

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2006

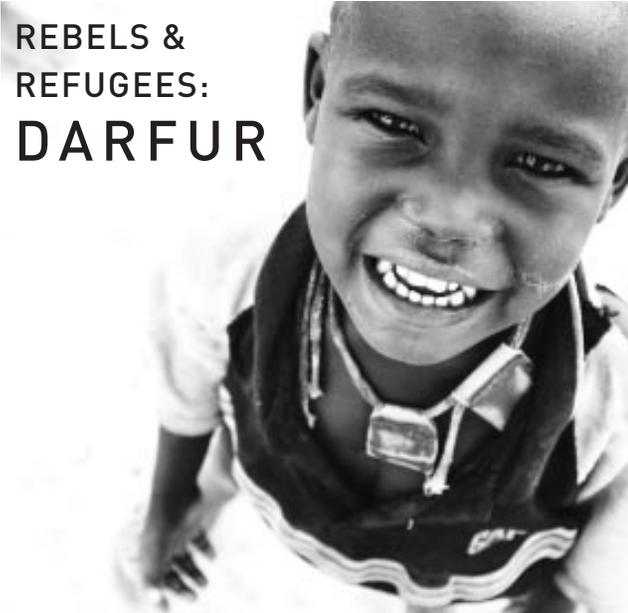
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VOLUME 2 ISSUE 6

REBELS &
REFUGEES:
DARFUR



GROUND ZERO:
LEBANON



E-VILLE
EXPOSED

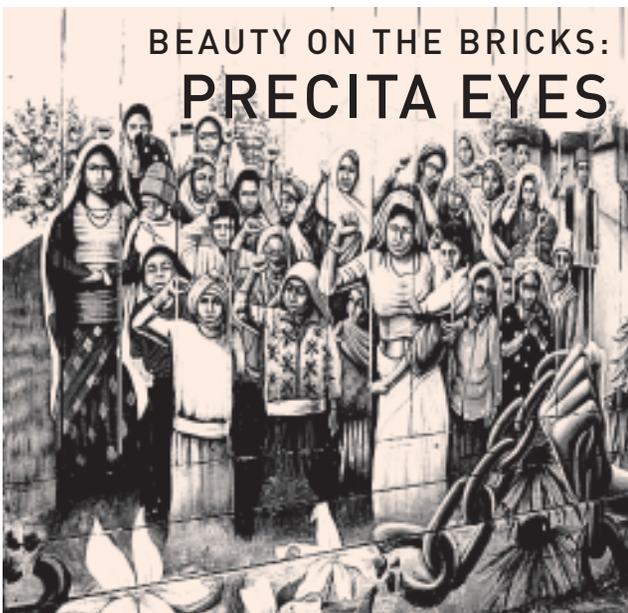


FAULT LINES

NEWSMAGAZINE OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA INDEPENDENT MEDIA CENTER

indybay.org

BEAUTY ON THE BRICKS:
PRECITA EYES



PAGINA ESPECIAL
en español

Trabajados Domesticas
+ IndyMedia Noticias



libre

FAULT LINES

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

FAULT LINES MISSION STATEMENT

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

GET INVOLVED

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

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

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FAULT LINES THANKS

Dave id, Kelah Bott, media alliance, the independent (nyc imc), street level tv, enemy combatant radio, street sheet, station 40, howard quinn press, corpwatch, elizabeth sy and lushorchid, lani r, natalie cadranel, nicole mueller, carwil james, janky hell-face, ak press, alternative tentacles, lauren moret, khalil bendib, santa cruz imc. respect.

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



BOMBS OVER BEIRUT

By SAKURA SAUNDERS

PHOTO: MASSER

ABOVE: The remains of a building used by Hezbollah after an Israeli airstrike in the Southern Lebanese city of Tyre.

Within the past month, Lebanon, a country recently celebrated as a model democracy in the Middle East, has been devastated by Israeli air strikes and ground incursions. The conflict was sparked by Hezbollah's July 12 operation that left three Israeli soldiers dead, and two captured. Hezbollah intended to use these soldiers in a political prisoner exchange, as they have done in the past. Instead, the incident quickly escalated into a full-scale aerial attack on Lebanon's population and vital infrastructure. Key bridges, roads, power plants, ports, and Beirut's international airport were all targeted in the campaign later revealed to have been planned by Israel over three years prior.

Hezbollah retaliated by launching a series of missile and rocket barrages into Northern Israel, including Haifa. While Hezbollah's actions were initially criticized by "moderate" Arab states, such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan, there now exists a consensus of outrage over the extent of Israel's attacks and support for Lebanon's ceasefire demands, while Hezbollah enjoys increasing support in Lebanon and the rest of the Arab and Muslim world.

These recent developments echo Hezbollah's past, which is highly regarded as the only Arab guerrilla force to ever

regain Israeli occupied territory without negotiating. Hezbollah formed out of a resistance to the occupation of southern Lebanon, which Israel invaded in 1978 (and again in 1982) to root out the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). Israel remained in southern Lebanon for eighteen years and continues to occupy the Shebaa farms; a territory that Lebanon claims as its own, but Israel insists belongs to Syria. Interestingly, Hezbollah

power between Christian Maronites and Muslim Sunni and Shia. They also provide many social services, including schools, housing and health support for the poor.

Regarding Hezbollah solely as militant fundamentalist Islamists is misleading. Their actions suggest that they are primarily a nationalist organization, as evidenced by their unwillingness to punish the Christians in southern Leb-

ISRAEL NOW FINDS ITSELF STUCK IN A CONFLICT WITH AN ENEMY THAT IS THE FOCAL POINT OF ARAB AND MUSLIM ANGER TOWARDS FOREIGN OCCUPATION

lah has successfully used Israel's ongoing occupation of the Shebaa farms to justify their continued armament, while all of the other militias formed during Lebanon's years of occupation and civil war have been disbanded.

In addition to having a heavily armed militia, Hezbollah participates in Lebanese society in a number of significant ways. They hold 14 seats in Lebanon's 128-seat parliament, which balances

anon, who had aided Israeli occupiers after Israel withdrew from the region. According to UC Irvine's Lara Deeb, "many of Hezbollah's constituents do not want to live in an Islamic state; rather, they want the party to represent their interests within a pluralist Lebanon."

Also, the make-up of Hezbollah does not reflect their fundamentalist image, especially in times of greatest resistance. In a recent *New York Times* editorial, Robert Pape revealed that the vast majority of Hezbollah suicide bombers from 1982 to 1986 (the period with the highest concentration of Hezbollah suicide attacks) were not Islamic fundamentalists. The suicide bombers reflected the broader anger within Lebanese society against foreign occupation; many belonged to leftist organizations and some were even Christian.

Lebanon is understandably desperate for an end to this conflict. The country's economy, which had seen strong development following the end of the 15-year civil war, is now losing an estimated \$70 million a day. In addition to displacing a quarter of Lebanon's four million person population, the conflict

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PHOTO: NADIR.ORG

G8 AT IT AGAIN

BY NICO RAHIM

thorities outlawed almost all protests and demonstrations. Absent were also the modest successes of the Gleneagles Summit where the G8 nations agreed to cancel all debt from the 19 poorest nations to the IMF, World Bank, and African Development Fund, with proposed debt cancellations for the 40 poorest nations. The Global Days of Action for Climate Justice, held on July 14 and 15, which saw decentralized teach-ins, skills shares, and demonstrations to support local struggles against highly polluting oil-refineries around the world, raised no eyebrows from the G8 leaders who continued their business-as-usual negotiations.

Highlights of the summit include: a call on Israel to show restraint in its decimation of Lebanon, a *sucks-to-be-you* to the Lebanese, and a sharp condemnation of Hezbollah and Hamas. The G8 developed a plan to meet increasing energy demand, which is projected to increase by 50

percent by 2030, with 80 percent fossil fuels and a smidgen of nuclear power—just to show that they can be green through a proper mixture of blueblood and yellowcake. They also made a commitment to the fight against infectious disease—so long as it does not violate international pharmaceutical patents.

As Germany takes over the G8 presidency, the German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, pushes control of greenhouse gas emission as a top agenda item. Her preferred method of control? Climate trading, already a multi-billion dollar industry, which uses privatization—the classic neoliberal problemsolver—to remedy a global problem. Decentralized organizers are now rallying protesters to stop the commodification of the atmosphere and “Stand up for climate justice!” at the G8 summit on climate change in Mexico City on October 3 and 4.



PHOTO: BILL CARPENTER

INDYJOURNALIST JAILED

Judge denies constitutional arguments

Independent journalist Josh Wolf was jailed on August 1 for exercising his first amendment rights and refusing to provide a federal grand jury with video footage he shot at the SF G8 protest last summer. Wolf, 24, was taken to the Dublin federal detention center, and could remain there until July 2007, for the duration of the grand jury.

The National Lawyers Guild believes that the grand jury is being improperly used to obtain materials that would normally be protected under California's Reporter Shield Law.

Wolf was present at, and reporting on, a protest on July 8, 2005 in the Mission district. Witnesses at the demonstration say that a police vehicle was driven into the crowd. Two police officers exited the vehicle and violently assaulted multiple people on the street. Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffrey Finigan is supposedly seeking the video footage for what the government claims was attempted arson on a SFPD vehicle. However, no damage has ever been reported by the SFPD.

Supervisors Ross Mirkarimi and Tom Ammiano have introduced a resolution supporting the Reporter Shield Law that accuses the grand jury of attempting “to circumvent the local judicial system.”

See Josh's video and updates at www.indybay.org

Fighting for Weed at the Wharf

Will neighborhood groups kill medical marijuana in SF?

