave. The car halts with a defiant fist and a mouthful of obscenities emerging from the driver-side window. Peter, a 41-year-old journalist, holds his ground as numerous other bikers gravitate towards the BMW's front bumper like iron filings to a magnet. "They [referring to the cars] might injure other bicyclists," he says as his impromptu roadblock clears the path for hundreds of bikes to pass.

This is a common sight in Critical Mass, an international event where bicyclists gather in cities around the world to spontaneously cycle through typically car-congested streets. The seminal ride took place in San

Francisco with eighty riders in September 1992 as an experiment in re-creating the use of public space. "We rode in the street and used the streets as a place to be, and socialize, and celebrate rather than just a place to pass through on your way to some-

"Biking in a city already gives you a greater sense of freedom...you are not in a little box, you are not underground, you're right there, you got wind blowing in your face," says 26-year old Matthew Roth. He built a sit-down style bike out of donated parts and rigged up a sound system with his i-pod and a car stereo amplifier. Some riders, such as Roth, customize their bikes as a form of expressing themselves. A small contingent rode on five-foot high, giraffe-like bicycles, where two frames are welded on top of each other and the only brake is a heavy foot on the back tire.

In New York City, Critical Mass has blown up from 200-300 participants last year to an

cheered, one man jumped angrily out of his car with a club in hand, threatening bikers to move, and another driver solicitously listened to a female biker explain Critical Mass as she stymied the flow of motorized traffic. Critical Mass's most powerful function may simply be opening a dialogue where one may have never taken place.

Finding a comprehensive definition of Critical Mass proves a difficult task. Co-founder Chris Carlsson says, "It remains an event that is more about happening, than getting anywhere. It is essentially goal-less." However, each person still brings their own emotions, agendas, and energy to the ride. For some, this is an opportu-



THE NEXT RIDE WILL BE
HALLOWEEN NIGHT!
MEET UP AT UNION SQUARE
FRIDAY 7PM



CRITICAL MASS

BIKERS TO CARS: TWO WHEELS NOT FOUR

place," says Joel Pomerantz, one of the original San Francisco riders.

Over a decade later, Critical Mass is a regular phenomenon that occurs on the last Friday of each month in 325 cities across the globe. To participate, one only needs to show up with a bicycle. As a result of this simple prerequisite, Critical Mass has drawn a myriad of races and ages, many of whom never cross paths during their daily lives. When this collective mass of people converges, an interesting transformation occurs; rather than bikers feeling isolated and vulnerable in urban traffic, they become a new kind of traffic. Abrasive horns are replaced by bells, noisy engines by the sound of rolling gears, city streets become significantly quieter, less disruptive, and suddenly, more human.

A Critical Mass ride's overall success is directly tied to every rider bringing their own motivation and ideas to the celebration.

estimate of over 1,200 people this past July, which is largely attributed to New York serving as host of BikeSummer 2003, a massive bike-orientated event that travels to different American cities every year. Due to the wide array of sponsorships, from bicycle clubs to environmental groups, BikeSummer 2003 was a huge success. Critical Mass was featured at the front and tail end of this 29-day extravaganza, which resulted in the NYC ride gaining tremendous exposure and momentum.

Each Critical Mass is its own entity, unique to each time and place, spurring onlookers as it snakes through city grids around the world. In this past summer's NYC rides, reactions varied. An old lady with her thick, square spectacles feebly motioned her hand to signal the stream of bikers to get out of her way while a car service driver being supportive of the concept said, but "this is a Friday, why you can't do this on a Monday or Tuesday?" Office workers

nity to voice their political opinions, from cutting down pollution to protesting the war; while for others it is merely the chance to bicycle around NYC without feeling encumbered by daily traffic. There are bikers who believe in something inexplicably spiritual about riding together en masse: the overwhelming feeling of solidarity. Simultaneously, there are those who verbally attack luxury car drivers for their lifestyle choice, using Critical Mass as an outlet of aggression and angst. When these cyclists collectively funnel into the streets, their notions are forced to react to one another, resulting in thousands of unpredictable exchanges between both participants and onlookers. Critical Mass not only re-creates the use of public space, but also can re-create the space between people, disarming each other through surprise, collapsing the distance between perspectives.



And wear eye protection, nothing like getting a particle in the eye while you're dodging cars, pedestrians and potholes. Avoid dark clothing, especially at night. A reflective vest and a couple of flashing red lights (available in any bike shop) attached to your backside can be a life saver.

Check your bike before you go out. The tires should be properly inflated, you don't want a blowout, and the brakes in working order. Speaking of tires, get some Kevlar ones and you'll never have to worry about flats again. Rely mainly on your back brakes. There's nothing like hitting just your front brakes at high speed and your back wheel keeps going, flipping you over like a catapult.

When riding around, find the bike-friendly routes. In Manhattan, forget about most bike lanes, they're often full of parked cars and trucks. But you can almost circumnavigate the island now that paths have been built along the Hudson and East Rivers. Just keep an eye out for the camera-wielding tourists veering into your path for a better shot.

One of the most vexing aspects of city cycling is the lights. They're timed for cars, so who wants to stop every five blocks when they turn red? Like most cyclists, I blow through them, but I always look first for peds crossing the street and then a gap in traffic. I also steer to the opposite side of the street from where the traffic is entering, giving me more time to observe the traffic.

Always look ahead, keeping a clear line of sight and anticipating what drivers are going to do. Also, use the sidewalks. Almost every time I go out on a ride some dumb-ass in a car or truck puts the squeeze on, so I hop up on the sidewalk to extricate myself. If you do, go slow and give pedestrians a wide berth

because most of them aren't aware of you until you're passing them.

Be especially careful when entering and exiting the bridges. Most of them have inviting bike paths, many with glorious views of the city, but the traffic is thickest at these chokepoints and the bike entrances are often across many lanes of traffic. The same goes with major intersections, like 14th or 42nd Street. This is where many accidents occur, so approach them cautiously.

I try to avoid midtown – too many cars, taxis, trucks, buses and potholes in too little space. Thoroughfares like Park Avenue are where you're most likely to get doored because there's no room to swerve around a clueless driver opening a door right in front of you. Leave plenty of room between yourself and parked cars, at least three feet.

It's best to travel on the margins, like First Avenue or Ninth Avenue. They're both wide and one-way with minimal traffic peeling off to the right-hand side. When traveling in the outer boroughs avoid the major parkways, many of them are like highways and are full of road rage cases.

Use your senses when riding in traffic. For one, try to catch the eyes of drivers. Just because you see them doesn't mean they see you. Some cyclists carry a whistle to announce their presence. A good pair of pipes also suffices. A loud "heads up!" will catch most people's attention. Use hand signals. I find it's particularly useful for impatient drivers raring to pass you so they can get to that next red light five seconds quicker. An "easy does it" gesture gets most drivers settle down. And check over your shoulder regularly. You want to know what is coming up behind you.

Most of all, use your common sense. If something looks dangerous it probably is.

