

new indicator

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Your janitor is still being treated like dirt

Supervisors Target Union Activist and Janitor, Alejandra Rodriguez

About a year ago UCSD came under fire from students, faculty, and unions for its treatment of janitors. Many janitors at UCSD were then hired through sub-contractors. These sub-contractors were anti-union and treated their workers poorly. Through the efforts of Students for Economic Justice (SEJ) and Service Employees International Union (SEIU), UCSD was effectively pressured into dropping the sub-contractors and letting the janitors join AFSCME (the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees).

Although this was a large victory, it seems that the problems run deeper. One of the catalysts of last years actions was the firing of Alejandra Rodriguez, a janitor in the Cognitive Science building, who was outspoken and active in the unionization of janitors. When the janitors joined AFSCME, Alejandra was re-hired by the University.

But her problems did not end there. Even though the janitors are now represented by AFSCME, they still work under harsh conditions and are treated poorly. They are expected to obey orders without question and are understaffed and

overworked. If they speak up about their conditions, they are reprimanded.

On April 16, 2002, Alejandra was injured while working with a large recycling bag on her job in the Cognitive Science building. She went to her supervisor, Donna Forrester, to tell her that she needed to leave to see a doctor. She was told to go to the UCSD Hillcrest hospital where a doctor made a written prescription for light work.

Below is Alejandra's retelling of the incident, followed by a brief interview. A stands for Alejandra and NI stands for New Indicator.

"When I presented this document to the manager, Kevin Austin, he initially replied that all the janitors would continue to work where they were assigned. I told Kevin that my load was too heavy but he ignored me. Kevin told me to draw up a list for my supervisor [Donna] of what work was too heavy. I replied that all of my work was heavy.

Donna told me that there was no light work that was available that day. Kevin told Donna to send me home. I said that I would go home but asked if they were going to pay me for the day. Kevin said

'no', 'go and talk to Donna in the office.' I requested that someone translate for me. Kevin told me, 'You shut up and go with Donna in the office.' I asked Donna why I couldn't work for the rest of the day with help and was told to 'shut-up.' I said that I would go home but Donna threatened to fire me.

The next day when I reported to work, I was moved to work in the medicine building to do light work. I suggested that someone be assigned to help out in the Cognitive Science area but was told 'no'. I was told that when I was no longer on light work, that I would go back to Cognitive Science."

New surprises kept cropping up though. Alejandra needed to leave early that day due to back pains. She went to Donna in person to notify her that she would be leaving and that she needed to take the following day off.

"Two days later on Thursday, I went back to work and Donna asked me to sign a paper that had 7 or 8 points; specifying that I was a very aggressive person, that I had raised my voice, and giving directions

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University abuses powers in Koala case

Nick Aguilar, Director of Student Policy and Judicial Affairs, had no actual right to nullify the recent Judicial Board hearing against the Koala. Aguilar claimed to nullify the May 22 hearing, asserting that the J-Board's decision to open the proceedings violated the UCSD Student Conduct Code. Parisa Baharian, as chair of the J-Board, in fact acted well within her powers when she made that decision.

Aguilar cited sections 22.17.16.16a and 22.17.16.16b of the Student Conduct Code as the justification for his nullification of the hearing. 22.17.16.16a states that "Hearings will normally be treated as confidential and closed to the public unless otherwise agreed to by all accused student(s) and participating individuals including witnesses, who are entitled to a claim of right to privacy under UCSD regulations.", and 22.17.16.16b states that requests for an open hearing must be given to the Student Conduct Coordinator in writing five academic days before the hearing.

Section 22.17.16.15, however, explicitly grants Baharian, as the presiding officer, the power to "rule upon any challenges under Section 22.17.16.16." This means that, when students and student media who wanted to watch the proceedings challenged section 22.17.16.16a, it was her job to decide whether to hold an open or closed hearing.

How should the presiding officer make this decision? The answer requires a closer at the code, which is not very well drafted. If 22.17.16.16a said what it actually legally means, it would read as follows: "Hearings will normally be treated

as confidential and closed to the public, unless otherwise agreed to by all accused student(s). When participating individuals such as witnesses are entitled to a privacy claim under UCSD regulations, they also must agree to a public hearing." The word "normally" doesn't mean anything, but the clause about witnesses legally means that sometimes witnesses can have privacy rights under some other UCSD regulations. It does not explicitly give witnesses the same absolute right to privacy as the accused, and why should it? Combined with section 22.17.16.15, this clearly establishes the presiding officer, Baharian, the authority to decide whether any particular witness has a privacy right. Her decision should be based on arguments brought about specific circumstances about the witness, and specific other UCSD regulations that grant individuals the right to privacy in such circumstances. That's what happened.

Baharian chose to open the hearing to the public and media, and Cara Silbaugh, the university's representative, refused to present the case unless attendance at the hearing was restricted to those directly involved in it. The hearing proceeded and the Koala presented a limited version of their defense. A few days later, Aguilar notified members of the Koala via email that the hearing had been nullified and that there will be a new hearing, presided over by a university-appointed hearing officer, before the quarter ends.

For Nick Aguilar to abuse his power like this calls into question why we even

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Narco-Candidate In Colombia

Uribe's Rise from Medellín: Precursor to a Narco-State

In 1997 and 1998, alert U.S. Customs agents in California seized three suspicious Colombia-bound ships that, the agents discovered, were laden with 50,000 kilos of potassium permanganate, a key "precursor chemical" necessary for the manufacture of cocaine.

According to a document signed by then-DEA chief Donnie R. Marshall on August 3, 2001, the ships were each destined for Medellín, Colombia, to a company called GMP Productos Quimicos, S. A. (GMP Chemical Products).

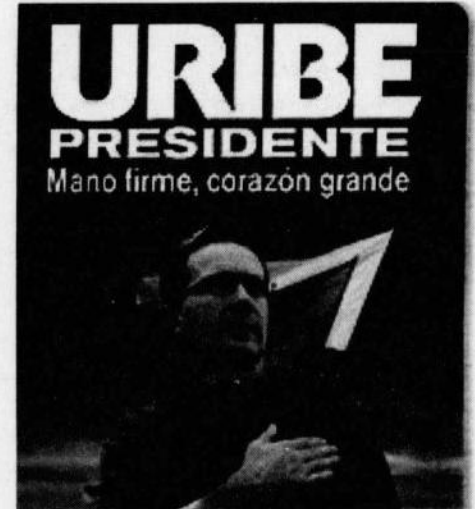
The 50,000 kilos of the precursor chemical destined for GMP were enough to make half-a-million kilos of cocaine hydrochloride, with a street value of \$15 billion U.S. dollars.