BY MICHAEL LEONARD

The number of medical marijuana dispensaries in San Francisco is never exact. The latest Planning Department surveys count between 25 and 30. Those that want to open or stay in business, however, have a new list of requirements in order to do so. Kevin D. Reed of the Green Cross dispensary has already stepped forward to endure the process, and is discovering that keeping its paperwork in order is far from the biggest challenge.

Complaints from neighbors forced Reed to close his last shop and they may prevent him from opening the doors at his proposed new location near Fisherman's Wharf. At a recent Planning Commission meeting, dozens of opponents bore stickers with slogans such as “Daddy, what's that smell?” and “Caution: Children at Play.” Reasons cited

by residents as primary objections to the Green Cross's opening included proximity to schools and recreations centers, as well as the tourist image of the Wharf. Unfortunately for Reed, the six-member panel agreed with his challengers and denied his application.

Reed remains “very optimistic”, however, and will take his case to the Board of Appeals. If the decision is overturned, the Public Health Commission is expected to make the final decision on the fate of the Green Cross within the following 60 days. Having already paid \$10,000 in application fees, Reed is confident his plan will succeed. He said, “Once you've paid for it...you've done all the research according to the law. They know why we are where we are.”



Despite these obstacles, Zoning Administrator Lawrence Badiner still claims that potential dispensaries are still given a fair shot and noted that the Green Cross had, up to this point, met all the necessary requirements as deemed by the City. Will the cost and controversy attached to the process of opening or maintaining a dispensary spell the end of San Francisco's once-thriving culture of legal medical marijuana? Only time will tell, but the fate of the Green Cross may be a good hint.

Activists Battle Ongoing Logging Devastation

NORCAL, OREGON FOREST DEFENSE UPDATE

Freshwater: Tree-sitters still occupy two acres of Oldgrowth Redwood Forest known as “Fern Gully” near Freshwater creek. PL's widespread clearcutting of

the Freshwater watershed has caused flooding of downstream residences to become more frequent and intense. Email: ferngullytreesit@riseup.net

Nanning Tree-Sits: An acre of this ancient Redwood forest is occupied by tree-sitters. Pacific Lumber cut the rest of the “Bonanza” logging plan last winter. The area is currently under seasonal protection for the nesting Marbled Murrelets. These sea birds—which nest only in oldgrowth trees—are rapidly going extinct in California.

Cascadia: In the Southern Oregon

region of Cascadia, folks are preparing for a community response to the first day of logging in the Kalmiopsis Roadless Area. The logging is part of the Bush Administrations Biscuit Fire “Salvage” hoax. Cutting could begin in this part of the Siskiyou National Forest in August. www.o2collective.com

Davis Creek: Sierra Pacific Industries' “Windmill” logging plan threatens 130 acres of coastal Oldgrowth Douglas Fir forest in the heavily logged Davis Creek drainage. <http://saveancientforests.blogspot.com>

Mattole: In the Mattole River Watershed, over 2,000 acres of ancient forest remains in Pacific Lumber holdings. Much of this Douglas Fir and hardwood forest is currently protected within buffer zones along watercourses. However, PL is currently working to change the rules to allow more logging within these fragile zones. Additionally, this could allow logging in the no-cut zones of some previous logging sites without a new logging plan. Email: mattodefense@lycos.com

COMPILED BY FARMER

Oakland Police

Infiltrate Anti-War Group

Two undercover police officers infiltrated a protest group in May 2003 in order to gather intelligence on activists and influence the course of their demonstration. The group, Direct Action to Stop the War, elected the police spies to help plan the logistics of their Port of Oakland march protesting the Iraq War and police brutality.



PHOTO: STEVEN ARGENT

The May 2003 March followed the April Port of Oakland demonstration where police fired nonlethal bullets and bean bags at activists and longshoremen blocking the Port's entrance, injuring dozens of people. Details of the infiltration have come out through officer depositions in a lawsuit over the Oakland department's use of force on that day.

This is one incident in a long record of police surveillance targeting law-abiding activist groups and individuals, according to a recent ACLU (Northern California) report. Under the guise of "fighting terrorism," federal, state and local agencies have infiltrated or monitored political activism groups throughout Northern and Central California.

In 2003 State Attorney General Bill Lockyer ruled that police must suspect that a crime has been committed before collecting intelligence on activist groups; but the ACLU has found that only 8 of 94 law enforcement agencies surveyed last year were aware of the rules.

www.indybay.org

Reporters Without Borders Lies About Republican Funding

In spite of 14 months of stonewalling by the National Endowment for Democracy over a Freedom of Information Act request (and a flat denial from RSF executive director Lucie Morillon), the NED has revealed that Reporters Without Borders received grants over at least three years from the International Republican Institute.

WWW.INDYMEDIA.ORG

Chaos at the Clinic

ON THE FRONTLINE OF THE REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS WAR

BY EMILY & JOSH

During the third week of July, anti-abortion activists from all over the country converged on Jackson, Mississippi under the banner Operation Save America. Jackson is home to the only abortion clinic in Mississippi. Many women already must travel outside of the state for reproductive healthcare, including abortions. If this clinic closes, choices will be even more limited for the women of Mississippi.

Operation Save America, formerly "Operation Rescue," is one of the largest anti-choice groups in the United States. OR was founded in the 1980s, and both groups have organized civil disobedience and direct actions around clinics.

A contingent of grassroots activists from across the country collaborated to counter OSA's self-described "siege on the last abortion clinic". The Mississippi Reproductive Freedom Summer included the groups Jackson NOW, the Southern Abortion Fund and Oakland-based Radical Women. Radical Women posted an update on *Indybay* in the days leading up to the protests clearly stating the reason for their presence, "rightwing anti-abortionists... agenda would send society back to the era when women's 'place' was barefoot and pregnant in the kitchen and the 'place' for people of color was on the back of the bus."

In the weeks leading up to OSA's national event in Jackson, the organization spewed rhetoric about "storming the gates of Hell" and "the beginning to the end of abortion in Mississippi, and in America." Twice in their short brochure urging people to come to Jackson, Operation Save America touches on the great evils of Abortion, Homosexuality, and Islam. In addition, the group opposes comprehensive sex education, contraceptives, and feminism. While they have never expressly supported clinic violence, they have also failed to condemn it.

In Jackson, Operation Save America focused on rallies at the clinic, the Capitol building, a park, and two queer-friendly churches while demonstrating throughout the city.

The Jackson Women's Health Organization—one of the main targets—was subject to almost constant protests during the week. However, the clinic had increased security and maintained a dedicated escorting staff, ensuring that those who sought their services would be able to enter. In a July 20 interview on Pacifica Radio's news magazine show, "Flashpoints," Betty Thompson a consultant to the clinic and one time

administrator spoke about the necessity of the health care facility, "We think it's really important that we are here. We have a huge job to do. We have an enormous responsibility to women, to the people that work at the clinic and to all of the women of the state of Mississippi. And we are going to try to stand up and meet the challenge." Regardless, clients still faced harassment. To delay entry into the clinic, protestors outside were verbally abusive and used every tactic they could without getting arrested.

Members of Operation Save America were blocked from entering a queer-friendly Unitarian church by anarchists. A brazen OSA member attempted to drive his car onto the grounds only to have it besieged by angry pro-choice radicals, and only after damage was done to the car did he retreat.

Many anti-choice activists displayed doctored pictures of 21-week or older fetuses (claiming that they were much younger) and compared abortion to the holocaust and lynching. Members of the organization wore shirts that condemned homosexuality, Islam, and feminism among many other sins, or shirts that stated: "Truth is hate to those that hate the truth."

Every person should have the right to choose their own medical care and to have access to that care without being forced to listen to lies and biased information. In their demonstrations at the state capitol, OSA issued an "Emancipation Proclamation" for the "unborn"—as they refer to fetuses, viable or not.

The next day they tore up six Supreme Court decisions concerning abortion, homosexuality, and the separation of church and state, as well as the GLBT pride flag and a copy of the Koran. They later burned these items.

Counter demonstrations by Mississippi Reproductive Freedom Summer included several rallies and marches, as well as days dedicated to outreach—to



PHOTO: HTTP://INDYBAY.ORG

Grassroots community organizing at its best!

talk to community members about issues of reproductive health—such as access to emergency contraceptives.

The story of reproductive rights in Mississippi and the United States is much more complicated than groups of Christian Fundamentalists hurling insults and displaying grotesquely inaccurate signs. In Mississippi, anti-choice activists have been slowly taking away reproductive rights by passing laws that make it harder for clinics to operate, introducing 24-hour waiting periods, forcing women to listen to scientifically unsound state-sponsored counseling, pushing for abstinence-only sex education, and limiting overall access to health care, particularly for low-income women and teenagers. All these things combine to make having or not having an abortion less of a choice.

Throughout the United States similar laws are being passed, and reproductive rights are being destroyed. From education to comprehensive healthcare to contraceptive access, all fronts of the struggle are being attacked. In light of this, Mississippi is hardly an extreme example of what may happen to reproductive freedom throughout the nation if groups like Operation Save America and other anti-woman, anti-choice, racist organizations have their way.



Women face off with evangelicals in front of a women's health center in Jackson, Mississippi.

Battle of the Ballot

MEXICAN ELECTION'S LEGITIMACY
IN QUESTION AS THOUSANDS TAKE
THE STREETS

BY ALEX RATNER

A month since the July 2 Presidential election produced a virtual tie, Mexico is in full crisis. By a mere 0.58% of the total vote, the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE) declared Felipe Calderón, the candidate of the ruling conservative party (PAN), to be president-elect. The center-left PRD candidate, Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO)—both in the courts and in the streets—has vigorously challenged the validity of the official count, and claims the whole electoral process was illegitimately weighted towards Calderón's win. Millions of AMLO's supporters took to the streets, and despite weeks of rain, hundreds of thousands are permanently occupying the core of Mexico City in a nonviolent campaign to press for a full recount.