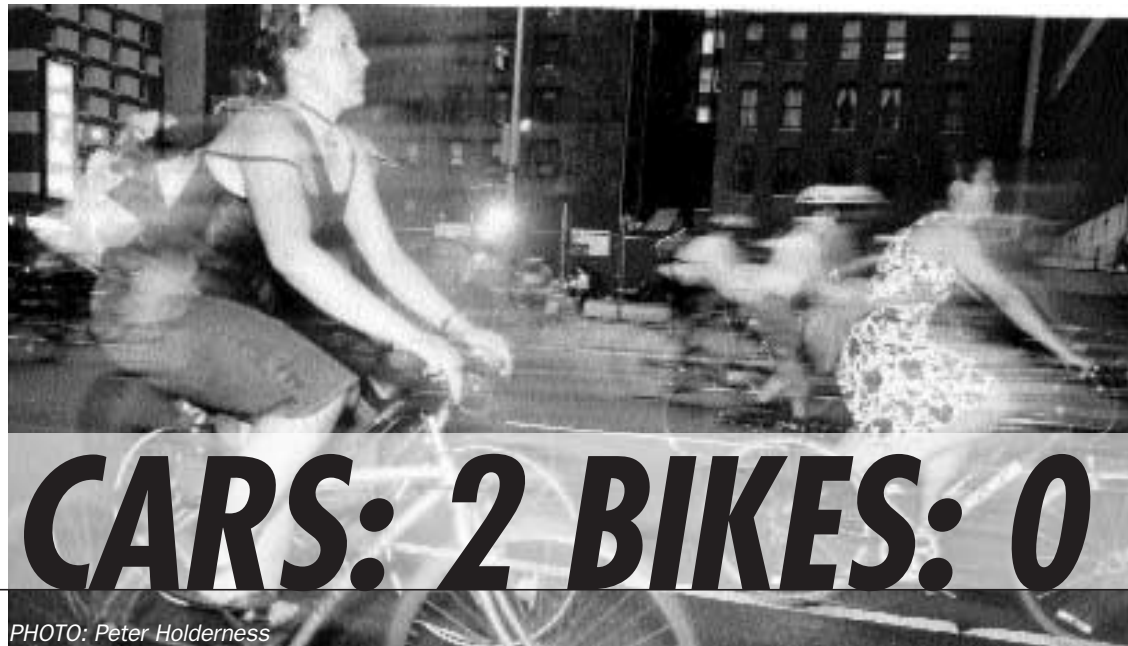


PHOTO: Peter Holderness

CARS: 2 BIKES: 0

Being hit by a car is different than you'd expect. In movies or on the TV news – which always depict car (not pedestrian) wrecks – there is blood and chaos and instantaneous cacophony. Being hit by a car is more like a symphony – a slow build to deafening noise.

In 2003, I was hit by two cars. In a span of five months from January to June, I learned a lot about the impact of Motor City steel.

According to Transportation Alternatives, a New York City-based group that advocates on behalf of cyclists and pedestrians, an estimated 1.5 million New Yorkers have been hit by a car, and 30,000 killed, as of 1999. Each day, approximately 35 pedestrians are struck by autos in NYC. Since 1999, the rate of bicycle fatalities has nearly doubled.

But I wasn't thinking about cars on the morning of Jan. 8. Descending from my long train ride, I was thinking about getting breakfast at the bagel place across the street.

As I walked in the crosswalk, a woman in a white convertible sidestepped me. As she turned, she stopped. But she crushed my foot with her tire.

The second instance was a classic case of rushing not to be late – I didn't want to miss my friend's literary reading. I had been hanging out with some bold biker friends lately. The first time I rode with them, I trailed lights behind. But a few Critical Mass rides embolden you – an evening utopia of simple, effective transportation. But that high doesn't work without the masses.

I was very much alone on that dark Friday night when a van plowed into me.

Part of me just flew away when my body sailed through the air, flipped on the hood and drew cracked spider webs across the van's windshield. If I hadn't been wearing a helmet, I might be dead.

The guy who hit me flew out of his van and started bellowing, "Who is going to pay for this?"

All he had to deal with was a broken windshield. For me, no dollar amount could compensate for that long bumpy ambulance ride, feeling every Brooklyn pothole while tied tight to a stretcher. Nor can money replace my twisted spine, or my knee with its strange lumps and ongoing pain. Nor the fractures to my toes from the first accident.



BY HEATHER HADDON



BIKE SAFETY IN NYC

BY A.K. GUPTA

"You have to be crazy to bike in New York City!" a tourist exclaimed as a snaking line of bicyclists twisted its way through a jam-packed, Sunday-afternoon parking lot that was Second Ave. He didn't realize that many in the group finishing a 90-mile bike ride heard his remark and let him have it with some choice comments and a flip of the finger or two.

We knew in one sense he was right: you take your life into your hands when you go two wheels against four. You have nothing but a plastic helmet for your noggin, and flesh and bone are pitted against tons of glass and steel hurtling by.

But the risks can be mitigated. Thousands of bicyclists navigate the concrete jungle every day with no harm done, except perhaps for a face full of bus exhaust. It just takes some gear and common sense.

First, don't forget that helmet. Up to 80 percent of bicycling deaths result from head injuries. Wear gloves, good grip is important.

I have spent hundreds of hours in physical therapy exercising my extremities, listening to smooth jazz as my Irish doctor alternates ice and heat. I know that no matter how many times I curl my toes or flex my back, I will develop premature arthritis.

The insurance companies certainly don't care about your pain and suffering. After a few months of treatment, it's time for your "independent examination." Under state no-fault law, the insurance company of whomever hit you foots your doctor's bills – but only until it's "medically necessary."

My first medical examiner did nothing more than ask me to curl my toes. I did my best. He grunted and went to my chart. "Case closed," he stamped. My physical therapy days were done.

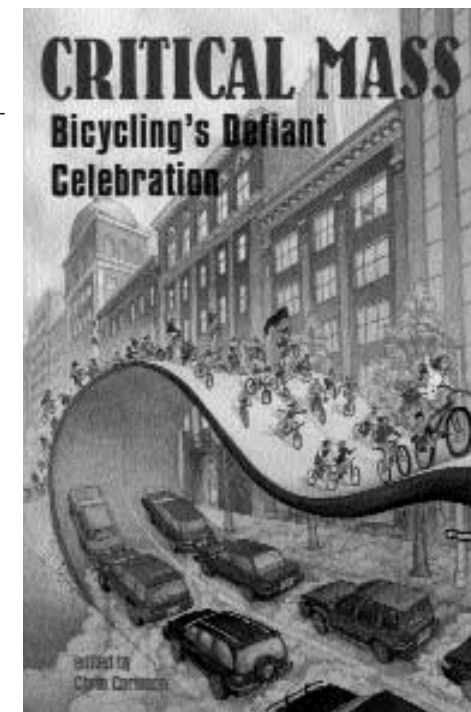
No sum can make up for the feeling of being a victim of a licensed and socially condoned ineptitude on the part of drivers, and of an insurance industry that protects that ineptitude.