The owner of GMP Chemical Products, according to the 2001 DEA chief's report, is Pedro Juan Moreno Villa, the campaign manager, former chief of staff, and longtime right-hand-man for front-running Colombian presidential candidate Alvaro Uribe Vélez.

Mr. Moreno was Uribe's political alter-ego before, during and after those nervous 1997 and 1998 months when he awaited those contraband shipments.

When Uribe was governor of the state of Antioquia from 1995 to 1997 - from its capitol of Medellín - Moreno was chief of staff in Governor Uribe's office. During those years, according to then-DEA chief Marshall, "Between 1994 and 1998, GMP was the largest importer of potassium permanganate into Colombia."

This is the story of the Narco-Candidate, Alvaro Uribe, whose 1982 election as mayor of Medellín, whose 1995 election as governor of Antioquia and whose



pending ascendance this year to the presidency of Colombia each mark new chapters in the evolution of the modern Narco-State.

Three ships set sail for Medellín, and in their wake, the facts...

On The Waterfront in Oakland and Long Beach

On November 17, 1997, a Chinese ship carrying 20,000 kilos of potassium permanganate - the aforementioned cocaine precursor chemical - destined for Moreno's GMP company in Colombia, pulled into the docks at Long Beach, California.

A month later, on December 16, 1997, another Chinese ship, docked in Oakland, also destined for the Uribe campaign manager's company in Medellín, carried another 20,000 kilos of the cocaine precursor chemical.

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They came in the night and took our free speech — An interview with BURN!

UCSD administrators seem to hate the way the Burn! project provides free information distribution on the internet. But who are these flammers anyway and what are they saying that is so wrong?

How old is Burn and how long has it been at UCSD?

Without giving exact dates, I'll say this much: BURN! was around back when the internet was only .gov, .mil, and .edu domains. We preceded the commercialization and popularization of the internet by years, and, of course, we have been at UCSD for our entire existence.

Why was Burn created and what functions does it continue to serve?

BURN!, for those unfamiliar with it, is one of the major online resources for activists and activism. Being at a university, we have access to lots of resources, and we feel like we have an obligation to use those resources to help people who aren't as privileged as we are, especially when we started, having web-pages, mailing lists, and even email was almost impossible for people who weren't affiliated with an organization that could take advantage of the .gov, .mil, or .edu domains. We used our ability to put up a server under the .edu domain to bring some of those resources to activists who otherwise wouldn't have access to them.

BURN! is also very much an internationalist project. A lot of our users live in different countries, and most of the information we have on our website is from other countries. Even now that the internet is incredibly easy to access in the united states, having a server, web-page, or even email address is much more difficult in many places throughout the world.

As for our functions, I suppose the brief way to explain it is this: we provide web space, email addresses, and mailing lists to activists and activist organizations throughout the world. This also means that there is a huge amount of information on BURN! that people throughout the world access and use. We get thousands and thousands of hits per day.

Why is Burn at UCSD?

We are firm believers, as you are, in the idea that one should organize where

they are. BURN! was started by UCSD students, and most of the people who have been involved in BURN! Over the years have been somehow affiliated with UCSD. This is where we are, so this is where we do our work.

Describe the events leading up to Burn's removal from the Communications Department.

Background: One of our users was an organization in Colombia called the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC-ep). We hosted a website for them, and ran (and continue to run) news listserv about the situation in Colombia.

Why we were removed from the Communications Department: The Colombian right got angry about the FARC's web-page, so they called president Clinton, who called governor Davis, who called the chair of the Communications department, who took our server offline.

When we finally managed to get our hardware back, the memory was trashed so the computer wouldn't even work anymore.

What was Burn's relationship with Groundwork Books?

Groundwork saw what was happening to us, and decided to step in. They were opposed to the censorship, and in solidarity with us, put up a mirror of our site at tierra.ucsd.edu. Since we were no longer a part of the comm. Department, we didn't have access to the UCSD network anymore, and they provided that for us, since they did.

How is Burn dealing with the current situation and will it be back on-line anytime soon?

We refuse to be silenced. We're exploring other options since groundwork can't/won't help us anymore. I hope we'll be back online soon (knock on wood!). Sorry I can't give you more details without the permission of others involved.

Thank you for helping publicize this situation. And thank you to the people and groups who have been and will be helping us (you know who you are). It's you all who make the work we do possible.

Out & Proud

This year's Out and Proud week was a huge success. Co-organized by the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Resource Office (LGBTRO), Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Association (LGBT), the LGBT Alliance program, and Queer People of Color (QPOC), it included a march and rally, a high school conference, a training on trans issues, two Alliance trainings, a dance, and more.

QPOC kicked off the week with their annual "Generation Q" queer youth conference on Saturday May 4, which was attended by over 100 local youth. The LGBT had one of their biggest dances ever that night, and the Alliance put on their first ever training on LGBT issues and how to be an ally the next day.

The LGBTRO tabled all week, under a huge rainbow balloon arch that spanned library walk. Monday's activities included a "big gay picnic" in the Price Center, and film screenings at both

LGBT ("The Laramie Project") and the Queering Gender Discussion Group ("Ma Vie en Rose").

On Tuesday, the Alliance put on their second training, and Wednesday was "heterosexual awareness day." Also on Wednesday was the T-Party, a training on trans issues, accompanied by tea and crumpets and occurring at tea-time.

Thursday saw the publishing of the Out List in the Guardian, and a huge march from Reville Plaza to the Price Center. Over 70 students marched from Reville to the Price Center, holding signs and balloons, and yelling "We're here! We're queer! We refuse to live in fear!" They then held a rally in the Price Center, with students coming up to an open mic and sharing their stories.

The week finished with a Freedom Shabbat Friday evening at the LGBTRO. As Out and Proud Week continues to grow, more and more students become comfortable being out, and UCSD becomes more accepting of the LGBT community.

What is Queer?

"But why queer?" My mother wanted to know. "Isn't that a bad word? Couldn't you just be gay or something?"

The use of the word queer is a constant point of contention between those of us who identify as queer and both more conservative members of the LGBT community and outsiders who don't understand us.

Most of their objections center around the word's history as a derogatory term. Reclaimed terms are always contentions for this reason. Some members of the Mexican-American community object to the use of the word "Chicano" because of its history as a derogatory term, just like some members of the LGBT community object to "queer".

"They're queer — are you?"



Queer is a term used mostly by younger and more radical members of the LGBT community.

We recognize that sexuality and identity are not static things, and hesitate to label ourselves "lesbian", "gay", "bisexual", "transgender", etc. because we know that we may end up trading in that label for another one tomorrow.