On August 5, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal denied the PRD's appeal for a vote-by-vote recount, and instead opted for what some senators called "the worst of all possible outcomes": by

the Tribunal's decree, 9% of the ballots will be recounted, primarily from PAN-governed states. By ordering a recount



PHOTO: RAGNARODZIS

Supporters of Obrador will
not go quietly.

the Tribunal has conceded the election was corrupt; however, since only a fraction of the ballots will be recounted, the legitimacy of the "victor" will be permanently tainted. Meanwhile, AMLO declared he will continue his tactics of "peaceful civil resistance" to force a full recount or, as a last resort, a nullification of the election.

Outside the Tribunal's doors, an indignant crowd ominously shouted: "If there is no solution, there will be revolution!" Revolution or not, this election's North/South split is evidence of two Mexicos: a wealthier north more allied with the United States and neoliberal economic development, and a poorer south with more in common with the burgeoning popular movements now spreading across Latin America. The clash of these competing visions seems bound to spark a genuine social upheaval in Mexico, one which not even AMLO or the PRD may be capable of controlling.

A POSITIVE FAILURE

BY NICO RAHIM

To the dismay of many in the corporate media, the WTO Doha Round failed in late July. For the progressive and radical communities there was no ground lost, yet no ground gained. However, there are positive attributes to the failure. The representatives from the Global South stood against the trade representatives from the developed nations and would not give into economic bullying.

The Doha Round talks sprung from the early post-9/11 global sympathy for the US. Early on, George W. Bush promoted the Doha Round talks as another front in the War on Terror. In his 2002 State of the Union address, he closed with the words, "In every region, free markets and free trade and free societies are proving their power

to lift lives. Together with friends and allies from Europe to Asia and Africa to Latin America, we will demonstrate that the forces of terror cannot stop the momentum of freedom."

Even with all of the rhetoric "W" used to fertilize the ground of his trade policy, he was met with resistance at the Cancun ministerial in 2002 from the G20—a group of developing nations fashioning their name from the G8—who saw corporate globalization not so much as the momentum of freedom, but as rather, exploitation.

Since the resistance toward the corporatist global agenda in Cancun, where Korean farmer, Lee Kyung Hae, took his life in response to neoliberal policy, little progress had been made in either direction. The G20 and the Global South pressured the US and Europe to

THE END OF THE WTO DOHA ROUND TALKS

cut its agricultural subsidies that created artificially low prices for basic agricultural commodities that flood the world's markets, forcing farmers in the Global South to sell their goods below costs of production.

The US would not budge without major concessions from the developing world. US Trade Representative, Robert Zoellick, demanded that US corporations be given 1 dollar of market access for each dollar it reduces in its subsidies.

This was the stalemate that could not be overcome. The European countries were willing to compromise by reducing agricultural subsidies and tariffs without demanding significant concessions in market access, and quickly pointed their fingers at the US for the failure of the Doha round.

INDYMEDIA NEWSWIRE

The discovery of the grants reveals a major deception by the group, which for years denied it was getting any Washington dollars.

Reporters Without Borders was instrumental in demonizing the constitutional government of Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Following the overthrow of democracy in Haiti, RSF refused to condemn the assassination of Haitian journalist Abdias Jean, along with jailings of journalists and attacks on Pro-Lavalas Radio Stations.

The NED still refuses to provide the requested documents or even reveal the grant amounts, but NED assistant to the president, Patrick Thomas, confirmed the existence of the grants.

Funding from the IRI presents a major problem for RSF's credibility as a "press freedom" organization. The IRI — an arm of the Republican Party—specializes in meddling in elections in foreign countries. They funded the Venezuelan opposition to President Hugo Chavez and actively organized Haitian opposition to Aristide in conjunction with the CIA.

www.indybay.org/international/haiti/

Natural Food Stores Band Together in Anti-GMO Campaign

The Non-GMO Project—a collaboration of North American grocery stores and co-ops urging natural food and supplement companies to go Non-GMO—is now at 50 members nationwide, and counting. From San Diego, California to White River Junction, Vermont, natural food retailers are joining together in an effort to assure "a Non-GMO food supply, our customer's confidence in the foods and supplements we offer, and the general health & well-being of ourselves, our customers and the world in general."

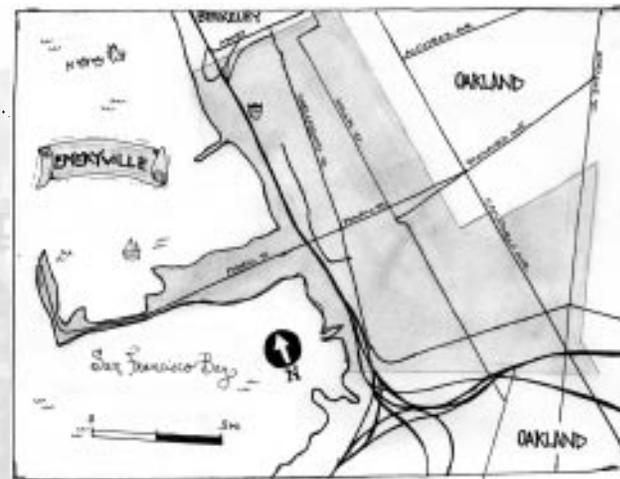
The Non-GMO Project was founded by two natural grocery stores, The Natural Grocery Company in Berkeley, California, and The Big Carrot Natural Food Market in Toronto, Canada. The project has retained Global ID Consulting / Genetic ID North America to create a scientific program for non-GMO certification.

www.nongmoproject.org
nadir.org

WWW.INDYMEDIA.ORG

SEE NO E-VILLE

EMERYVILLE: THE "DIRTIEST LITTLE TOWN ON THE PACIFIC COAST"



BY HANNAH POTASSIUM

Emeryville swells as a phenomenon for the rising generation—a theme park for the culturally vacant, a carnival ride for those content to watch their money burn. It's a wonder that the place can be considered a township at all, as the most powerful politicians are quite realistically Pixar, Chiron, Siebel Systems, and Ikea (of which the former two have their own "districts" and the latter is a "big box" retail structure).

Between the fictional characters of the animation studio and the mad scientists of the biotechnology lab, it is easy to forget about the reality of place in this consummate fantasyland.

Its portrayal of Main Street, USA is eerily accurate. However, the utopian vision of flawless, exemplary Emeryville carries with it dark undertones more complicated than choosing what to order at the Marketplace food court and far less pleasant than even the stench of Abercrombie and Fitch cologne that wafts across the tracks.

Emeryville has always been an epicenter for vice and corruption. Beginning with the brutal usurpation of land from the Ohlone tribes by the Spanish in the late 1700s, there has consistently been a thinly veiled obsession with profit that masquerades as "culture." Police Chief Ken James calls it "the little city that can." Their motto is: "Our strength is our people."

But with a population of less than 7,000 (according to the 2000 census) in a space of just over one square mile, we might have to hope for some unusually strong people...or a secret weapon. Is it really the city's people that make it so powerful? Most of its residents actually commute out to work in other parts of the Bay Area. And most of its employ-

ees are imported in. Professional jobs dominate employment in Emeryville at 25 percent, with managerial and executive positions close behind at 19.8 percent. The rest of the work is mostly retail, which makes sense because the city is essentially just a very large mall. Such jobs tend to be dominated by white folks, and would thus alter the census' statistic of a mere 45 percent white population.

With a long tradition of debauchery, Bay Street's capitalist predecessors would have been proud to witness the lasting crooked nature of the city.

As Emeryville juxtaposes itself quaintly beside big, bad Oakland, it discreetly aims to attract a bulk of white people with deep pockets. Currently twelve major development projects are underway within city limits, tending to be cumbersome and architecturally monotonous loft complexes. This will provide construction jobs for many, though it is quite likely that these workers will never be able to afford the very residences they are building.

According to the Agency's Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance, at least 20 percent of new residential units must be designated "affordable housing." But the ambiguity of the word "affordable" (meaning in this context an individual \$46,350 per year income or less) may lend itself to an exclusion of a number of potential homeowners. Low (or even moderate) income families may find themselves chased to the other side of the invisible Oakland/Emeryville line, the subtle claws of gentrification scratching at their heels.

One illustration of this city's underpinning commitment to homogenization is the array of bizarre, one-time grants that the Economic Development Department offers to property owners who want to improve the aesthetic of their property and increase its value—including the \$5,000 "Wrought Iron Fence Grant," which promises to remove any "existing, non-conforming fence" and replace it with a "decorative, open type" one.

The model example of this New Urbanism is the Bay Street Mall: "a vertically integrated mixed-use community where one can live, work, shop, dine, and recreate without the need for an automobile." This development's PR has been painfully effective, cloaking obvious displacement in subtle buzzwords and pretty phrases like "urban renewal." The San Francisco Chronicle touts Bay Street as a "European-style urban village." It is this same language that morphs "high-end chain stores" into "shops and boutiques," and "corporate personhood" into "community." With one-bedroom condos ranging from \$650,000 to \$730,000 above stores such as Gap, Banana Republic, and Pottery Barn, skewed jargon like "village" becomes mere newspeak.

With a long tradition of debauchery, Bay Street's capitalist predecessors may have been proud to witness the lasting crooked nature of the city. Nothing underscores this notion better than when, in 1876, the city stuck a dance pavilion

directly atop the last remaining Ohlone shellmound—and quite literally danced on the ashes of the natives.