I'm not alone in this of course. New York has the highest number of pedestrian and cyclist deaths and injuries in the U.S. I have friends with broken collar bones, mild concussions, and steel bars in their legs.

Not to say that all drivers are rabid lunatics – and not to say it's all their fault. Despite constituting 48 percent of traffic deaths, pedestrians received only 5 percent of all traffic safety dollars for 2000-2004, according to Transportation Alternatives. For every motorist death, \$1,505,813 is allocated in annual safety dollars. Per pedestrian: \$64,977. Per cyclist? Nothing.

And yet, alternative modes of transportation continue to survive and thrive. Subway ridership hit a 50-year high last year. More bikers rode to work over the East River bridges this year than ever. And the exuberant cries of Critical Mass are swelling.

But I don't see the Department of Transportation – or Critical Mass – each time I hop on my bike or navigate a busy cross-walk. I see the faces of those who hit me. I see their cars and the permanent imprints they've left on my skin, my bones, and my psyche.



CRITICAL MASS: BICYCLING'S DEFIANT CELEBRATION

Edited by Chris Carlsson
AK Press, 2002 256 pp

So how can any one person take on the writing of a book about Critical Mass? You don't – instead, you send out a call for submissions of writing, photos, and old fliers and graphics related to the Ride from as many people as possible. That's exactly what Chris Carlsson did.

Carlsson, who lives in California, is often attributed with "starting" Critical Mass, a credit he says is unfair to others. "Social movements don't erupt from individuals," writes Carlsson. Nevertheless, Carlsson remains a traveling Critical Mass guru, and was in good position to create this book, resulting in "a charming cacophony of voices and perspectives," says Carlsson, a book that appropriately reflects and honors the spirit of Critical Mass and its short history.

– MICHAEL MUENCH

WORLD IN BRIEF

PHILIPPINE ENVIRONMENTAL WORKER SET FREE

After 13 years in jail, Raul Zapatos, an environmental cop sentenced to life in prison for killing a town mayor, has been cleared of all charges and set free.

According to the report, Zapatos, who was then a leader of a strike force of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Agusan del Sur, had a run-in with the town's mayor over illegally cut trees in the area. In January 1990, the mayor and his men fired at the checkpoint that Zapatos was manning. Zapatos returned fire, killing the mayor and wounding one of his men. On appeal, the Supreme Court ruled that he acted in self-defense and acquitted him of the charges.

Upon his release from prison, Zapatos received a hero's welcome from the DENR, was given a four-grade promotion and assured of his back wages and other monetary benefits.

MASS PROTESTS OVER NATURAL GAS THREATEN UNPOPULAR REGIME

The Bolivian government cancelled a proposed deal to sell off the nation's vast natural gas reserves to foreign investors on Oct. 14 following weeks of fierce protests that left more than 60 people dead and the pro-free market government of Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada on the verge of collapse. The protests mirror the 2000 "Water War" that erupted when the San Francisco-based Bechtel Corporation tried to take control of Cochabamba, Bolivia's municipal water system and increase water rates by 300%.

Sanchez de Losada has charged the protests are part of an attempt to topple his government by indigenous congressmen Felipe Quispe and Evo Morales. A fiery leftist who also leads Bolivia's coca growers, Morales has said the president should be replaced with an "indigenous government." His five-year term ends in 2007.

COLUMBUS DAY ON THE ROCKS AS VENEZUELA REJECTS HOLIDAY

Speaking at a meeting of indigenous representatives from throughout South America, Venezuela President Hugo Chavez called for a boycott of Columbus Day, which is celebrated several Latin American countries. "Christopher Columbus was the spearhead of the biggest invasion and genocide ever seen in the history of humanity," Chavez said.

In El Norte meanwhile, hundreds of demonstrators turned out in Denver to protest the city's annual Columbus Day parade on Oct. 11. Columbus Day (a.k.a. Day of Indigenous Resistance) protests were also held in Arizona and Hawaii.

FEDS TARGET WEBSITES WITH THREAT OF "TERROR" TAG

According to Reuters, the United States has added websites to its list of "foreign terrorist organizations" for the first time, under the category of aliases for conventional groups, a State Department official said Oct. 10. Under U.S. law, it would be illegal to provide money or other material support to the designated websites, the people who run them could be denied visas and banks must block their funds. The State Department said it was unclear how this would work in practice.

But the law may not enable the United States to block access to the websites, if only for technical reasons.

FROM THE NEWSWIRE

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ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE

COMMENTS ON THE IMMIGRANT WORKERS FREEDOM RALLY

RALLY POORLY PLANNED

By anon

I thought the event was a fantastic display of solidarity. It allowed groups from different backgrounds who may have never worked together before to do so, and it was nice to see that the labor movement appears to have recovered from its right-wing, nationalist hijacking and is realizing that the movement must really become global to succeed.

However, the logistics of the rally were poorly planned. A lot of money was dumped into the event. The fairgrounds were rented, the sound system (complete with giant stage and video monitors) was elaborate, the free posters, buttons, t-shirts, etc were plentiful, and many if not all of the busses were free to the riders and paid for by unions and solidarity organizations. Why they would bus people from all over the northeast (and all over the country) into Flushing Meadows Park, which is in the middle of nowhere, and spend all that money for a rally that no one could see is beyond me...

Five dollars would get someone a styrofoam hotdog container (read: small) full of rice speckled with beans and two pieces of plantains which were horribly underripe. What's worse is that this was "their" ethnic food - but beyond their means. That the organizers allowed these food vendors to gouge hungry undocumented workers with their own damn ethnic food is absolutely ridiculous.

Over 100,000 freedom riders, laborers, and union members rallying for immigrant rights was an amazing sight to behold. It would have been even more amazing to see us march down the streets of NYC, or ANYWHERE other than Shea Stadium for that matter. At least then we could have stopped at some street vendors where a larger portion of the crowd could actually afford to eat.

AFL-CIO IS OSSIFIED

by Create a New labor movement

The labor movement will only grow when it focuses on organizing the unorganized, the

undocumented, the part timers, the unemployed, the under the tablers, the farm workers, the temps, etc. It's time we look at the whole picture and not just rely on the ever ossified AFL-CIO (which purged it's unions of it's militants in the 50s)...time to look to international solidarity from workers around the world who are showing the world and to unleash the power of immigrant workers, not channel it into the morass of bureaucracy called "business unionism"

UNION LOCALS DO GOOD WORK

by Jay

As far as organizing the unorganized I can tell you that SEIU the national health care union commits some 50% of its entire budget to new organizing and is already committing some \$60 million to organize in the 15 swing states over the next year leading up to the Presidential elections. So go ahead and criticize the AFL all you want but be aware that many of the locals it's comprised of are doing some really good things.

DEPORTEES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

aware of his condition until a RAP representative contacted a mental health professional for an assessment. The returnee quickly stabilized after receiving treatment.