Queer is a dynamic identity. Each one of us is constantly re-defining for ourselves what it means for us to be queer at that moment. Queer basically refers to a non-normative sexual orientation or gender identity. Since sexual orientation and gender are constantly changing, identifying as queer allows us to assert our non-normativity and build community with other queers without having to lock ourselves into restrictive static identities.

Queer is broad enough to include everyone in our community. People who object to the word queer tend to refer to the "gay community" as if we all identify as gay, and as if there is one cohesive community. This way, people from all sorts of different backgrounds can be a part of the community without being subsumed under the label "gay."

So what is queer? Queer is a dynamic, inclusive identity used by some members of the LGBT community. Queer is political, queer is confrontational, queer is taking the words that they use against us and making them our own. Queer is me, and her, and him, and zir, and zim, and maybe even you. Queer is us. Queer is what we make of it.

WHOSE SCHOOL?



MTV visits campus and makes students vomit.

the new indicator

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articles and letters are welcomed. please type them and send them to: ni@libertad.ucsd.edu or to: new indicator collective 8-023C Student Center La Jolla, CA 92093

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the new indicator is dedicated to publishing timely, relevant news for the ucscd community. we are particularly drawn to the voices of historically marginalized people. we strive for critical analysis that goes beyond the woefully inadequate mainstream dialogue of american media. if you, as an intelligent consumer of information and a pretty decent critical thinker, have any articles, stories, news in brief, gossip, press releases, art, poems, or crude line drawings that you have written, obtained copyright for, or are otherwise able to authorize us to publish, then we are very interested.

please contact the collective at ni@libertad.ucsd.edu or at: new indicator 9500 gilman drive b-0323c san diego, ca 92093

or drop by our meetings every thursday at 4pm at the ché café located on the ucscd campus.

In particular, the collective is currently interested in any writings on the following topics:

1. How will more high rise parking lots change the open air atmosphere of the ucscd campus?
2. Accounts of administrators or other full time staff who have gone above and beyond the barriers of red tape to serve people.
3. The California YouthVote campaign
4. Why do you or don't you get involved with campus political organizations when you agree with their goals?
5. Why are so many of the birds on campus tagged with identification labels on their legs?

Previously, the ni claimed that the Guardian had reported that the T.O.G.A.A. slate pulled out of the A.S. election and that actually the slate never did. Actually, the Guardian reported that Phil Palisoul pulled out of the race which he never really did. We're sorry we got wrong what they got wrong.

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Groundwork Books and burn.ucsd.edu under attack by anti-free speech administration

Members of the Groundwork Collective were surprised last month to receive letters from Tommy Agee, the Student Conduct Coordinator of Student Policies and Judicial Affairs, accusing them of "providing material support to a Designated Foreign Terrorist Organization". The letters alleged that Groundwork was hosting a website for the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), a Kurdish organization which had disbanded the day before the alleged violation.

The allegations are related to burn.ucsd.edu, a website which has been on campus since the early 90's. Burn has been a major online resource for activists, providing web space to organizations around the world, information unavailable anywhere else on the web, and mailing lists with news about places like Colombia and Chiapas, among others.

Burn had started off as a student project in the Communications Department, until pressure from right-wing members of the Colombian government, the Clinton Administration, and Governor Gray Davis forced the Communications Department to shut it down. Groundwork, opposed to this censorship, took Burn under their wing, hosting a mirror of it. It had existed there, basically unmolested, for the past two years, until Lynne Peterson, Acting Assistant Vice Chancellor of Student Programs, told Agee to harass the Ground-

work collective into taking the site down.

What "material support" is Groundwork providing to terrorists? A Canadian group whose website is hosted on Burn had a page up in the mid-1990's about (not for) the PKK, but there never was a link to it on any of the main sections of Burn, and there are no longer links to it on the main part of the Canadians' page either. So the accusations against Groundwork basically boil down to this: in defense of free speech, they sponsored a student project which was being censored. Part of this student project included hosting a website for a Canadian organization, which put up a page (that hasn't been updated in years) about a group that doesn't even exist anymore. Is this "providing material support to a Designated Foreign Terrorist Organization"? No.

"It's kinda ridiculous but it's also scary that the University, which is supposed to be a place for learning and information, is restricting the ability of its students to access that information and is actually persecuting students for trying to get information out," said Rafael Navarre, a member of the Groundwork Collective. "It's really reflective of the era of political repression that not just this campus, but this country is entering into. We really need to think about our rights."

Lynne Peterson has been part of multiple attempts in the past

to silence or shut down various co-ops, including the 1987 attack on Groundwork's status as a student organization. While it is possible that an out of date, basically impossible to find website about a non-existent group constitutes a threat to national security, it is more likely that it constitutes an opportunity for Peterson to attack a co-op and a leftist student project.

Since Peterson retired before the dispute was resolved, however, Gary Ratcliff, University Centers Director, is handling the case. Groundwork is trying to work toward a solution, but Ratcliff hasn't met with them yet.

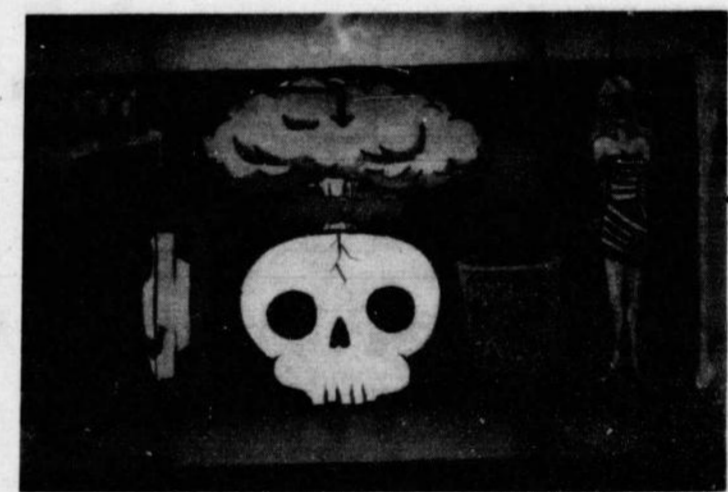
UCSD has a long history of hostility toward progressive and radical students. Funding for leftist student organizations and projects is constantly cut, high school conferences aren't funded, the Cross Cultural Center, Women's Center and LGBTRO are still waiting for permanent spaces. Voz Fronteriza and the new indicator got kicked out of their offices, and co-ops live under the constant threat of being shut down. "This attack against us and Groundwork is just the latest chapter in the epic tale of attacks against the left on this reactionary campus," said Dade Murphy, a member of Burn. "We refuse to be silenced."