By the late nineteenth century, Emeryville had earned the title of the "Entertainment Capital of the Easy Bay" with its saloons, brothels, card clubs, and racetracks, buttressed by further illegal gambling and a lucrative business in speakeasies during Prohibition. Earl Warren, the District Attorney of Alameda County at the time, once raided the Emeryville Police Garage to find a "liquor fleet" of five cars holding 565 gallons of booze. He had been quoted saying, "Within a block of the police of Emeryville are 12 houses of prostitution and 20 bootlegging joints." This center of vice had few rivals.

With the criminalization of horseracing in 1911, the red-light district morphed into an industrial hub for the Bay Area, consuming nearly 80 percent of the city with paint factories, chemical manufacturers, petroleum refineries, canneries, slaughterhouses, and more. The slaughterhouses were so numerous, in fact, that the area became known as Butchertown; a place engulfed by a detestable stench of manure and burning bones.

For all of these reasons, residents deemed Emeryville "morally reprehensible" and began to organize for reform. As a result, landowners, investors, and industrialists adopted the most obvious solution to the problem the reformist groups posed: they simply redrew the city boundaries to exclude every church and complaining neighborhood. Emeryville has since flourished (or festered) as an icon of decadence and destruction...proving that this "little city that can" could actually do quite a bit.

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



FOOD FIGHT!

Federal, State and Local Powers Wrestle for Control over Food

By MICHAEL LEONARD

Whatever your feelings about the dangers of genetically modified organisms, the state and federal governments recent legislative efforts to disempower local communities are truly frightening. Two specific areas of debate are the extent of local government's control over the crops in their communities, and the information that consumers are given about the food they buy. These decisions will impact agriculture from seed to store shelf.

Last year, Senator Dean Florez, D-Shafter, introduced S.B. 1056. Its primary concern was reducing air pollution in the state, particularly in the San Joaquin Valley. The Senate approved it 31-8 in June. A month later, Florez offered an amended version of the bill that, quite literally, crossed out all content pertaining to air pollution and replaced it with a lot of language regarding seeds. Now the bill asserts that state regulations related to the sale and use of seeds and nursery stock operate "to the

exclusion of local regulations" — meaning the state can ignore local communities like Mendocino or Santa Cruz that have banned genetically modified crops.

**"If localities can't
block state rulings and
states can't label their
own food... it equals
free reign for Big
Agriculture to do
whatever they want."**

What prompted Senator Florez to ditch a successful effort and return with a much more controversial proposition that has been met by significant opposition? Calls to his office have yet to yield answers.

SF Bay Area Physicians for Social Responsibility oppose S.B. 1056. President Robert M. Gould, M.D., said, "This is not an issue specific to GMOs, but is rather a fundamental issue of allowing the existence of local policies that are more protective of health and the environment than state or federal standards."

The bill will be heard on the Agricultural Assembly Floor in early August. The Organic Consumers Association is planning a statewide call-in day August 8th for constituents to voice their opposition to what they are calling "the Monsanto Bill." Monsanto owns the rights to most of the genetically modified seeds used on American farms.

On the national level, H.R. 4167 is awaiting its turn on the Senate Floor. Passed by the House of Representatives in March 2006, the "National Uniformity for Food Act" would establish a standardized food labeling system across the 50 states. California has its own stringent practice since 1986's Proposition 65. The proposition, as explained in a recent AlterNet article, "prompted food corporations to make changes nationwide, since no company wanted to create a separate package for food sold in the most populous state. Because many companies felt it would look better to simply remove some ingredients than to say their products contained carcinogens, the law has led to the phase out of some 750 chemicals, according to California's attorney general." HR 4167 would force California to ignore Proposition 65 in favor of lax federal regulations more appealing to Big Agriculture businesses.

In an e-mail, Senator Dianne Feinstein explained her opposition to the measure: "H.R. 4167 prohibits states and localities from enacting food safety regulations that are stronger than those required by the federal government. It also prevents state and local governments from filling gaps in food safety laws when the federal government has no warning standards for a food product."

Wes Rolley, Organizer for the Rural Greens Caucus of the California Green Party, summed up the repercussions of the two bills on both chow and culture: "If localities can't block state rulings and states can't label their own food... it equals free reign for Big Agriculture to do whatever they want."



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REBELS and REFUGEES: DARFURIS make THEIR DEMANDS



ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY SHANE BAUER

Sixteen year old “Moro” is reputed to be one of the fiercest fighters from the rebel battalion based in Muzbat, a North Darfuri village now transformed into a Sudanese Liberation Army (SLA) base. Unlike his jovial comrades, Moro has the stern look of a hardened soldier. He shows me a bullet casing tightly wrapped in leather and dangling from his necklace. “As long as I wear this [the military and Janjaweed] can’t kill me,” he said last June. What has made him so fierce? “Circumstances,” he says bluntly. “Because they burned our homes and stole our property.”

Far from hard-bitten warriors, the majority of the mostly twenty-something rebels in Moro’s all-male group would rather discuss Bob Marley and

make jokes under the stars than recount atrocities. After more than three years of fighting, they are eager for peace and the reestablishment of normalcy in Sudan’s Western region of Darfur, which currently lies mostly barren outside of the urban centers or internally displaced people’s (IDP) camps. Despite the fact that most of them have lost family members and have no villages to return to, they still talk about their revolution with the fervor of newly impassioned idealists.

Senior SLA commander “Sisco” Al-Sadig Yusif Hamid, who like the rest of Darfur’s rebels rarely has the chance to speak to the western press, says that before the war, “Darfur was suffering from hunger, underdevelopment, mar-

ginalization, social stratification, lack of health and educational facilities,” and increased pillaging by members of the Arab tribes. SLA’s Vice Director of Intelligence, Abbas Ibrahim, says the reason that the SLA rose up against the Sudanese government in 2003 was to fight “for all marginalized people” in Sudan, but particularly those in the Darfur region. “All the power is concentrated in the capital,” he says. “Here in Darfur, there [was] no difference between people and animals. This is what led us to create the SLA.”

Prior to the SLA’s first attack against the government in the city of Al-Fashir on April 25, 2003, Darfur had long been a region of tension. The limitation of natural resources has historically

led to conflicts in the region between mostly black sedentary agriculturalists and Arab nomadic pastoralists. Desertification, which has brought about periods of severe drought since the second half of the 20th century, has pushed Arab tribes in Darfur into grazing their livestock on the rich agricultural lands and pastures of the sedentary populations. With the increased pressure of a degrading environment, competition over natural resources between agriculturalists and pastoralists became more severe, and cattle raids turned into full-fledged conflicts.

Then when the SLA, mostly made up of black Darfuris, rose up demanding that the Sudanese government end the discrimination against their people, President Omar Al-Bashir took advantage of Darfur’s pre-existing conflicts by arming, financing, and training certain elements of the Arab tribes, who came to be known as “devils on horsebacks,” or Janjaweed in Arabic. It used its military to bomb the mud and straw villages of these black ethnic groups, and hired the Janjaweed to burn villages, steal livestock, rape, and massacre Darfur’s black population.

After three years of a war that has claimed the lives of between 200,000-400,000 people, the signing of the new

Left: SLA rebels rest in territory that is now free from government rule. The Sudanese government and their Janjaweed militias began attacking Darfur’s civilian population in response to an SLA-led rebellion in 2003.





Above: The majority of the refugee population are women since many men were either killed in Darfur, or are currently fighting with one of the rebel groups.

Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) on May 5, provided a glimmer of hope that the killing might end. Pushed by the United Nations, African Union, and United States, the most powerful faction of the SLA, led by Minni Arkou Minawi, was the only rebel group to sign with the government. In the agreement, the Sudanese government promises to disarm janjaweed militias, integrate 4,000 former rebels into the military, limited funds for reconstruction, and grant the fourth highest government position to a former rebel.

Hamid says that he is waiting for the agreement to be implemented on the ground so that refugees can return to their homes and try to build a new life. Yet he, along with many of Minawi's SLA rebels, is skeptical that the government will keep up its end of the deal. Since the agreement was signed, he says that he has yet to see any real changes. Although there haven't been clashes between Minawi's SLA faction and the government he says, "The janjaweed are still attacking innocent people – women and children. Concerning genocide, the janjaweed are still at work." As of July, the Sudanese government has broken

its commitment to disarm the janjaweed five times.

While many of Minawi's rebels are skeptical of the DPA, the majority of Darfur's population rejects it outright. Armed revolution in Darfur is vehemently supported by the region's black civilian population. Most of the 200,000 refugees in Chad and 2 million IDPs in Darfur though, feel that Minawi's faction of the SLA, which is the strongest military force in the rebellion, has betrayed them by signing what they see as an empty agreement. They feel that the content of the DPA doesn't come close to providing compensation, protection them from their genocidal government, or addressing long-standing injustice in Darfur.

The two other main rebel groups – Abdel Wahid's faction of the SLA and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) – refused to sign the agreement because they say that it doesn't speak for the displaced or address the structural inequalities between central Sudan and its periphery. Ishaq Haron, head of the Treguine refugee camp in Chad which houses over 14,000 refugees, says "Abdel Wahid and Dr. Khalil didn't sign and we support them. A signature is not enough

for us. These (rebel) movements must speak about the refugees (in Chad) and IDPs in Darfur," a point that he feels Minawi has failed to do by signing the accord. "They may want an instant solution," JEM said on their website, "but we want a lasting one."

Bokhit Dabo, a former mayor in Darfur and a refugee leader in Chad's 29,600 resident Ouri Cassoni camp outlines the refugee's five demands. "We demand individual reparations for what they stole from us and destroyed during the war, the disarmament of the janjaweed, the intervention of international forces, reconstruction, and development." Being the sole source of most people's livelihoods, compensation for the livestock that was pillaged by the Janjaweed is essential to the survival of most Darfuris. Although they want to leave the camps as soon as possible, Dabo says that they will not return home until the first three demands are met.