Herod recently rented a new residential facility on the outskirts of Phnom Penh. "It's a nice family home with three bedrooms for \$300 a month. It will give us the option of putting 15 or more in a dormitory style facility. "We see it as a mental health facility. There is space for recreation, a garden and raising chickens, and we will probably have some occupational classes in carpentry, etc. It's a safe place they can go if sponsorship breaks down, if they lose their job, or if they come in from the provinces for a while."

Such a haven is a welcome source of support for those who are having trouble making the transition. Hawaii, for example, returned to the RAP center after a failed attempt to live with his father - a man he met for the first time after being deported.

"We just don't get along," he explains. "I have tattoos from my gang days and I don't want to embarrass him - or rather, he did not want me to embarrass him - so he tried to keep me locked up in the house. But I am done doing prison time, I can't be locked up anymore, so I left."

Hawaii's fear of the future is palpable. He spends a lot of time at RAP because he does not know what else to do. "After having been here seven months I would like to start my life here, get a job. I try not to think about the States or my kids. I just try to make it day by day."

On the other end of the spectrum, many returnees have transitioned effectively into their new lives with help from RAP. One has become very successful working for an oil company in Northern Cambodia, another is now a web designer and several have been temporarily hired by local radio stations as DJs. About 20, including Aun, have married. Aun goes so far as to say, "I miss where I grew up but prefer living here now."

RAP lacks the funding and staff to ensure



HOME ALONE: 1,400 Cambodian-Americans are subject to deportation under a new agreement reached in March 2002. Many may find themselves living on the street like this woman.

that every transition is so successful. Herod says, "We try to launch each returnee as soon as possible since we know that there will be more coming." RAP does not receive financial support from the U.S. or Cambodian government, and is asking for volunteers for personal counseling as well as drug counseling and rehabilitation. Herod says that despite these obstacles, "The policy at RAP is 'leave no one

behind'. These people are not losers and it's our job to make sure every returnee has a chance at building a new life."

Bill Herod can be contacted at bill@rap-cambodia.org or by mail at: KIDS Guesthouse, 17A, Street 178, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. For more information go to www.rapcambodia.org



HOP ON THE BUS: "We love America, but we must get together for our rights," say the Freedom Riders who arrived in New York from all over the country on Sep. 20.

IMMIGRANT LABOR TOUR ROLLS INTO QUEENS

REFUSING TO BE ILLEGAL

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SARAH STUTEVILLE

"¡Sí se puede! (Yes we can!)," the crowd chanted as busload after busload of Freedom Riders poured into Flushing Meadows on Saturday morning. *Sí se puede* has become the rallying cry for the Freedom Riders, and that spirit of determination and excitement charged the air at a final mass rally this weekend. Organizers estimated 100,000 immigrants and supporters celebrated the end of two weeks of rallies, and marked what the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride hopes is only the beginning of a new immigrant rights movement.

On Sep. 20, 18 buses carrying immigrants and supporters set out from across the United States to bring demands for immigrant civil liberties to New York and Washington. The Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride was organized by a national sponsoring committee that includes the AFL-CIO and other unions, politicians, religious leaders and community organizations in one of the first major collaborations of labor and immigrant rights movements in the country.

Colombian Walther Rodriguez, a day laborer and Freedom Rider from Northern Virginia, embodied the intensity and passion felt among the riders.

"We are an indispensable labor force in this country, and we are the ones they give the heaviest, dirtiest, worst paid work," he stated, pounding his fist into his hand.

Walther came to this country alone three years ago with a plan. He had completed his first few years at university in Colombia and wanted to earn money to pursue a law degree. He left his wife and two children and headed for Herndon, a small town in Northern Virginia not far from Washington, D.C., where he had heard he could find work as a day laborer.

The idea was to work hard, save some money and return to Colombia within the year, but three years later he has given up that dream. He sends money home but has not visited since he left — afraid that in a post-September 11 climate he wouldn't be able to return — and says he doesn't know when or if he'll return.

Walther wakes up before the sun every morning to join a growing force of Mexican and Central American day laborers on a street corner in downtown Herndon where they compete for any jobs offered — from construction and renovation to gardening — for an unofficial wage of ten dollars an hour.

Of the 30 to 50 men who gather daily in

search of work in Herndon, only about 10 to 15 percent are actually picked up. That keeps wages non-negotiable, says Jose Vanegas, an organizer affiliated with Jobs for Justice who is currently working with day laborers in Herndon and championing for immigrant rights in Northern Virginia. Jose Vanegas is himself an immigrant from Colombia. He arrived in the United States 30 years ago with both of his parents. He has since become a citizen and speaks proudly of the successful catering business his family has established in Fairfax County, Virginia.

Vanegas speaks to the broader issues of the immigrant-rights movement, naturalization, the right of reunification (the right to bring family members to the United States), and protecting immigrants in the workplace. But first and foremost he says Herndon day laborers need a permanent location to work out of, a kind of community center that could serve as a base for workers, a place to hold morning English classes while workers wait for work, a place to organize and provide resources, a way for this growing community to become legitimized in Herndon.

Two years ago this goal seemed within reach. A local businessman had donated a space and things seemed to be moving forward, but then September 11 and its anti-immigrant fallout came to Herndon. Suddenly the idea of a resource center for illegal immigrants became a contentious issue, the businessman pulled out, and Vanegas went back to the drawing board. While he feels that politics have allowed anti-immigrant feelings to grow in Herndon, he says the potential for support is also there and the mayor and town council have already agreed to investigate a new site.

Immigrant rights in the wake of September 11 were a theme throughout the day as speakers expressed a sense of urgency, a need to bring immigrant rights to the forefront at a time when they are not



only being neglected but potentially destroyed. Many placards held by protesters, whether Latino, Arab, Asian, or Caribbean, proclaimed, "We are workers, not terrorists."

As Halim Ahmed, a Bangladeshi immigrant and union organizer for Hotel Workers Local Union 6 out of Astoria, Queens stated, "We have known for a long long time America is the only land of opportunity, but now we feel that people don't want us here and that feeling is getting worse day by day. We love America, we sing America, our children's future is America, our children are America, they feel American and wave the American flag but we must get together for our rights."

While the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride has been lauded by organizers as a success it was met with some opposition. In Texas three buses of Freedom Riders traveling from Los Angeles were stopped by immigration officials who threatened riders with arrest and deportation.

But as Emily Andrews, union organizer, explains, "The strategy was that no one carried any identification, so illegal immigrants and supporters alike had no documentation of any kind, hindering officials' ability to process anyone or determine their status." After a three-hour-long delay, during which time union presidents and members of congress appealed to the Bush administration and supporters flooded phone lines, the riders were allowed to continue.

Throughout the day participants spoke of holding the momentum gathered by these heady last few weeks. As Gifford Miller, member of the New York City Council, declared, "You are New York, you are America, you look beautiful from here, this is a beautiful moment... this is the beginning my friends, this is only the beginning. We are here to start a movement."

In the meantime day laborers like Walther continue to work sunup to sundown, sometimes 10 and 12 hour days for a barely living wage, no benefits, no job security and no recognition. When asked why he stays and if he likes it here, his furrowed brow mirrors the complexity of the question: "No, I don't like it here," he states bluntly, "but here is where the opportunity is... We are at this march today because we are convinced that one day we'll get a chance and that one day we'll be triumphant."