University of Mass Destruction?

"Every nuclear weapon in the US arsenal was designed and tested by the University of California," proclaimed the flyers. "Why does the University of California manage the only two labs in the country that conduct research regarding the U.S. nuclear stockpile?"

Students from the UCSD Skillshare Collective, a student organization dedicated to spreading knowledge and skills among students, brought the hip-hop group La Paz and speakers from California Peace Action to campus to educate students about the nuclear and military research conducted by the University of California.

The University of California's deadly research doesn't just happen at Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore labs. In fiscal year 2000, UCSD received \$94,901,799 in grants from the Department of Defense for 137 research projects. Chancellor Dynes received \$402,500 from the Air Force for his research on High TC Superconductivity—Physics and Devices. The research that the military funds at UCSD includes research on nerve warfare agents funded by the Navy, combustion processes in liquid-propellant rocket engines, funded by the Air Force, and damage tolerant



lightweight armor materials, funded by the Army.

Over the course of the 2 hour event, the crowd fluctuated between 20 and 50 people, and the organizers gave out hundreds of flyers with information about the nuclear research conducted by the University of California to interested students.

Not everyone in attendance was happy about the event, however. UC Police tried to shut it down, but settled for making the organizers turn down their P.A. "I like nuclear weapons!" proclaimed one student when offered a flyer. According to him, producing weapons of mass destruction is something the University of California

"should be proud of."

The speakers from California Peace Action had many suggestions for how to build a nuclear-free future. Among the suggestions were de-alerting the missiles, dismantling our nuclear warheads and the missiles to carry them, ratifying the Test Ban Treaty, and honoring the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

According to California Peace Action, "we cannot survive by maintaining a fortress mentality of the United States vs. the rest of the world. We need to address the real threats to our survival — global warming, the

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Janitors:

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about how I would report when I did not come to work. I refused to sign it. Donna told me that this was only for her own personal records but I told her that this did not make me feel comfortable. Donna initialed it and gave me a copy.

Later that day, I was later informed that I should quit working and go home. I was told that I was "under investigation." I went home. The next day, Kevin called me at home and told me that our meeting on Tuesday was cancelled. He also told me that I was under investigation and not to come to work. I received a document stating that I was under investigation in the mail the following Monday.

Throughout the week following my injury, Alejandra did not go to work. On the Friday of that week, her supervisors called her to request that she come back to work.

"When I went back, Kevin requested that I sign a warning. I went with a representative from the Union. He refused to see me because I was accompanied by a representative from the Union. I do not know what level of risk is contained for me in that document. I am very unhappy because what the document says is all lies. It does not specify whether that week I was under investigation will be paid to me or no. Kevin said that I was refusing to speak to him because he was my supervisor.

"I showed Kevin the paper

saying that I would be under investigation. I showed him a document where the rights of the workers are specified. That if we are under investigation, we have the right to be accompanied by a representative of the union. Kevin refused to acknowledge that and he put his initials on the warning. Every time they talk to me in the past they always do it behind closed doors, Kevin and Donna.

I told them that I didn't understand what they were saying. I asked for them to get a person to translate for me. They said no, they claimed that I understood English and I kept insisting that I don't understand English, and they told me not to call the union, not to talk to the union, not to tell the union.

And that's the end of the story."

ni: Kevin and Donna do not speak Spanish?

A: Kevin does a little.

ni: They specifically told you NOT to contact the union?

A: Many times.

ni: You showed Kevin the document that shows that you have the right to have a union member present?

A: Yes, he ignored it.

ni: You were injured while working.

A: Yes, in the month of April of

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GROUNDWORK

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e-mail: gwbooks@groundwork.ucsd.edu

Philippine Rebels "Determined to Fight" Imperialism

Sitting in the international office of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines in Utrecht, the Netherlands, it is hard to imagine how anyone could genuinely believe this is a terrorist organization. The office, once accused by a rightist Dutch politician of shipping guns to Philippine guerrillas, is hardly a military base of operations; its cramped space is occupied by bookshelves and boxes, crammed with files on socialist organizations worldwide. Its staff of a few elderly political refugees would have a hard time terrorizing anyone.

"The Philippine government ... issued a list of pictures with rewards, one million pesos, so we came up in the headlines here in Dutch newspapers," laughs Luis Jalandoni, "But that is like giving our names to bounty hunters." Jalandoni is a member of the national executive committee of the NDF in charge of their peace negotiations with the Manila government. A Catholic priest turned underground revolutionary, he carries with him the pain of his people and of 33 years of struggle in the NDF.

The NDF is an alliance of 17 revolutionary organizations, including the Communist Party of the Philippines as well as organizations of workers, peasants, women, youth, and others. Led largely by the CPP and defended by the guerrilla New People's Army, the NDF carries out revolutionary social programs throughout the Philippines, bringing improvements to the lives of the peasants, who make up more than 75% of the population of this semi-feudal country, and the workers.

"When you go to the house of a peasant and you sit down for a meeting, you sit down on the floor, the results of the agrarian reform program. If out of 100 sacks of grain they used to give 66 sacks to the landlord and keep 33, now they keep 66, so it's double."

In addition to the agrarian reform program, the NDF works

on many levels to bring about national liberation and socialist construction. "Right now the New People's Army are active in more than 100 guerrilla fronts throughout the country--90% of those in the NPA are from the peasantry--carrying out programs of agrarian reform, elimination of usury, simple forms of co-operation, health services, education, cultural programs, self-defense training, and more. Only 5 or 10% of the time the NPA spends on fighting; the rest of the time is used to integrate with the people, to organize, to help on co-operative farms. They help to organize the mass organizations, and to set up organs of political power, the alternative government in the village. This Barrio Revolutionary Committee is elected to run the government of the village. These areas are no longer under the control of the reactionary government--but sometimes the reactionary government does not know!"

Reminiscent of the Vietnamese National Liberation Front, the NDF is a coalition of organizations from different class backgrounds that have banded together to fight US, European, and Japanese imperialism. Provided with a revolutionary socialist direction by the Maoist CPP, the NDF were outlawed and forced underground by the fascist Marcos regime over 20 years ago. The NPA have been fighting fierce repression by the US-backed Philippine government for 33 years.

The history of US imperialism in the Philippines is long and bloody. In 1898, the US used the highly dubious explosion of the US battleship Maine in Havana harbor to justify a campaign of annexation of Spanish colonies, the Spanish-American War. The US defeated the Spanish navy in Manila bay, and "then they created an incident that started the Philippine-American war. They used an alleged document that contained the plan of the Philippine revolutionary forces to kill all foreign residents in Manila;

this was proved to be a fake document, but it was a reason ... there was a Philippine-American war from 1899 to about 1916. In the course of this war, about 1.4 million Filipinos died out of 7 million. That's about 20% of the population, so that's really genocide. So that's the first experience of the Philippines with the US government."