Ask any black Darfuri what they need most and they will tell you international intervention, without hesitation. Refugees feel certain that if they return, they will face a situation that was worse than when they left. "If we return without UN forces, it will be a slaughter," says Jamal Al-Deen Daud, the head of Chad's Bredjine camp, which houses over 27,000 refugees. Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir has recently refused to allow UN peacekeepers to enter Darfur. Without the permission of Al-Bashir or an unlikely consensus from the Security Council to override the authority of the Sudanese government, UN forces say that they will not intervene. Two and a half million displaced Darfuris are infuriated by this prospect. One refugee, Ahmed Abdullah Mohammed says, "The international community should be asking the rebel movements in Darfur if they want intervention, not the Sudanese government." Referring to the contradiction of requiring the permission of an architect



Above: A rebel prepares to patrol SLA-controlled territory in Darfur. Although the Sudanese government controls the large cities, most of the territory in Darfur is now controlled by various rebel groups.

Title Photo: SLA rebels rest in territory that is now free from government rule. The Sudanese government and their Janjaweed militias began attacking Darfur's civilian population in response to an SLA-led rebellion in 2003.

Below: Villages throughout Darfur have been burned and abandoned, their inhabitants having fled to camps within Darfur or in Chad. All that is left of most of them are the charred circular walls of their former homes.

of genocide for intervention, Dabo asks "If a snake bites you, do you go back to ask it for medicine?"

Shane Bauer is a writer and photographer whose work focuses on regions of political, social, and economic tension. He has spent time documenting conflicts and intervention in the Balkans, and cultures in the Middle East and Africa.



Trouble In The Suburbs

THE DARK SIDE OF POST-SOVIET DEVELOPMENT IN KAZAKHSTAN

BY: SARAH STUTEVILLE
PHOTOS: ALEX STONEHILL
COMMON LANGUAGE PROJECT



THE sounds of construction are ubiquitous in Almaty. Pounding jackhammers, whining saws, and lumbering bulldozers are at work on almost every block of this green, mountain-rimmed Central Asian city. This breakneck development takes place alongside the expensive bistros and Mercedes dealerships that cater to a new generation reveling in the riches of recently discovered oil and gas reserves, giving this city—once considered a sleepy Soviet outpost—a powerfully wealthy and cosmopolitan veneer.

But all is not well in this city lauded as an economic giant in the region, a model of expedient privatization and post-Soviet development. Kazakhstan's reality check lies only a few miles outside the city center where a growing movement of discontent among those left behind by the recent boom tells a very different story and reveals a country developing on the shaky foundations of corruption and disparity.

"The oil boom provided enormous wealth," said Yevgeniy Zhovtis, founder of the Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law, "but it only happened for some and they are concentrated here in the city. Economically speaking, in Almaty you are Europe, but ten kilometers outside of the center, you are in Asia."

DEMOLITIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Nowhere is the economic and cultural schizophrenia of Kazakhstan more pronounced than in the embattled community of Shanyrak on the fringes of Almaty. Here over 100,000 poor and working class people have found themselves pitched against a government determined to sell their property to the highest bidder—in this case a developer looking to build a water park—and clashing with police squads sent to forcibly push residents out. Ironically, it was this very government that less than a decade ago encouraged Shanyrak into existence.

When the Soviet Union fell and Kazakhstan became an independent nation in 1991, there was a concerted effort on the part of the newly formed government to integrate ethnic Kazakhs, many of who lived in far flung rural regions, into urban centers dominated by ethnic Russians. Those lured by promises of cheap land in the outskirts of cities like Almaty bought modest plots from local officials and set to work building new lives in a brand new country.

But alongside rapid development and oil prosperity, a culture of corruption has also flourished. With real estate prices in Almaty now rivaling those of

many European cities, the city's government has decided to reclaim surrounding land for resale to buyers wealthier than migrating Kazakhs driven from their villages by a collapse of rural industries and infrastructure.

Suddenly, Shanyrak homeowners' deeds are no longer honored: government officials now claim that local people sold them the land illegally. Others, who have squatted land here for years by paying out regular small bribes, have no assurance of long-term legal rights to the property they've developed. This conflict came to a head two and a half months ago when police arrived with sledgehammers and bulldozers.

"Coming home from work down the main road one night in April, I was met by my youngest daughter who was yelling, 'Father, father, they are destroying the house!'" recalled Vladimir Kahimov, a security guard in Almaty and father of four. "She is sometimes a mischievous child, so at first I thought 'What kind of joke is this to make?' but then I saw the police, and I knew that it was true."

Kahimov and his neighbors had previously received a letter demanding that all residents leave their homes, but no demolition date was given, and Shanyrak residents who insist that they have legal rights to their homes say they ignored the notice. Ten homes have been destroyed in Shanyrak in the past six months, but in every case the community immediately pooled their resources and rebuilt the houses within days in keeping with the Kazakh tradition of Ashar—collective house building. They say they will continue to do so and have no intentions of capitulating to the government.

"I bought this land for \$1,500 a year and a half ago," said Kahimov, standing

next to rows of trenches and dirt mounds dug by Shanyrak residents in an attempt to hinder future bulldozers, "they can't destroy our community because we can rebuild our houses in one day. This is our home and whatever happens we will continue to live here."

This spirit of resistance has grown throughout Almaty's unincorporated communities, often referred to as "settlements," which are home to almost ten percent of the city's population. The past year has brought an onslaught of demolitions and battles with police, with over one hundred houses destroyed, but it has also fostered a sense of solidarity, forming these communities into a cohesive political force.

Their growing movement has gained support from opposition parties who see such disenchanted citizens as a potential constituency—especially in light of last year's revolution in neighboring Kyrgyzstan, which was largely fueled by similarly disenfranchised rural populations and citizens frustrated by government corruption. Public sympathy has also been strong, and private companies have refused to perform demolitions, meaning that police, or even city prosecutors have had to swing the sledgehammers themselves.

Recent legislation, to take effect in July, will officially secure land rights for current inhabitants of properties in Almaty. While there is hope that this may alleviate some of the problems in the settlements, residents fear that the new law is intended only to protect the rich. Many say it was passed to serve the wealthy who land-grabbed in the immediate wake of the Soviet collapse, and will not be enforced in favor of settlement residents unable to offer substantial bribes to politicians and officials.



TOP: VLADIMIR KAHIMOV STANDS WITH TWO OF HIS CHILDREN. AFTER THIS ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN, THEIR HOUSE WAS DEMOLISHED.
ABOVE: A BAKAI RESIDENT DISPLAYS A PHOTO OF HER HOUSE. BEHIND HER, HUNGER STRIKERS REST ON COTS.

“If I were a rich woman, I would be outside of the problem,” says Maysara Biahmetova, a retired teacher who saw her home recently destroyed. “Now it is as before, during the Communist Revolution, when the poor fought against

homes, Bakai residents fought back with whatever they had: burning tires, sticks, and rocks. They even tried to keep their houses together by padlocking large chains around them, and climbed on to the roofs so the police would be forced

“They can’t destroy our community because we can rebuild our houses in one day. This is our home and whatever happens we will continue to live here.”

the rich and we must join all of the settlements together, no one else will protect us. Only together will we stop them.”

JOINING TOGETHER

Twenty miles across town, 40 people lie on iron bed frames, their pale faces illuminated in blue by the tarp that shelters them. Their headbands, torn from tablecloths and tee-shirts, announce the name of their community—Bakai. They are entering their second week of hunger strike.

It was here, on February 21 of this year, that police stormed their settlement, while most residents were gathered outside of the town celebrating a local holiday, and set to work pulling apart their humble clay brick and corrugated tin houses.

When word spread that the police were attacking their

to knock them down before proceeding with the demolition. Many Bakai citizens were wounded and arrested.

Despite their resistance, five homes were destroyed that day and Bakai residents say that they have lost two or three houses to police raids every month since. They see their current hunger strike, which has been joined by many citizens of other settlements including Shanyrak, as their last resort.

“We are waiting for legislation that promises that these houses are ours,” said Vinera Ismagulova, leaning against a folding table outside of the hunger strike tent that sags beneath the weight of paperwork filed on behalf of Bakai Settlement. “We’ll stay on strike until we get an answer, we will not give up.”



ABOVE: THE CITY’S GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO RECLAIM SURROUNDING LAND FOR RESALE TO BUYERS WEALTHIER THAN MIGRATING KAZAKHS DRIVEN FROM THEIR VILLAGES BY A COLLAPSE OF RURAL INDUSTRIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE.

update: More Trouble in Bakai and Shanyrak

By ALEX STONEHILL WITH ANDREI GRISHIN

JULY 25, 2006

Despite the efforts of Bakai hunger strikers to call attention to their struggle and pressure Kazakhstan’s government to respect their rights, their situation recently took a turn for the worse.

On July 7, police destroyed almost all of the remaining houses in Bakai. A court decision called for demolition of 30 of these buildings, but another 400 were destroyed on the verbal orders of the mayor, despite the documentation of legal ownership held by most residents in these homes. The raid on Bakai left over 1000 residents homeless, without food, water, or any assistance from local authorities.

A week later, on July 14, police entered the Shanyrak settlement, with court orders calling for more mass demolitions. Having seen the authorities literally bulldoze over the Bakai residents’ attempts at non-violent resistance, the people of Shanyrak acted more aggressively. Attacks by riot police with concussion grenades and rubber bullets were deflected by residents armed with stones and Molotov cocktails. The clashes left one policeman dead, another badly burned, and thirty more with minor injuries. Four police were taken hostage by residents, but were later released. About forty Shanyrak residents were injured, but no homes were successfully demolished.