GREEN CARD SOLDIERS

IMMIGRANTS ON FRONTLINES IN IRAQ

BY JAMES GOODER

Wherever the American military is, the star-spangled banner is never far away. But it is a foreign flag for more than 37,400 U.S. troops who owe no allegiance to the Stars and Stripes.

Thousands of these foreign fighters, whose native language is mainly Spanish, are now serving in Iraq. They are not prepared to pay the ultimate sacrifice for their own country — but they are prepared to risk death for a green card, the famous permit that allows non-U.S. citizens to reside and work in America.

Since the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, about one in ten of the 332 soldiers killed fighting for America have been non-citizens. Given that green card soldiers make up just 2.5 percent of the U.S. total fighting force, a non-citizen is four times more likely to die on active service than a US-born citizen.

One of the first "U.S." soldiers to be killed in the current Iraq war was Lance Corporal Jose Antonio Gutierrez, 28, an orphan from the streets of Guatemala City who slipped across the Mexican border illegally six years ago.

He lost his mother to tuberculosis when he was five, and his father died of drink by his side when he was eight. After giving up school, drifting from job to job, doing time in Guatemalan and Mexican jails — the latter for his second ill-fated attempt to enter the U.S. — he finally made it across the border.

Telling social workers in Los Angeles that he was just 16 — adults who sneak in to the U.S. are swiftly deported if caught — he won their sympathy and the right to stay. He went to school under cover of his assumed age, and eventually got the all-important green card.

This gave him the right to join the U.S. military. Despite being a peace-loving soul keen on writing poetry, the need for a sense of belonging and the lure of the cash incentives drew him into the Marines last year, just in time for the looming war in Iraq.

His dream of becoming an American citizen was only achieved with his death in a firefight near the Iraqi city of Umm Qasr. His death was a mistake. He ran out of a building that had been occupied by Marines and was shot by "friendly fire."

He was buried, his coffin draped in the U.S. flag, unable to enjoy the privilege that had eluded him in life.

The citizenship conferred on Gutierrez and another slain non-citizen, Jose Garibay from Mexico, is "primarily symbolic" because it carries no benefits for their relatives, says Francisco Arcaute of the U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Permanent residents are actively encouraged to sign up, lured by the promise of citizenship. Today, about 37,000 U.S. soldiers (or one in 40) does not have an American passport, but hopes to pick one up soon, courtesy of the commander-in-chief.

In a July 3, 2002 executive order, George W. Bush called for "expedited naturalization for aliens and non-citizen nationals serving in an active-duty status ... during the period of the war against terrorists of global reach."

Around a third of these soldiers come from Mexico and other Latin-American nations. They fight alongside others from China, Vietnam, Canada, South Korea, India and many other countries.

Reprinted from english.aljazeera.net.

APOC ROCKS MOTOWN

By M. MAYURAN TIRUCHELVAM

Descending on Detroit from all parts of the nation and the globe, nearly 150 people attended the Anarchist People of Color Conference from Oct. 3 to 5. Anarchists and anti-authoritarians drove over 20 hours from Texas, flew in from Seattle and rode the rails from the Northeast. Over a dozen activists from Canada made their way across the border, while others hailed from Brazil, Colombia, Bhutan, Jamaica and Korea.

Puck who hails from Tucson expressed satisfaction at gathering with so many kindred spirits. "I've been an anarchist for a few years now and never had the experience of having more than one or two other people of color in the same room as me at the same time."

It was repeatedly noted that this was the first conference bringing together anarchist people of color. When one thinks of anarchism, the image is of a predominantly white movement.

Joe, who arrived from Montreal, explained the importance of the event. "You go to places in Canada, any major city... you don't see conferences with people of color like this, and it's so important. You can't necessarily depend on the fairly Euro-centric stances that are present all across Canada."

Beyond the geographic representation of the conference attendees, there was a variety in the movements and struggles they came from. Anarchist people of color also brought together experiences of multiple generations—former Black Panther Party members alongside queer youth - gender identities, sexualities, class backgrounds and ethnicities.

The APOC Conference was advertised as a people of color only event. While white activists provided off-site support, conference attendees worked to create a community of support and trust. Attendees also volunteered to provide security in the face of violent, but ultimately empty threats, by white supremacists.

Representing movements in popular education, Palestine solidarity, punk rock, queer youth activism, transgender housing rights and mental-health advocacy, among dozens of other causes, conference goers expressed a desire to connect and build a new vision of people of color activism and understanding. Many people spoke of unsavory experiences in white anarchist spaces or in authoritarian people of color organizations, fueling camaraderie among attendees.

"Any other time that it's been initiated that we should have a people of color only space... it's gotten really unhealthy reactions from other activists... that's divisive, it's separatist," said Darcy of Portland Oregon. "People of color are very much interested in having their own space where we can space about issues and racism in organizing, on our own terms without interruptions or presumptions. This is really healthy, and we'll be having it again."

Workshops were delivered on women of color and feminism in the movement, spoken word, organizing against the criminal justice system, the police and cruising, white nationalist movements, sexism, cop-watch groups, community alternatives to police and karate.

Several plenaries allowed attendees to explore the significance of what it means to be an anarchist person of color and how to move forward as a movement or support network. In Detroit, people of color explored anarchism as a movement towards self-sustainability and self-determination that is rooted in a knowledge and acknowledgement of relationships and internalized oppression and challenges traditional white modes or organizing. Rafael, from New York City, explained that as anarchist people of color

"we have to give up the idea that we are organizing people."

The Conference was called for by the Black Autonomy Network of Community Organizers, based in Michigan. However, disputes in the final weeks of the planning stages led to BANCO members boycotting the event a day before the conference began. At the same time, BANCO member Lorenzo Komboa Erwin sent a letter addressing disputes with other conference organizers and threw out such terms as "character assassination" and "sectarianism" in reference to the organizers. Though the presence of these sisters and brothers was missed, the conference itself went on as planned.

Yet the dispute, as well as problems of machismo and posturing within anti-authoritarian movements, hung over the conference for some time. While many anarchist people of color are willing to engage in self-criticism and change, others were fueled by the desire to move forward—as though the simple act of gathering in Detroit prepared us to take action against a myriad of issues.

Over three dozen anarchist people of color from the tri-state area were in attendance, and say they returned with energy to work together to create a more just world. "I went to a workshop discussing alternatives to the police state that we live in. People have really good ideas about how to organize autonomous communities to really work together against violence," said Alana from Queens. "That's something I'm really going to think a lot about and try to take home and start working on."

As for the future of Anarchist People of Color gatherings, plans are in motion to create regional, local, and national meetings, and to bring in potential allies who couldn't make it to Detroit.



PEOPLE'S LAWYER dragged from HUAC, 1965.