"In 1946 there was nominal independence, but then all the structures for US domination were already set, in terms of trade agreements, in terms of US military bases, in terms of politicians who towed the American line."

What of the latest US troops in the Philippines? "In January, after Afghanistan, about 1000 US troops came to the Philippines on the excuse of training Philippine troops to fight terrorism. The Abu Sayyaf bandit group--there are only about 80 of them--became the excuse for coming to the Philippines. It was created by the CIA and the Philippine military in 1991 to undermine the Moro National Liberation Front. In 1996 the MNLF surrendered to the government, and the Abu Sayyaf bandit group engaged in kidnap for ransom, but maintained its links with the Philippine military and the CIA. Now it has been used as the reason for the US troops to come in. The secretary of national defense of the Philippine government has already announced that the next target after Abu Sayyaf is the New People's Army. The government has suspended peace talks with the NDF and with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. They are claiming that the NPA is terrorist, that the MILF is harboring the Abu Sayyaf, and so the reasons are being given that the US troops can be used against the NPA and the MILF under the banner of the global war on terrorism."

"They are also giving them equipment, they are giving them helicopters ... and they gave them 30,000 M16 rifles."

"But the Philippines are very different from Afghanistan. There are millions of people supporting this revolutionary movement. There is a lot of forest cover, so it's not bare mountains and deserts. It will be, we think, a very big misadventure on the part of US policy makers and it would benefit the Filipino people and the American people to resist this."

"We think it is of crucial importance to the Filipino people but also to the peoples in other countries and to a certain extent to the American people that the American people rise up and raise their voices strongly against the US military intervention which threatens to become a war of aggression of great proportions. We as Filipino people are determined to fight. We know of course the lives of millions of Vietnamese and 58000 American soldiers were lost as a result of the unjust war of the US against Vietnam. We think in our case it will be of great value to both the Filipino people and the American people that we unite in reversing these unjust policies that carry with them a great danger."

"The jingoistic atmosphere has to be pierced and countered effectively. Filipino organizations, youth organizations, workers' organizations, student organizations, should link with their US

counterparts." "We have the highest regard and sentiments for the people in the US, particularly those who resisted US wars of aggression in the past. But we condemn very strongly the policies of the Bush administration that threaten the lives and livelihood of people in other countries, and also which violate the rights of people in the US, for example the Patriot Act."

Jalandoni also tells of the increasing repression in the Philippines. "The human rights violations under the Macapagal-Arroyo regime are already worse than under Estrada and even under Marcos. There are plenty of military operations being carried out and many human rights violations being carried out. One recent one was a 95 year old man in a town in Quezon, which is south of Manila. On February 15th soldiers from the Armed forces found a body of a New People's Army fighter dead in the house of this 95 year old man. They were so angry they shot him 6 times. They stabbed him in the side, and they backed his foot with a bolo. But he survived and was able to tell the story to his family. He was carried on a wooden sled, 13 kilometers across relatively impassable parts, to the hospital. He died one week later.

"So that's just one. There are so many! So many others."



Voices Crying in the Dark: The Ongoing Plight of the Palestinians

by Cassandra Rochelle Williams

This same type of article has been run over presses around the world millions of times in the past fifty years. Many now gloss over the words without a thought as to what they mean, as to their goal of providing a glance into the lives of a people suffocating under oppression. But when I read the history, the editorials, the official documents, and the message boards about Palestine, chills run down my spine and often times, tears fill my eyes. That is why I continue to write. To some, this subject has become mundane. To me, this subject has never been more alive.

The many sides of the struggle

The Palestinian struggle is

not one-dimensional. It is not a fight between Jews and Muslims. This is perhaps the most dangerous misinformation that has been promoted by the media. The Palestinians are a diverse and vibrant people who encompass many religious and cultural backgrounds. As a Muslim, I feel it is important for those of various Christian denominations to recognize the struggles that their brothers and sisters in Palestine encounter daily. While the leaders of these churches are aware of the situation, it seems that the general public remains blinded by the bombardment of biased television and print media.

Revered Robert Assaly, of Canada, decided that in order to find peace of mind concerning the situation in the Middle East, he would travel there on

a "fact-finding mission" of his own. He came back horrified at the condition of the Palestinians and outraged at the barbarous acts of Israeli settlers, military, and police forces. Upon the conclusion of his visit, he reported, "The Palestinian people are united regardless of their position, whether they are Muslim or Christian, that the Jewish settlers, there illegally, must go if there is to be any true peace. What was frightfully apparent was that there is no way the settlers and the Palestinians can live side by side."

When asked about recent Palestinian acts of violence against Israelis in the area, Mr. Assaly said, "The occupation creates resistance. I also believe that the 'relatively minor' Palestinian violence - there have been

12,000 Palestinians wounded by Israelis in the past three months - would evaporate as soon as the Israeli occupation evaporates, just as it did in Lebanon. When will the rest of the world have the same clear understanding as that of Reverend Assaly? Suicide bombing is not something that Palestinians enjoy, nor is violence something that has been inherent in their history. But today, it seems as if it is the only form of resistance that is left to a people, who, if they remain quiet, will be slaughtered, dispossessed, and forgotten. In these desperate times, the Palestinians are screaming for the world to see the truth of their situation, and, unfortunately, the world remains asleep until they are jarred out of their slumber by the sounds of death.

Mr. Assaly said he witnessed many "criminal" acts against Palestinians. In Halamish, Jewish settlers cut down 189 olive trees on Palestinian farms in one night. In another town, the water pumping equipment, which serviced 1,000 Palestinians, was destroyed. Other villages see their water supply cut while settlers divert it to fill their swimming pools. Transportation has also become a nightmare. Soldiers close roads at random, preventing Palestinians from getting to work and school. Taxis cut through fields to get around army roadblocks, and drivers refuse to come to Palestinian villages after dark, fearing they will be shot in the darkness. At one town, a

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Janitors:

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this year.

ni: Is there a difference between sick leave and getting injured at work?

A: Yes, the first three days they took sick leave away, but I believe that they should have given me workers compensation.

ni: Even though you were injured on the job, the money was taken out of your sick leave.

A: Yes, I was even two hours late because of my doctors appointment and they told me that they would take them out of my pay check. I don't know when they began to use the workers compensation.

ni: Did they start giving workers compensation?