Since these clashes, Almaty police have retaliated by arresting or just beating up close to a hundred Shanyrak residents, and returning to the rubble of Bakai settlement to arrest any able bodied men still living in the ruins of their houses. For now, the homes of Shanyrak still stand, but residents fear that it won’t be long until the authorities return with greater force.

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HARD KNOCK HIP-HOPPER
RICO PABON BRINGS THE
SPIRIT OF PUERTO RICO TO
THE BAY

While most Bay Area rappers have been “goin’ dumb” this summer, Rico Pabon has been doing the opposite. Although the soulful, salsafied beats on his new album *Louder than Fiction*, give it the vibe of a hand-clapping party album, Rico’s words encourage folks to expand their minds instead of just losin’ them. Whether performing with his Afro-Latin hip-hop band Agua Libre or dropping tracks with The Coup and Dead Prez, Rico raps like a Puerto Rican Chuck D. who ain’t afraid to smile.

BY LIAM O'DONOGHUE

When I met up with Rico at his new restaurant Sofrito (located in the Fruitvale section of Oakland; it's the only Puerto Rican joint in the East Bay), he was definitely grinning from ear to ear. Surrounded by paintings celebrating Puerto Rican freedom fighters and engulfed in the mouth-watering aroma of sizzling plantains, he handed his newborn baby boy over to his wife, and sat down to talk with *Fault Lines* about music, struggle, and how he learned that a colony was more than just a bunch of ants...

FL: How does it feel to be a conscious rapper in a hyphy scene?

Rico Pabon: The music industry has always pushed thug characters out there, because it grabs people's attention right away. I've been doing my thing in the Bay for over 15 years with the same intention, the same fire...and I feel like my personal mission is to stand for positivity no matter what mainstream folks are doing.

I usually start my shows off a cappella, because I want folks to know that I'm trying to educate, not just put words together. It makes me feel good that even in the world where most of the attention is on these cats who are basically merchants of death...people will always choose survival. I don't think we're any different from a plant or flower in nature. If you put us in a tough situation, we're going to choose the direction of the sun. You can try to put us in the dark, but we'll move toward the light.

FL: How do you feel about using corporate, mainstream institutions to reach masses of people?

RP: I think technology is changing things. You don't need the major cats, 'cause you can upload your songs on the 'Net and have them across the world in a few seconds. I don't think going major is a necessity—at least I hope not, because a lot of what I'm talking about is telling people to not buy shit like diamonds... and it's cool to party, but let's party with some consciousness. Let's think about what we're going to do, instead of getting drunk and drugged up so the police have the excuse to take us to jail and give us three strikes before we reach 18 years old.

FL: Speaking of your subject matter, you rhyme about some very complex topics like the World Bank. How

do you rap about issues like free trade without losing hip-hop fans who might not know what you're talking about?

RP: I'm just a regular cat; I don't have any college degrees. I'm self-educated, and I think that's a good way to learn. You just hear what people are saying,

books and do your own research.

The way I got politicized was by listening to something that KRS-ONE said in a freestyle on MTV Raps back in the day. He referred to Puerto Ricans as Africans, and he referred to a lot of people from different places in the

Puerto Ricans referred to as Africans. I immediately went to the encyclopedia I had in my house, and it was the first time I ever read anything about my own country. Even though I was raised as proud as can be, with flags and everything, there was no deeper understanding. It was an empty pride. That one line sent me to the encyclopedia, which sent me to the library and there you go. Without that line, we may not be sitting here in my restaurant.

FL: What message were you trying to send by dedicating your last album, *My Power*, to Puerto Rican freedom fighters?

RP: When I first heard of PR freedom fighters, I was walking by Revolution Books in Berkeley, and I saw a book called “Prisoners of Colonialism” with a Puerto Rican flag on it. Before that, I just thought a colony was where the ants lived. But that book made me realize that there were PR political prisoners in the US, and four or five of them were locked up right here in Dublin [California]. I was just touched that they had my people locked down for life, locked up for their beliefs—that Puerto Rico shouldn't be a colony, which is what the United Nations has said many times.

I wrote a letter to see if I could get on Dylcia Pagán's visitor list, but you had to have a relationship with the prisoners from before their incarceration, so I pretended to be a long-lost relative. [Dylcia was captured with her comrades in 1980 for participating in the underground wing of the Puerto Rican independence movement to resist illegal U.S. occupation of her homeland. She was given a 55-year sentence on charges of seditious conspiracy, among others.] Dylcia and I just clicked right away, and that just made me realize that I was on the right path, that I needed to keep fighting for the freedom of Puerto Ricans and all other political prisoners. I felt like writing some songs was the least I could do.

President Clinton actually freed 11 of the 16 [Puerto Rican nationalist] prisoners, and I was there the day Dylcia walked out of prison—the best day of my life except for the birth of my son. And being locked up for almost 20 years didn't kill her spirit; she came out with even more fire.

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



PHOTO: LIAM

Repression and Resistance in Puerto Rico

The history of Puerto Rico is a history of colonialism and oppression. First, Spain held the island under despotic rule for 400 years. Then, in 1898, the US took Puerto Rico as war booty after defeating Spain in the Spanish-American War. The US quickly turned Puerto Rico into a massive sugar plantation during the first three decades of the 20th century. Sugar production came second only to one thing—the island's value as a military outpost. Working hand in hand with local puppets, the US viciously repressed nationalist movements, resulting in the Ponce Massacre of 1937, in which 21 nationalists were killed in cold blood by the occupation police. The US even went so far as ordering local leaders to institute massive forced sterilization programs to control Puerto Rico's growing population throughout the 20th century.

In the 1960s, struggles against racism broke out both on the island and in Puerto Rican communities in the US. Students burned down

the ROTC building and fought police at the University of Puerto Rico to protest the Vietnam War. In the US, Puerto Ricans inspired by the African American struggle against racism formed their own organizations such as the Young Lords, which modeled itself on the Black Panthers. These groups were continually harassed and infiltrated by the FBI's notorious COINTELPRO program, resulting in the arrests of many pro-independence freedom fighters, some of whom remain in jail today.

As the reach of neoliberalism began to extend, first under Ronald Reagan and then under Bill Clinton, the economy of Puerto Rico went into accelerated decay. With tax exemptions offered to U.S. companies for decades due to expire by 2007, the Puerto Rican economy is in crisis. The working class is under intense attack, with the doubling of tolls, and electricity and water rates. The struggle continues...

This history is adapted from a longer article by Hector Reyes.

BEAUTY ON THE BRICKS

precita eyes creates murals *and* artists

BY LIAM O'DONOGHUE

In a narrow alley off 24th St, a cluster of Nepali peasants raise their fists in resistance as two women smash chains of imprisonment. A small child with AIDS cries at the tombstones of her dead parents. Nicaraguan *campesinos* celebrate their bountiful corn harvest with music and dancing. Welcome to Balmy Alley, a corridor of more than 70 murals in the heart of the Mission district.

Balmy Alley radiates with color, overwhelms with diversity and vibrates with inspiration, but it blends perfectly with the surrounding neighborhood, where nearly every façade tells a story. In this primarily Latino area, the most precious works of art are *on* the buildings, not *inside* them. Precita Eyes is the non-profit group that puts most of the paint on these walls and tells the living history of these larger-than-life pieces to a constant stream of art lovers, graffiti kids, tourists and middle schoolers who travel these streets on mural walking tours.

"Every community has its own issues," said Susan Cervantes, the founder and matriarch of Precita Eyes. "We try not to make any assumptions of what a mural should be. We want the artists to collaborate with the community so each mural reflects that community's voice."

In the barrio surrounding the Precita Eyes storefront, the line between "community" and "artists" is as blurry as an airbrushed line of aerosol paint across a brick wall. Not only does Precita Eyes sell art and supplies, but they also encourage anyone who might walk through the door to get involved by taking a class or even helping out with a mural. Judging by the dozens of kids

(and adults) who endured sweltering heat to spend a recent Saturday painting huge wooden screens in Precita Park for the 10th annual Urban Youth Artsfest, this open-door policy has been the key to Precita Eyes' continued vitality over the past three decades.

In the Mission, where the lifespan of public art can sometimes be measured in minutes...the iconic Precita Eyes murals present a sort of psychological anchor—a connection with the community's ancestry and a sign of resilient permanence.

Cultural Connections

More than a millennium before Michelangelo took a brush to the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, the Mayan and Aztec cultures of pre-Columbian Mexico adorned the walls of their buildings with paintings. Political muralism flourished in Mexico following the 1910 Revolution and Diego Rivera's style of Social Realism created a sensation in 1920s San Francisco. The Bay Area's Chicano movement connected with this heritage during the 1960s by reviving this public art form, but during the following decade an all-female group called Las Mujeres Muralistas (The Women Muralists) flipped the script and inspired a wave of muralism that led to the nearly 700 murals that now sing from the walls of San Francisco.

"Las Mujeres Muralistas pioneered a different style," explained Patricia Rose, who walked into Precita Eyes in 1980 to write a paper about public art and has worked and painted with the group ever since. "Their male counterparts were painting struggle and they were using confrontational and violent imagery.

But the Mujeres wanted to focus on the things that we celebrate, that we're proud of...Now that's really the signature of muralism in San Francisco. We still have murals about struggle and injustice, but also so many about celebration and beauty...that's the legacy."