REMEMBERING ARTHUR KINOY

1920 – 2003

By ANN SCHNEIDER – NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD/NYC

To more than 25 classes of students at Rutgers Law School in Newark, Professor Arthur Kinoy was a legendary inspiration with his regular invocations of "the most serious constitutional crisis," followed by "What will we do?" and followed by "We'll go to the library."

In that library, Arthur pulled out colonial-era laws that he successfully used to expand the civil and political rights of anti-racist activists in the South and elsewhere.

The lucky students of Arthur's 1972 Constitutional Litigation Clinic got to accompany him to the U.S. Supreme Court where he argued a case with the strange name, U.S. v. U.S. District Court, also known as the Keith case. After the Chicago Eight conspiracy trial, activists calling themselves the White Panthers had been arrested in Detroit and charged with planning to kidnap Henry Kissinger, among other crimes.

The Department of Justice (DoJ) took the unusual step of admitting that yes, we wiretapped John Plamondon and his associates to obtain evidence against them, and no, we didn't obtain a judicial warrant authorizing the wiretap. They argued for the first time the doctrine of "inherent executive power" to permit warrantless wiretapping whenever the government asserted a national security interest. Arthur Kinoy would say they advocated "suspending the written constitution."

Judge Damon Keith declined to adopt the Department of Justice's claim of national security, and in turn the DoJ sought immediate review by the Supreme Court, skipping over the federal appeals court. As Kinoy's students watched, he argued so persuasively that the U.S. President is bound by the federal constitution and the separation of powers, that the eight Justices had no questions for him. (Newly appointed Justice William Rehnquist recused himself.

Arthur was so brilliant, so well-prepared, and so convincing that ultimately, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the President does not have the power to bypass the courts and investigate whomever he likes without meeting the Fourth Amendment requirement of probable cause.

In my opinion, this is the highest point of constitutional jurisprudence our country has reached. It is the bedrock of all case law, consent decrees and Federal Bureau of Investigation guidelines that prohibit political surveillance of American citizens.

With William Kunstler, Morton Stavis and Ben Smith, he founded the Center for Constitutional Rights in 1966. Arthur served two terms as the President of the National Lawyers Guild. Thousands of young activists like myself who hoped to use the law as an instrument of social change flocked to go to law school in Newark because of his reputation. He epitomized the role of the radical lawyer and is the individual personification of the slogan, "Educate, Demonstrate, Litigate."

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REVIEWS

BOOKS: CORPORATION AND RESISTANCE

THE CORPORATE VIRUS

GANGS OF AMERICA

By Ted Nace Berrett
Koehler Publishers, 281 pages
www.gangsofamerica.com

With so much talk about globalization and empire these days, it's hard to believe that, given its primary role in shaping the global order, the essential history of the American corporation hadn't been written until now. Ted Nace's *Gangs of America* is a comprehensive account of exactly how American corporations gained extraordinary power over our lives despite the tiny fact that they're not mentioned in our Constitution.

It was under the specter of the most powerful corporation to have existed, the British East India Company, Nace argues in his easy, clear voice, that the American colonies revolted. Drawing attention to the "founding fathers'" wariness of corporations – Franklin actually met with anti-corporate economists in Europe, including Adam Smith – and to the non-existence of corporations in colonial society, Americans acted to block the Company's plan to "monopolize American commodities markets."

"The American Revolution," Nace contends, "was directly and explicitly an anti-corporate revolt... Or more accurately, it was a rebellion against a corporation and a government that was thoroughly intertwined."

While acknowledging the Constitution's framers encouraged rebellion to safeguard their own long-term economic control, *Gangs of America* builds on this anti-corporate interpretation of the Revolution.

The bulk of the book demonstrates how the Framers' original, stringent controls – i.e., locally-issued charters, limitations on size – were gradually eroded by legislatures and the Supreme Court. In less than 50 years, Nace notes, the Court departed from the principle of corporate subordination to the state, before the Civil War prompted a fundamental change in the legal structure defining the corporation.

The story of how the 14th Amendment was transformed into a constitutional corporate protection racket is particularly eye-opening. Many cite the 1886 Santa Clara decision as establishing corporate personhood. It's not widely known, however, that corporate personhood wasn't written into the decision itself, but was merely stated in the case's headnote, as Nace illustrates through a reprise of historical research done and ignored decades ago. His recount further exposes that this "statement of fact" was based on false testimony. Though Nace argues the decision meant to avoid the Constitutional question, one has to wonder how resolving the question as a foregone conclusion comprised such an intention.

Yet the strength of Nace's book isn't his attempt to reconcile inconsistencies, but his rich, cross-disciplinary synthesis and systematic organization of the historical material already available. Crucially, he illustrates how the influence of Social Darwinist thought in the Gilded Age informed the decidedly anti-labor bent of the courts, further expanding corporations' power.

However, in what is the book's only real weakness, Nace doesn't raise the idea that property rights are too strongly endowed in

the Constitution, suggesting that if we can only restore its original restrictions on corporate power, we can domesticate the beast. But whether domesticating, not outlawing, corporations is a real answer, remains unexplored.

An essential body of info-armament nonetheless (including an appendix of key Supreme Court cases), *Gangs of America* communicates the empowering notion that corporate hegemony wasn't encrypted into the American system of government, revealing instead a virus, stealthily programmed by crooks who hacked into the system.

– A. Venesky

RESISTANCE BEYOND TERROR

LIVE FROM PALESTINE

Ed. Nancy Stohlman and Laurieann Aladin
South End Press, 223 pages

In the absence of a formal peacekeeping force, Palestinians remain as vulnerable as ever to the 36-year Israeli occupation. As Israeli crimes and process of slow ethnic cleansing continue unhindered and often unreported, ordinary people from all over the world have taken it upon themselves to go to Palestine to express solidarity and be a resource for Palestinians.

Since the outbreak of the second Intifada thousands of internationals have left their families and jobs to support the Palestinian liberation movement. They have come in large numbers from all over the world, many of them Jewish. *Live From Palestine* not only tells the incredible stories of resistance in Palestine, but in doing so disrupts an Israeli disinformation campaign that seeks to summarize all Palestinian opposition as terrorist.

Editors Nancy Stohlman and Laurieann Aladin have compiled dozens of essays from both internationals and Palestinians to create the most complete and compelling collection of eyewitness reports and analysis from the Palestine under siege.

Although the courage of international activists is exemplary, their own writings reveal the real heroes of the struggle, the ordinary Palestinians who are fighting day in and day out for their lives, culture and humanity.

Rachel Corrie, the young woman from Olympia, Washington who was killed by an armored Israeli bulldozer while opposing the demolition of a Palestinian home provides some of the most moving words in her emails to friends and families shortly before her death. In a letter to her mother she writes, "They [the Palestinians] are a good example of how to be in it for the long haul. I know that the situation gets to them and may ultimately get them – on all kinds of levels, but I am nevertheless amazed at their strength in being able to defend such a large degree of their humanity – their laughter, generosity, family time-against the incredible horror occurring in their lives and against the constant presence of death."

Live from Palestine ushers in these voices of nonviolence, providing what at first seems to be just alternative information, but after reading it is appreciated as a tool not only for understanding the horrors of the Israeli occupation but how to participate in ending it.