A: I think so but I don't know how much came out of my sick leave and how much was workers compensation. They told me that they would not pay for the day after I injured myself. In the statement that they gave me they said that they weren't going to pay me because I didn't call. I came in person to make sure that they knew that I wouldn't be coming in.

ni: Have you asked what they are doing with sick leave vs. workers compensation?

A: No because they refuse to meet with me with a union member present.

Alejandra has been responsible for cleaning the whole Cognitive Science building (including 6 bathrooms, hallways, classrooms and offices), some classrooms in Solis and a computer lab each night. Many janitors feel this is too much for an 8 hour shift but fear reprimands if they do not finish in the allotted time. When asked about her work conditions Alejandra explained, "Janitors are not seen as people who give a valuable service to the com-

munity. We are seen as machines who are supposed to only work. They [the supervisors] are only interested in getting the work done in the hour that is assigned to do it. The quantity not the quality of work is important."

Even though working in the Cognitive Science building is too large a workload, Alejandra would like to return because she knows students and faculty there and they support her. "I want to return [to Cognitive Science] because there is a Community."

It is important to ask why Alejandra is being treated poorly. First of all, there is the obvious monetary reasons. If the university can avoid paying sick leave because she was under investigation then it saves money. But it goes deeper than that. Now that Alejandra is better, she has requested to return to the Cognitive Science building but her supervisors refuse, even though professors and students in Cognitive Science overwhelmingly want her to work there.

Kevin Austin refused to comment or answer any questions concerning Alejandra's situation, stating that it was "personal business."

Last year, when Alejandra was fired, faculty and graduate students sent a letter in support of Alejandra to the chancellor. According to Alejandra, "they [the administration] don't want Cognitive Science to support me. When I am away from the Cognitive Science building, I have no contact with people who know me." Alejandra thinks that her supervisors are trying to get her to quit because she asks questions and makes suggestions. "They don't like it when you are not passive" "They tell me that I talk too much." Specifically, Dana told Alejandra that she was being removed from the Cognitive Science building because Alejandra talked to them [professors and graduate students] too much.

So after all the work last year from students and janitors together, why are problems like this still happening? If janitors have a union to fight for them, why are they still being targeted and harassed by their supervisors? Why are university admin-

istrators allowed to break the law and refuse to meet with union representatives?

While it is convenient to blame UC's poor labor relations and anti-union culture, some of the blame for the current treatment of janitors should fall on AFSCME as well. AFSCME did very little in the drive to unionize janitorial work at UCSD. They seemed more than willing to accept the increase in dues and membership that the new janitors brought, but their link with the new membership ended there. It is true that being under an AFSCME contract provides the janitors with better benefits and higher wages but what about protecting them from job discrimination or dangerous work place conditions?

Many of the janitors feel that that AFSCME is almost completely unaware of them. They feel that the only time AFSCME seems to care about the janitors is when the elections for board members come up. Many janitors are disenchanted. When asked how she would change the current relations between AFSCME and the janitors, Alejandra responded that, "AFSCME should be in constant contact with janitors, not just in cases of emergency. A union should not ignore the workers."

This is not just a problem of the janitors; this affects everyone who uses campus facilities. Alejandra has been told by supervisors "never to talk to customers [i.e. professors and students in Cognitive Science]." When she offers her opinion about doing a better job she is told not to talk back and to do her work. According to Alejandra, many janitors will not ever offer their opinions because they fear being fired. We are completely dependant on our buildings, offices classrooms, spaces and the whole university being cleaned EVERY day. We benefit from the labor of janitors even though we rarely see it. Every night when we are at home sleeping, doing school work or having fun with our friends the janitors come and clean up our shit (literally). When administration

UCSD administrators have been informed repeatedly of the short-staffing issues departments face -- a pressure which they

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UCSD continues to deny janitors benefits

After a massive SEIU/Justice for Janitors/Students for Economic Justice mobilization last year, UCSD agreed to stop hiring subcontracted janitorial work and to rehire Alejandra Rodriguez, a worker who was fired for her organizing efforts. The campaign included physical assaults on outspoken students, a concert from Ozomatli, several arrests, and extensive poster and marching -- and, in the end, the administration agreed to hire the janitors directly when they were caught illegally trying to use the INS to threaten the workers. Those who were given positions could look forward to being paid salaries that fall closer to their living needs and receiving essential benefits they were denied by Bergeson's and Merchants' Building Maintenance. Their new UC management -- under the union contract that now covers them -- is a significant improvement over Merchants', a company well known for its union busting, its maltreatment of workers, and its two convictions for child labor violations. (See <http://www.seiu2028.org/articles/article.cfm?ID=4893>.)

However, UCSD continues to hire temporary work from outside (including from Merchants'), denying "temp" employees the same benefits and pay their coworkers receive. When the NI spoke with a representative of AFSCME, the union representing University janitorial staff, he expressed the belief that there are at least eight people who have been hired under such terms. It is difficult to know for certain, however, since the University has been uncooperative in providing information on employee statuses. Known temps work in Revelle and Marshall residence halls, and the Central Yard.

UCSD administrators have been informed repeatedly of the short-staffing issues departments face -- a pressure which they

relieve by hiring temps -- but little or nothing has been done about it. UC Labor Relations has been willing to meet with union representatives, but they do not hire full-time employees to fill the gaps, opting instead for the cheaper temporary workers. The short-staffing causes current employees to have to work faster and cut corners in order to complete the work they have been assigned in the same amount of time. Temporary employees who have no ties to the departments in which they work and who are paid poorly may care little about their performance on the job. UC students and workers who rely on the janitors to clean the spaces that they use every day cannot be as effective when the quality of cleaning suffers. Hiring temp workers may be a short-term savings, but it certainly leads to long-term economic detriment to UCSD, as the janitors' work is an essential function of the University.

With \$2 billion in unrestricted funds available, UC could easily provide these workers with living wages and health care. Instead, they repeatedly choose to give top administrators large raises and ignore janitors' demands for an equal work/equal pay labor environment. They are blatantly obstructionist when it comes to delivering critical information and lie outright about their funding availability. AFSCME is currently looking at actions it may take against the University to put pressure on their hiring policies, and readers are encouraged to get involved wherever possible. AFSCME can be reached at 619-296-0342 or through their website at <www.afscme.org>. Letters to Chancellor Dynes asking him to hold Labor Relations accountable can be sent to dynesdesk@ucsd.edu, or 9500 Gilman Drive, MC 0005, La Jolla, California 92093-0005. His office can also be reached by phone at (858) 534-3135.