After working with Las Mujeres, Susan Cervantes took a six-week class at Precita Valley Community Center that culminated in a collaborative mural on Paco's Tacos, near 24th Street and South Van Ness. Nobody wanted to stop painting when the class ended and Susan noticed a serious lack of art programs for children—including her own—in the Mission, so she started Precita Eyes in 1977. Since then, Precita Eyes has been responsible for literally hundreds of the vast, colorful murals that characterize the creative spirit of the Mission including the Women's Building, Cesar Chavez Elementary School and, of course, Balmy Alley. Considering the undeniable beauty of their murals, it's hard to believe that many of Precita Eyes contributing artists first got involved with the program to work off community service hours.

In a brilliant twist of irony, many of San Francisco's young graffiti writers who get caught painting on walls spend their public service time... painting on walls. "When you come in from getting busted for graffiti, you're a bomber, but Precita Eyes turns you into an artist,"

explained spray can veteran Francisco Carrasco. "You gotta scrub mad paint brushes and buckets, but they'll give you a little piece of wall to express yourself. Every tagger has a potential to be a muralist."

A ten-year-old Franciscan started coming into the shop to gank markers in the early 80s, but when he found out that kids can use all the markers they want if they signed up for a two dollar class, he joined the Precita Eyes family and ended up teaching the youth class from 1987 through 1993. The youth class and the community service program continue to supply a steady stream of talent to Precita Eyes and the group also offers low-cost workshops ranging from toddlers art to adult figure drawing. "They don't care what planet you're from, they'll tell you to come on in," Francisco said, referring to the diversity of budding Precita Eyes students. "They got their arms open to everyone across the world. Susan sees art as a language that everyone speaks."

In the Mission, where the lifespan of public art can sometimes be measured in minutes and many remaining Latino families are still reeling from the gentrification explosion of the dot-com era, the iconic Precita Eyes murals present a sort of psychological anchor—a connection with the community's ancestry and a sign of resilient permanence. "This neighborhood really appreciates and understands the murals—there's a real pride," Patricia Rose said, sitting in her small office as young students sketched new murals in the next room. "It isn't 'some elite group of artists' who came here to give us this wonderful gift. This is our voice—and as the movement goes forward it grows stronger."



title photo: Precita Eyes founder Susan Cervantes. above: Dozens of muralists and graffiti artists braved the heatwave to make art in Precita Park during the 10th Annual Urban Youth Arts Fest.

PHOTOS: LIAM O'DONOGHUE



BOMBS OVER BEIRUT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

has stranded many Lebanese without humanitarian aid in the villages of the south where much of the ground fighting has taken place. It has also prevented clean-up of the largest oil spill since the Exxon-Valdez, covering 50 miles of Lebanon's coast, which resulted from the July and 15 bombing of an oil-fueled power plant south of Beirut.

Israel has paid a high toll for this conflict as well, with approximately 300,000 displaced, and even more living in bomb shelters. Despite the gen-

eral support for the campaign within Israel, thousands have gathered on the streets of Tel Aviv to demand an end to the violence. All of this is taking place under the violent backdrop of another Israeli war in the Gaza Strip which, like the attack on Lebanon, was launched after an Israeli soldier was kidnapped, this time by Hamas.

But, despite the widespread desire for an immediate cessation of violence, the US and Britain have consistently blocked any attempt at restricting Israel's destructive campaigns. To the contrary, the US has rushed shipments of emergency fuel and laser-guided weapons to re-supply the Israeli military. The Arab nations continue to demand a ceasefire agreement that demands the end of the occupation of Southern Lebanon, but



no UN agreement thus far has ordered Israel to relinquish control. As the Lebanese people are further brought to their knees and the country's economy obliterated, Israel now finds itself stuck

in a conflict with an enemy that is the focal point of Arab and Muslim anger towards foreign occupation. The consequences for both Israeli and Arab lives in the region will be severe.



LEFT: Building hit by Israeli bombing in southern Lebanese city of Tyre.

CENTER: People fleeing Israeli bombardment in southern Lebanon.

RIGHT: This resident of Baalbek, Lebanon had a miraculous escape during Israel air strike on buildings on the other side of the road. He was shielded by his car and emerged unharmed.

photos: masser

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See No E-Ville

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

These days, Emeryville likes to think of itself as undergoing a Renaissance of sorts. But rather than a complete makeover, it can realistically only dab a bit of cosmetic powder on its blemishes, leaving an embarrassing cakey residue. Brownfields—or land that is considered toxic due to industry—comprise over one quarter of the city's landmass. Diesel fumes, exhaust, and the unmistakable fetor from a heavily contaminated Bay hangs in the air. Emeryville's sordid past is, in many ways, irreversible.

In 1915, the city began slowly covering the Temescal Creek, and by 2005

there were no visible remains. According to the 1993 General Plan, no wildlife or important plant communities exist at all east of the 580 freeway. The Emeryville Crescent tidal marsh is home to over 100 wildlife species, including endangered animals like the Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse and the California Clapper Rail. But human pollution is choking them and destroying the marsh's ecosystem ... while the mudflats are just downright ugly. It is worth noting that the coastline of the San Francisco Bay has significantly changed shape since 1820 as a result of the century of industry surrounding it. Earl Warren called Emeryville "the dirtiest little town on the Pacific Coast." Perhaps he meant it in more ways than one.

The new strategy, as outlined in a report on the city's website, is to increase green space, decrease wasted space, add more mixed use complexes, and overall make Emeryville more dense and walkable. (Currently, of the 790 acres that comprise the city, 160 acres are parking lots and garages, and only 33 acres are considered "open space.")

So is Emeryville entering a new age of social and environmental conscious? Hardly. We are simply entering a new age of profiteering in which the market has shifted, where green space and walkability are in demand. This is profit masquerading as culture. So dress up all you want, Emeryville. In the end, you just look tacky.

Rico Pabon

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12



But the song is relevant, because there are still prisoners who have been in since the beginning, so the struggle continues...that's why I did My Power. In that part of my life, getting my people free was all I was thinking about. Until Puerto Rico is no longer a colony of the U.S., we're going to have freedom fighters, so I don't have to change the words of the song because people will always be trying to put our destiny back in our own hands.

FL: I've heard you say that the most beautiful music comes from struggle. Why do you believe that?

RP: Well, besides hip-hop, the other music that I'm really interested in is bomba and plena. They're traditional

Puerto Rican styles that came from the time from when slavery was still strong. Plena comes from when dockworkers were being treated like garbage and that was their form of protest, to relieve their spirit and let out their frustrations.

If you hold that pain inside, it will kill your spirit. In my case, it's the same thing... coming from a house that was overrun with drugs and alcohol. Coming from that struggle is the reason why I began to write. I had all these things inside that I needed to let out. I would have just continued to be an angry young man if I didn't.

more info: www.hardknockrecords.com
www.myspace.com/ricopabon

Trabajadoras ganando derechos laborales para Las Inmigrantes: mujeres de color y las inmigrantes

POR ZAPATITA

La propuesta ley AB 2536 para las Trabajadoras del Hogar fue aprobada por el Congreso el 29 de Junio y pronto confrotara a la aprobación del Comité sobre Apropiaaciones en Agosto. La ley AB 2536 haría que los clientes paguen un salario mínimo y las horas extras y incluye los derechos de recuperar los salarios que no se les pago a las trabajadoras de hogar, (o trabajadoras domésticas), que a menudo son discriminadas, explotadas y abusadas debido a su color, su genero y estado de inmigración.

Trabajadoras domésticas mayormente dan cuidado a los niños persona de tercera edad los enfermos y los discapacitados, y a menudo también limpian y cocinan durante sus turnos, serían dado el derecho a la paga de tiempo suplementario después de trabajar más de nueve horas en un período 12-horas.

La Coalición para los Derechos de las Trabajadoras del Hogar compuesta por varias organizaciones pro-inmigrantes unieron fuerzas junto con la miembro de Asamblea Cindy Montañez, autor de AB 2536, en las audiencias del Senado el 28 de Junio para exigir el reconocimiento y los derechos para las trabajadoras del Hogar.

Las organizaciones de base han proporcionado el liderazgo para esta campaña, y continúan luchando fuerte para el reconocimiento y los derechos de la trabajada del hogar. Sin embargo, la coalición esta enfrentada con la oposición de las agencias de empleo y de los que abogan para personas de tercera

edad, los enfermos y los discapacitados, que se preocupan por la inhabilidad de muchos que no pueden pagar las horas extras, sin embargo necesitan cuidados continuo de 24 horas y prefieren la ayuda constante de solo una asistente personal.

Juana Flores, Co-Directora para los Programas en Mujeres Unidas y Activas(MUA), respondió a esta preocupación en una entrevista reciente, “el tipo de trabajo que se requiere...es muy pesado y agotador y es injusto pedir que tan solo una persona haga tanto trabajo. No deseamos dañar a los discapacitados y las personas de tercera edad, pero necesitamos tomar el cuidado de nosotras mismas también.”

Montañez y las miembros de la Coalición están desarrollando relaciones con los que abogan para los discapacitados y las personas de tercera edad, y han hecho unos compromisos. Recientemente, algunas enmiendas fueron incluidas para eximir los que son recipientes a Medi-care y ISS de tener que pagar las horas extras. Hay también excepciones para los asistentes personales que ganan 150 por ciento del salario mínimo del estado \$6.75, que asciende a \$10.13 por hora.

Hoy en California, hay estimadas cientos de miles de trabajadoras del hogar, quienes la mayoría son mujeres de color e inmigrantes. Andrea Cristina Mercado - también de MUA, respondió a la referencia del comentario popular de la lucha de la trabajador del hogar, como “la lucha de las mujeres en el mov-

imiento para la justicia del inmigrante”, indicando que,

“El trabajo de las mujeres inmigrantes toma lugar detrás de puertas cerradas, ellas son hechas menos visibles. Esta campaña trae a la luz su realidad... y es su oportunidad para demostrar claramente que han estado contribuyendo a esta economía también y merecen ser tratadas con dignidad e imparcialidad “.