– Rumzi Ara



The Literature of American Doom

BY DONALD PANETH

Many Americans are comatose, mesmerized by power and suffering from severe delusions. They don't know what is going on, can't see it. They are accepting the violence and corruption and lies of the Bush administration. They are indifferent to and ignorant of everything else. It is a fearful phenomenon to observe.

For a long time now, writers, poets, artists have considered this situation of affairs, and their conclusions and warnings are to be found in numerous works. Some have gone so far as to state that America is doomed to a tragic fate: ruin and death.

About two years ago I was talking to James Purdy, the American novelist and short story writer (*The Color of Darkness*, *Malcolm*, *The Nephew*, *Cabot Wright Begins*), and he used that very word, doom. "America is doomed," Purdy said.

In July 1952, I was concluding a six-month series of interviews with William Baziotis (1912-1963), the abstract expressionist painter, and we got on to the subject of politics.

"I have a fear about what is going to happen to our society," Baziotis said.

Baziotis was acutely and incisively perceptive; his paintings – one of them is currently on exhibit at the Whitney Museum of American Art – are subjective, mysterious and highly psychological.

The American psyche – that is the trouble! It is doom-laden.

T. S. Eliot, born in St. Louis, graduated from Harvard, taught philosophy there for a year and took off for England. He became a British citizen. He wrote of all this accurately and prophetically in 1922 in *The Waste Land*.

D. H. Lawrence, the English novelist, poet, and critic, lived for a time in Taos, NM, and came to publish a brilliant book of criticism, *Studies in Classic American Literature* (1923). Lawrence wrote of the American Indian:

"The Red man is dead, disbelieving in us. He is dead and unappeased. Do not imagine him happy in his Happy Hunting Ground."

No, the Indian was coming back for revenge. The Indian is back.

Lawrence went on to say a great deal more about America and its literature in the book's chapters on Edgar Allan Poe, Herman Melville, Nathaniel Hawthorne.

Of Hawthorne, Lawrence wrote:

"That blue-eyed darling Nathaniel knew disagreeable things." He was careful to send them out in disguise.

"The deliberate consciousness of Americans so fair and smooth-spoken and the under-consciousness so devilish. Destroy! destroy! destroy! hums the under-consciousness."

There was Edwin Arlington Robinson, the indispensable poet, as the critic Denis Donoghue described him, reared in Gardiner, Maine, worked on the construction of the New York City subway, lived in one room, sat in his rocker and waited for someone to knock on his door.

In his verse, *Cassandra* (1916), Robinson wrote of America:

'Are you to pay for what you have
With all you are?' – No other word
we caught, but with a laughing crowd
Moved on. None heeded, and few heard.

Then there was John Dos Passos in *Manhattan Transfer* (1925) and James T. Farrell's trilogy *Studs Lonigan* (1932-1935) and Henry Miller's *Black Spring* (1936).

Miller was explicit. "I see America spreading disaster," he said. "I see America as a black curse upon the world. I see a long night settling in and that mushroom which has poisoned the world withering at the roots."

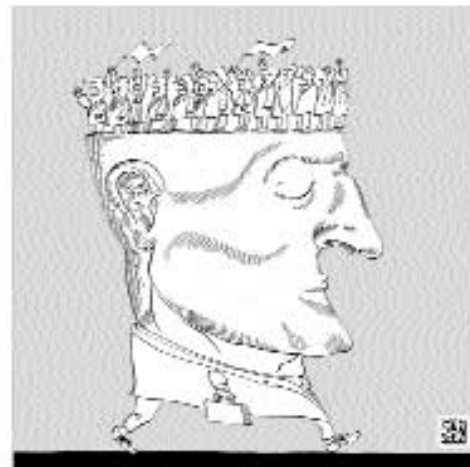
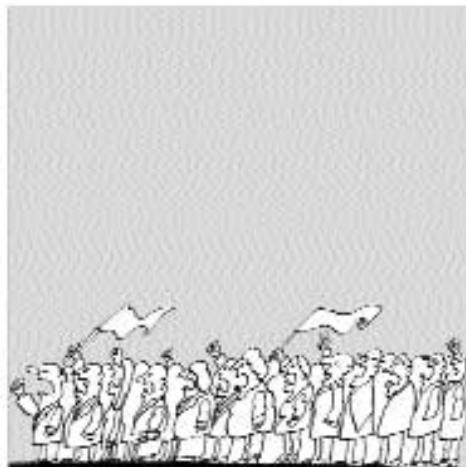
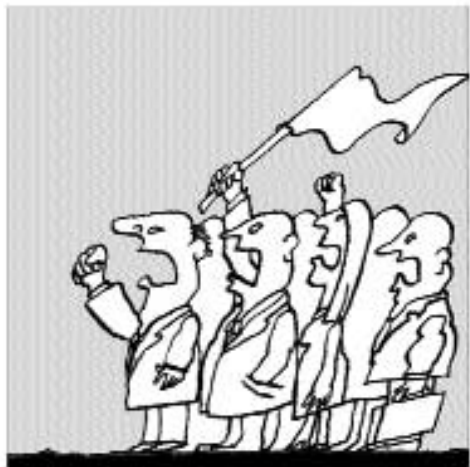
And then there was Allen Ginsberg's *Howl* (1956) and *Wichita Vortex Sutra* (1966). And Richard Wright and Ralph Ellison and John A. Williams and Chester Himes and James Baldwin. The other side of the doom equation was slavery for which we have not yet paid and which like the ghost of the Indian continues to haunt us.

In *The Fire Next Time* (1962), Baldwin admonished, "But renewal becomes impossible if one supposes things to be constant that are not: safety, for example, or money, or power."

"No more water," Baldwin warned, "the fire next time!"

If there is any time left, it is going fast.

EL INDEPENDIENTE



DESPUÉS DE LA CARAVANA

POR SILVIA ARANA

El 4 de octubre la Caravana de los inmigrantes terminó su recorrido en el parque Flushing Meadows de Queens, Nueva York, con una marcha multitudinaria. La concurrencia varía de diez mil a cien mil personas según la fuente.

Flameaban banderas de decenas de países, banderines de sindicatos y estandartes religiosos. La gran diversidad de rostros y de lenguajes estaba a tono con este conglomerado de naciones que es el condado de Queens. Los asistentes reclamaron dignidad y respeto por los derechos de los inmigrantes; reunificación familiar y legalización que conduzca a la ciudadanía.

El conjunto mexicano Bronco y el cantante de reggae Wyclef Jean fueron ovacionados y ayudaron a crear un clima de festival aromatizado con los olores de las comidas caribeñas y latinas. Entre los oradores estaban Edward Egan, cardenal de Nueva York; John Sweeny, presidente de la central nacional de sindicatos AFL-CIO; John Wilhem, Presidente del sindicato de trabajadores de hoteles y restaurantes; Roger Toussaint, Presidente del sindicato de trabajadores del transporte; los congresistas demócratas John Lewis, Charles Rangel y Nydia Velázquez; los concejales Gifford Miller, Hiram Monserrate y otros miembros de la AFL-CIO, la Iglesia, y organizaciones comunitarias.