Palestinians

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Palestinian woman arrived at her home after Mr. Assaly got there, covered in glass. Her car had been stoned as she drove home from work. Living here in the United States, we cannot comprehend these words, even after reading them many times over. We travel freely, we turn a faucet handle and water is provided, we switch and knob and our world is illuminated, we have scores of groceries stores to choose from...we are free. The Palestinians, on the contrary, are prisoners in their own land. They have no citizenship, no recognized ethnicity, no identity as members of the human race. But each Palestinian has a story. Each wakes in the morning only

to live out their daily nightmare. And yet, we remain passive.

Now that we have established the fact that this struggle is not just one of the Muslim community, but rather one spanning many faith groups and a richly diverse cultural base, let us now take that advice of a sage who once said: "Those who do not know their history are bound to repeat it."

The tragic irony of UN Resolution 181

November 29th, 1947 marks the date that the General Assembly of the UN adopted Resolution 181, which is generally known as the Partition Resolution because it espoused the creation of a "Jewish State" and an "Arab State" within the borders of historic Palestine.

With the resolution came the sad start of a seemingly endless crisis. The land of Palestine, beloved by its native multi-denominational Palestinian population, was to be divided with the full weight of international sanctions.

In the year following this declaration by the UN, Palestinians were systematically dispossessed of cities such as Haifa and Jaffa, cities that had been the pulse of Palestinian society for centuries.

Rather than fulfilling its purpose of international arbitration, UN Resolution 181 served

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We are a non-profit, **student run & owned** business. We sell tasty vegetarian food (burritos, bagels, yogurt, fruit juices...) at low prices. We believe that by keeping prices down and stocking our store with good, healthy food, we are providing a much-appreciated service to students who want an alternative to the costly and rarely-nutritious food offered elsewhere on campus.

We're located in the student cooperative center near the revelle campus along with soft reserves, the grove cafe & **the co-ops**. We're open 8-5pm every weekday during the school year.

Palestinians

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as a violent trigger for conflict between the dispossessed Palestinians and the newly settled Jews. As a result of the conflict in 1948, Israel was declared by the minority population of Jewish migrant settlers and was recognized by the UN.

However, while thousands of Jews from around the world moved in, millions of Palestinian citizens were forcibly displaced from their cities and villages into neighbouring countries, and even expelled by Israeli forces, contrary to UN intentions, from land proposed as the Arab portion of the Palestine Partition Plan.

In essence, a historical inequality was born from Resolution 181. Israel existed with full access to international organisations such as the UN, while Palestinian national interests were brushed aside or completely neglected.

Palestinian aspirations for statehood have been continually rebuffed by Israel. Its national institutions are unable to develop due to the constant threat from the US-sponsored Israeli military. Although internationally condemned and illegal, settlements continue to be constructed in the occupied territories of Gaza and the West Bank, pushing Palestinians further and further out of what little land they still inhabit. Yet, while we are passive, the Palestinians continue to resist.

Unfortunately for those who have wished to rid the world of the "Palestinian problem," the steadfastness of Palestinians before and since 1947 has left an indelible mark on the international political community. Despite attempts to erase the history of the Palestinian peoples, a concrete and decisive Palestinian identity has defiantly surfaced.

The Palestinians persevere because they remember when, only 60 years ago, they lived in peace, side by side their Jewish and Christian neighbors. Their memories spark hope inside their hearts that one day, morally and politically strong Palestinians will again hold the reigns of power in the region and allow for peace, justice, and equality among all people. These ideals that we hold dear have only been a reality when the Palestinians have been in power. In the fifty-four years since the Israeli occupation, the world has seen nothing but chaos and widespread persecution in the Middle East.

Multi-lateral support for Palestine

As I mentioned at the beginning of this article, the plight of the Palestinians is not one-dimensional. Hence, the resistance should not be unilateral either. In fact, it seems as though the whole world is united behind Palestine and its suffering citizenry...well, the whole world minus Israel and the United

States. Heads of state around the globe have condemned Israel and its genocidal tendencies. In addition, political action committees and grassroots organizations have begun petitions and rallies to show their support for Palestinians. Now, even individuals are traveling to the area to find out for themselves the facts of the matter.

A group of eight internationally celebrated intellectuals, including two Nobel prize award winners, traveled to the Middle East this past March on a mission to find the truth. This was the first such visit since the birth of the Second Intifada which started in September of 2000. After their visit, they unanimously denounced the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories.

"We have to ring the alarm bell everywhere in the world to say that what is happening today is a crime that we can end," Portuguese Jose Saramago, literature Nobel prize winner, told reporters in Ramallah. He criticized the extension of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and denounced restrictions imposed by the Jewish state on the movement of Palestinians.

Saramago compared the Israeli occupation to Auschwitz, Nazi concentration camps and answered to criticism by Israeli official and religious clerics by saying it is the duty of a writer to denounce injustice and draw attention to shocking situations.

U.S. Russels Banks, chairman of the International Writers Parliament, said he himself felt like a prisoner when he reached by road Ramallah after crossing the check point of Kalandia.

Nigerian Wole Soyinka, also a literature Nobel Prize winner, thinks it abnormal that the United Nations has not deployed a peace-keeping force in the Palestinian territories to protect the Palestinians against the Israeli military.

Frenchman Christian Salmon said: "When I was a teenager I was greatly impressed by talks of Jewish friends on the experience of the "Copouts" and how Israel had converted the desert (Palestine) into Paradise, but today when I arrived I must say that the Israeli occupation converted the Palestinians' Paradise into a desert."

Our duty for the future

Just as the Palestinians have not succumbed to the enormous pressures that they encounter daily, we too must not be silenced. It is our duty as educated, informed members of the human race to read, to search, to listen, to join grassroots organizations, to draft letters to our representatives, to donate any funds we can afford to relief efforts, to write petitions to international organizations to indict war criminals such as Ariel Sharon, and most importantly, to spread the message of the plight of the Palestinians via everyday communication with friends,

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Uribe:

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And, like clockwork, one month after that, on January 17, 1998, a third ship stopped in Long Beach on its way to Moreno's GMP, this one carrying 10,000 kilos of the controlled substance.

"The United States Customs Service (USCS) seized each of these shipments as they transited the ports in California," noted DEA chief Marshall. "No advance notice was filed with DEA that these shipments would be sent from Hong Kong, through the United States, to Colombia."

According to a U.S. law titled 21 U.S.C. 971(a), "each regulated person who imports or exports a listed chemical to or from the United States is required to file advance notification of the importation or exportation not later than 15 days before the transaction is to take place."

The matter of cocaine precursor chemicals, and potassium permanganate in particular, is no small matter to law enforcers.