Hoy en día, las trabajadoras domésticas no son protegidas por leyes del tiempo suplementario y de la contradiscriminación, ni de la Administración de Seguridad Ocupacional y Salud, (OSHA). Según Flores, es más fácil aprovecharse de una trabajadora doméstica. Ella observa que, “trabajadores en esta industria se exponen a niveles muy altos de explotación, extendiéndose desde la retención de los salarios, al abuso verbal y físico e incluso hasta la violencia sexual. Multas fuertes serán necesarias para asegurarse que las leyes trabajen, así como los colectivos de mujeres trabajadoras que animan a mujeres a que se defiendan a sí mismas y continúen luchando para la justicia”.

El fraude evidente en las elecciones



PROTESA EN FRENTE DEL CAPITOLIO EN SACRAMENTO

Mexicanas recientes agrega a las preocupaciones en la comunidad del trabajador inmigrante cada vez más politizada. Como una trabajadora (quién desea quedar anónima), describe, “yo estoy muy triste sobre las elecciones, si el partido del PAN, se queda, aún más gente estará forzada a emigrar, arriesgar sus vidas y sufrir aquí lo que ya estamos sufriendo.” Con coraje y frustración, la trabajadora doméstica agrega, “el Estados Unidos asesino continúa la matanza en Iraq, y no le importa que en nuestros países, la represión y la pobreza sube, y hay mayor necesidad de emigrar en la búsqueda por el trabajo.”

Para mas información: www.mujeresunidas.net; www.lrci.org; www.fairwork.org.

Una versión de esta artículo aparacio en El Tecolote. For an English translation, go to: www.indybay.org/immigrant

INDYMEDIA NOTICIAS



PHOTOS: MEXICO.INDYMEDIA.ORG

Nuevas Noticias Sobre Atenco

Atenco, México: La brutal represión contra vendedores de flores en Texcoco y campesinos de Salvador Atenco, perpetrada por la policía municipal, estatal y federal, comenzando el 3 de Mayo pasado, es responsable por:

- 2 jóvenes muertos, 18 personas

desaparecidas, casi 400 arrestadas, mas de 200 personas (incluyendo menores) detenidos sin orden de un juez, muchos brutalmente golpeados y torturados. La mayoría de las 47 mujeres capturadas sufrieron violencia sexual incluida violación. 5 extranjeros fueron ilegalmente deportados luego de haber sido violentados. 27 aun están en prisión.

- Ningun autoridad policiaca ha sido castigado por el gobierno Mexicano.

- Miles se han movilizado en mas de 30 países para denunciar los crímenes cometidos. Recienemente han habido protestas de mas de 6 mil personas de diferentes partes de México en apoyo a Texcoco y Atenco. Huelgas de hambre dentro y fuera de la cárcel hasta que todos los prisioneros políticos sean liberados. Estudiantes han continuado acampando en la Universidad, que mayormente consiste en clases de niños de Atenco y Texcoco. Se han pedido donaciones para reparar y mantener equipo

de campamento que permita que las personas sigan en la acampada.

mexico.indymedia.org/Atenco

En Bolivia Siguen



Exigiendo Justicia

Se sigue buscando al ex-presidente Boliviano Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada y el ex presidente del Lloyd Aéreo Boliviano (LAB), Ernesto Asbún, por corrupción y la durisima represión de Estado que el pueblo Boliviano sufrió en Setiembre y Octubre del 2003. Goni se encuentra fugitivo en Estados

Unidos mientras que organizaciones de derechos humanos y el gobierno de Evo Morales intenta que se le de la extradición. juiciogoniya.free.fr

El Pueblo Toma el Estado de Oaxaca, Mexico

03/08, El movimiento maestral y popular tomaron hoy más de 20 vehículos de los gobiernos federal, es para presiñar el gobernador que renuncie o seadestituido. Al mismo tiempo, continuaron las tomas de las sedes de los poderes Ejecutivo, Legislativo y Judicial, y la Corporación Oaxaqueña deRadio y Televisión (Cortv) www.jornada.unam.mx/2006/08/05/036n1soc.php

22/07, Radio Universidad, que apoya movimientos sociales populares fue bala-zeada por 15 min. Durante ese mismo tiempo, el Secretario General del Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores Maestral-es denuncia que bombas fuerontiradas a su casa. www.narconews.com

WHERE TO GET Fault Lines

SAN FRANCISCO:

Naked Eye News & Video

607 Haight St.

Modern Times Bookstore

888 Valencia St.

Bound Together Books

1369 Haight St.

Amoeba Music

1855 Haight St.

City Lights Books

261 Columbus Ave.

Rainbow Grocery

1745 Folsom St.

EAST BAY:

Long Haul Infoshop

3124 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley

Amoeba Music

2455 Telegraph Ave, Berkeley

Mama Buzz Café

2318 Telegraph Ave, Oakland

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Station 40, 3030 B 16th St, San Francisco

CALENDAR

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WWW.INDYBAY.ORG/CALENDAR

8/17 **Wetback: The Undocumented Documentary 7:30 PM**

Filmmaker Arturo Perez Torres follows in the footsteps of two friends traveling over land from Nicaragua to the US, revealing the poverty that drives workers across the US border.
ATA 992 Valencia St

8/17 **Grito de la Misión: Mission Voices Summer (MVS) 2006 6pm - 9pm**

MVS 2006 lead artists, youth participants, and interns invite the community to celebrate the opening of the RISE UP! LEVANTATE! exhibition with music, refreshments and reflections.
CELLspace 2050 Bryant Street (between 18th and 19th St.)

8/20 **Alemany Farm Summer Work Day 12-5**

Pleased to have been named "Best Agricultural Dig" by the SF Bay Guardian, recognizing the tireless work of all of our volunteers. Join us on our workdays, every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. Alemany Blvd. near I-280, SF. (415) 577-7980, alemanyfarm.org

8/20 **End Law Enforcement War Benefit Cookout 3 PM**

August 20th is Idriss Stelley's B-Day (Killed by SFPD 6-13-01) Show your love

and support to the Families of SFPD innocent victims. To volunteer, or more info: please email iolmisha@cs.com or call (415) 595-8251

Childrens Playground behind BRET HARTE Elementary, 1035 Gilman Ave. SF

8/22 **Zine Workshop 6pm - 8pm**

From personal journals, to political commentary, the workshops incorporate concerns around the arts and social/political opinions, global consumption, environmental issues, policing of privacy, free space and human injustices. All participants will create pages for a large group magazine plus learn skills in making your own. FREE EVENT
CELLspace, 2050 Bryant St

8/26 **SHAC 7 Benefit 6-9PM**

Enjoy vegan food and show your support for the SHAC 7: Screening of Various Films, Special Presentations, an Alcohol- & Drug-Free Event Admission: \$5 - \$15 (Sliding Scale) RSVP: shac7benefit[at]yahoo.com
AK Press, 674-A 23rd St, Oakland
http://www.shac7.com

8/27 **Film Screening: Granito de Arena (Grain of Sand) 6:30 PM**

Granito de Arena is the story of resistance, analyzing the events in San Salvador Atenco during the first days

of may 2006. Sliding scale admission of \$10-\$20. Proceeds benefit Project TUPA (Transmitters Uniting the Peoples of the Americas) a project of Free Radio Berkeley.

Humanist Hall, 390 27th Street Oakland, <http://www.radiotupa.org> - <http://www.freeradio.org>

8/29 **An Evening with the SF Mime Troupe 7:00 PM**

From free shows in the park to Nicaragua, South Korea, Belgium, Jerusalem, Off-Broadway, Cuba, Hong Kong, and points between, The San Francisco Mime Troupe has been performing original works of political theatre for 47 years.

Modern Times Books
888 Valencia St

9/3 **Alemany Farm Work Day 12-5 PM**

See above.

9/4 **Speaker: Eman Khammas 7:00 PM**

Eman Khammas has been working with and for Iraqi women all her adult life. As a journalist, human rights advocate and former director of Occupation Watch, Eman has traveled around Iraq and witnessed firsthand the effects of war, sanctions, and occupation. She will share her experiences and her vision for the future of her country. \$15

donation, *NOTA. All proceeds go to Iraqi Women's Fund Home of Truth 1300 Grand St Alameda, CA

9/9 **Black Mesa Benefit: Doors 8, Show 9 PM**

Performances by Native American punkers Chest Full of Arrows, anarcho-punk from the Last War and cumbia rock steady sounds of Orixá. Featuring Indybay's Christina Aanestad's photographs from the South Central Farm and Black Mesa Navajo reservation, art from Caroline Lee and other womyn.

Proceeds go to support indigenous Navajo families at Black Mesa. \$6-20 sliding scale, *NOTA. All ages.
Balazo Gallery
2183 Mission St

9/17 **Girlstock #4: The Music 6PM - 2AM**

Annual showcase and celebration of female and transgendered artists. \$15 to \$35/sliding, NOTA. Proceeds from this year's event will be divided equally between The Positive Resource Center and Pets Are Wonderful Support.
Trace Gallery (21 + over event)
312 Valencia Street
<http://www.girlstock.com/trace.html>

 Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association

Join us for OceanFest, now in its 6th year.
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www.farallones.org

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If slaughterhouses had glass walls, everyone would be a vegetarian.

Paul McCartney

Slaughterhouses and factory farms are not built with glass walls, but thanks to the brave work of activists, everyone can now see inside the factories where animals are caged for food.

Compassionate Consumers' undercover video of an egg farm:
www.wegmanscruelty.com

East Bay Animal Advocates' undercover video of a poultry farm:
www.fosterfacts.net

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

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