María Durazo, la directora nacional de la Caravana, dijo que la marcha significa el despertar del pueblo inmigrante y de la sensibilización de demócratas y republicanos al tema migratorio. Alertó que el próximo año habrá elecciones y que el público apoyará al candidato que tome en cuenta los problemas de los inmigrantes. Nydia Velázquez también recaló que es importante incorporar el tema migratorio al debate nacional en vísperas de elecciones.

Algunos activistas dudan del compromiso real que estos políticos y sindicalistas tienen con las reivindicaciones de los inmigrantes. Quizás porque en décadas, sus contactos con ellos les mostraron que una vez que termina la campaña electoral, se olvidan de los inmigrantes. Tanto en la costa oeste, como en la este, durante los noventa y principios del 2000, se han levantado las banderas de legalización de los inmigrantes indocumentados tanto en la comunidad como en propuestas

legislativas. Todos esos proyectos de ley fueron uno a uno a parar al cesto de papeles de algún legislador demócrata por falta de apoyo dentro de su partido.

En Nueva York, dos de los grupos más activos en la organización de los inmigrantes, Tepeyac y Centro de Trabajadores Latinos, no participaron de la convocatoria. Juan Martínez, coordinador de Tepeyac, declaró al diario *Hoy* que este tipo de movimiento debe alcanzar un nivel más serio. Dijo que desde hace tres meses, se está discutiendo en el Congreso la iniciativa de ley HR 2899; que no otorga amnistía pero que contiene algunos aspectos positivos para los inmigrantes. Contempla dos tipos de visa para trabajadores temporales, que finalmente tendrían acceso a la residencia permanente. Reconoce elegibilidad para los que entraron al país ilegalmente. Agregó que en este momento se está discutiendo el impedimento a la elegibilidad por delitos menores.

Pide que los organizadores de la Caravana

se sumen a la propuesta que significará un avance en la legalización de los trabajadores inmigrantes.

En declaraciones a *El Independiente*, Mónica Santana, Centro de Trabajadores Latinos, manifestó que las leyes migratorias actuales tienen consecuencias gravísimas, que exigen un compromiso serio a todos los niveles. Si bien reconoce el esfuerzo de los organizadores de la Caravana para movilizar por esta causa, lamenta que hasta ahora no hayan brindado su apoyo a la propuesta de ley que está en la mesa de debate.

Para algunos activistas latinos, el tema migratorio está en el centro de su accionar. No es un estandarte para agitar en una movilización, y volver a la vida cotidiana con cierta paz de conciencia; ni es tampoco un eslogan de campaña electoral. Es un tema que va más allá de los partidos demócrata o republicano.

En octubre de 1999, la Coalición por la legalización de los inmigrantes, convocó en Washington D.C. a una marcha por la

legalización, la reunificación familiar, derechos civiles y laborales para los inmigrantes. Concurrieron más de veinte mil personas y abrió el camino para la articulación de un movimiento nacional. Era una coyuntura ideal para tratar de revertir las leyes migratorias: Bajo desempleo y economía estable. Estos factores ayudarían a contrarrestar los alegatos conservadores de que los inmigrantes le quitan puestos de trabajo a los ciudadanos. Sin embargo, los demócratas no apoyaron con firmeza a la Coalición en su propuesta de cambiar las leyes. Con el triunfo de Bush y la nueva derecha conservadora, más los atentados del 11 de septiembre del 2001, la situación cambió completamente.

Hoy, las comunidades inmigrantes y los sectores que las apoyan se hallan en una encrucijada: con más de diez millones de trabajadores indocumentados en este país y con la tragedia de la muerte de un inmigrante por día tratando de cruzar clandestinamente la frontera con México. Es el momento de construir consenso y fortalecer la lucha en todos los niveles para cambiar las leyes migratorias. Esperemos que la legalización de los inmigrantes indocumentados sea un eje permanente y no negociable, que trascienda la coyuntura electoral.

BREVES

LA GUERRA DEL GAS EN BOLIVIA

El 12 de octubre, día consagrado a la resistencia indígena y campesina a nivel mundial, en El Alto de La Paz, fuerzas militares y policiales asesinaron a decenas bolivianos y bolivianas, niños y ancianos, hombres y mujeres que derramaron su sangre por defender el gas, los recursos naturales, la dignidad de las personas y la soberanía de un pueblo.

Ante la insurrección popular que se extiende al resto del país, el gobierno de Sánchez de Lozada dio un paso atrás en su intento de exportar los recursos gasíferos al mercado norteamericano, a través de un proyecto elaborado por el consorcio Pacific LNG, conformado por Repsol-YPF, British Gas y Panamerican Gas, subsidiaria esta última de British Petroleum.

Al cierre de la presente edición, tropas militares se concentran en la ciudad de La Paz mientras que el pueblo, que pide la renuncia del "gringo" Sanchez de Lozada, se prepara para la resistencia

COLOMBIA SE RETIRA DEL GRUPO DE LOS 21

Ante la presión del gobierno de Estados Unidos y después de su visita a Washington, el gobierno de Alvaro Uribe decidió retirarse del G21, grupo formado en la pasada reunión de la OMC en Cancún, y el cual se opuso a los países desarrollados al demandar la eliminación de subsidios a su agricultura.

El hecho sucedió después de la amenaza, por parte del gobierno estadounidense, de no iniciar conversaciones para la firma de un tratado bilateral de libre comercio entre ambos países.

Esto deteriora la capacidad negociadora de los gobiernos de los

países en desarrollo y afecta profundamente a Latinoamérica ya que pierde fuerza en las reuniones de ALCA, donde, en la más reciente reunión, el gobierno norteamericano decidió sustraer de las negociaciones el tema agrícola.

COMUNICACIÓN, CONFLICTO Y DEMOCRACIA

Del 17 al 19 de octubre se llevará a cabo la conferencia Comunicación Conflicto y Democracia, organizada por Colombia Media Project, (CMP).

Esta conferencia analizará el contexto actual de Colombia dentro de las corrientes globales, con una serie de talleres y plenarios en las que participarán periodistas independientes, activistas de los medios, académicos y defensores de derechos humanos de Colombia y de los Estados Unidos. Examinarán el estado del conflicto en Colombia, la expansión del papel de Washington en la guerra, y la manera en que los medios masivos de comunicación, en ambos países, cubren estos asuntos.

Asimismo se analizará el creciente movimiento de resistencia, que a pesar de las grandes presiones, sigue adelante enfocándose en la lucha por la democratización de la comunicación como camino fundamental para combatir el desbalance de fuerzas que logre generar a un cambio duradero.

Las conferencias se llevarán a cabo en Hunter College, West Building (68th Street y Lexington Av.) Mayores informes en COLOMBIA MEDIA PROJECT PO Box 1091, New York, NY 10116; (212) 802-7209; colmediaproject@aol.com