As Colombia's current president, Andrés Pastrana, noted in a press release on October 25, 1999: "Without the coca plant, there is no cocaine, but without acetone, ether and permanganate, it is impossible to have drugs. A good part of these precursors come from Europe and are dumped into our rivers and our land, which produces part of the world's oxygen."

Oxygen, like that which Pastrana gave Uribe and Moreno this week, when the president's Conservative party - destroyed in the recent Colombian congressional elections, precisely because of Pastrana's support for the US military adventure known as Plan Colombia - folded its tent, abandoned its own presidential candidate, and threw its support to the Narco-Candidate Uribe.

Quietest Seizure in DEA History

Just as the coca plant does not grow in the North American mainland, permanganate is not produced in South America. Cocaine as we know it would not be possible without this U.S., European and Chinese export chemical.

For the cocaine processing labs in the Amazon jungle, permanganate is harder to obtain, and thus more vital than even to coca leaf for the production of cocaine.

Normally, when U.S. officials seize a massive quantity of a controlled substance, the press and TV cameras are called and grand proclamations are made about the "record seizures" and "victory" in the war on drugs.

But the political problems caused by these seizures in California caused the usually boastful U.S. authorities to refrain from their usual media blitz.

Contrast that with the government press releases customarily aimed at U.S. companies that fail -- as the Uribe campaign

manager's company did in '97 and '98 -- to notify the DEA of shipments of permanganate. United States companies caught violating the same laws have paid a steep legal price.

The Connecticut-based chemical firm MacDermid Inc., according to the January 14, 2000 edition of the Hartford Courant, paid \$50,000 dollars to the federal government "to settle a claim involving the export of a chemical that can be used to synthesize cocaine, the U.S. attorney's office said Thursday."

The \$50,000 fine was paid, according to the Courant, because "the company failed to notify the government in advance that it was going to export more than 500 kilograms per month of potassium permanganate."

"MacDermid sold the chemical to legitimate buyers," reported the daily Courant. "The government says its only lapse was a failure to make a necessary notification of its export sales."

In other words, for failing to alert the DEA that it would make shipments of 500 kilos of the cocaine precursor chemical - one percent of the 50,000 kilos destined for Moreno's company in Colombia - the Connecticut company had to pay \$50,000. (That fine, if applied equally to Moreno's 50,000 kilos, would have added up to \$5 million U.S. dollars.)

Moreno's company, by contrast, was not fined a single devalued Colombian peso by the United States government for those 50,000 unreported kilos of the cocaine precursor.

Still, U.S. authorities, tangled in the crisis caused by the seizures of contraband belonging to a political ally of Washington, after three years of tossing this hot potato around, determined not to release the stash.

The Customs Service, the DEA and other U.S. law enforcement agencies were caught in a public relations disaster. Their agents did their job. And the bureaucrats in Washington spent more than three years trying to cover it up.

To apply the law equally to Moreno's GMP Chemical Products company - as the Justice Department did with the Connecticut firm's legal lapse - would have unleashed a chain of events very embarrassing to Moreno and, consequently, to the 1995-97 governor of the Colombian state of Antioquia: Alvaro Uribe Vélez, a longtime U.S. point-man in Colombia.

But to apply the law equally would have caused headlines that interfered with Washington's electoral plans for Colombia, which have been executed to weaken all other potential candidates (those that are still alive or not in captivity) and install Uribe as the next Colombian president in the May 26th elections.

Uribe is their man.

Precursor to a Narco-State

DEA chief Donnie Marshall wrote, in a legal decision, about the seizure of the contraband headed toward Uribe's cam-

paign manager, and his company, GMP:

"The Order to Suspend Shipment stated that DEA believed that the listed chemical may be diverted based on the failure to notify DEA of the transshipment in violation of 21 CFR 1313.31; associations between GMP and other violating chemical companies in Colombia; and other diversionary practices of GMP."

But Marshall, Bill Clinton's DEA chief, had a big headache. The eagle-eyed Customs officers in Long Beach and Oakland perhaps were not aware yet that they had stepped on the wrong narco-toes: three ships whose voyage was not meant to be interrupted.

Donnie Marshall, the DEA boss, explained why:

"GMP is a company founded in 1938 that distributes chemical products, with four locations throughout Colombia, South America. Its president, Pedro Juan Moreno Villa (Mr. Moreno), has served on the board of directors of other companies in Colombia. In addition, from 1995 through 1997, Mr. Moreno served as the Secretary of the Government of Antioquia."

That state government, it bears repeating, belonged to Governor Alvaro Uribe, the current presidential heir apparent in Colombia, whose path to Colombia's highest office began in the City of Medellin, in 1982, when its unofficial mayor, Pablo Escobar, the most notorious drug trafficker in human history, was the undisputed King of the City: Nothing happened in Medellin, in 1982, without Escobar's permission. One of the things that did happen, was that Alvaro Uribe became its official mayor, and from there toiled in the laboratory of the then-nascent Narco-State.

"An extensive security investigation of Mr. Moreno was conducted for this position" in Uribe's administration, wrote the DEA chief. "During his tenure, Mr. Moreno supported the Governor's goal to fight narcotics traffic. According to Mr. Moreno, his life was endangered because of his duties against drug traffickers and guerrillas, resulting in his taking extensive security precautions."

The security precautions taken by Governor Uribe's chief secretary Moreno, though, were apparently not sufficient to keep three of his unreported shipments from being seized on the California coast.

Honest Customs and DEA agents saw their own life-endangering actions subverted and sabotaged by the suits in Washington. The permanganate traffickers - not content to be on the road to the Colombian presidency, but wanting to collect their tips, too - fought from early 1998 until mid-2001, in a case before DEA administrative law judge Gail Randall, to avoid legal penalties and to get their 50,000 kilos back.

"No advance notice of these shipments was provided to DEA by GMP or any other party,"

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Koala:

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have a Judicial Board. If he can take away their authority to hear a case anytime he doesn't like what they decide, what's the point?

The point is this: the Judicial Boards allow students to have their cases heard by a panel of their peers. They are an absolutely necessary part of the student judicial process, bringing students into the proceedings.

The rights that accused students have are slowly being

taken away. In fall of 2000, Aguilar revoked students' rights to be represented by an attorney at J-Board hearings, and now he is interfering with the J-Board's mandate to hear cases that come to it. Along with Student Conduct Coordinator Tommy Agee, he is bringing more and more kinds of cases under the jurisdiction of Student Policies and Judicial Affairs, taking away the power college deans have traditionally had over their students.

The Associated Students are closely examining the issue, concerned over Aguilar's infringements on student rights. They

are considering taking formal action against the university, and want to avoid the setting of any precedent that would undermine the legitimacy of student judicial boards.

Many campus media organizations are mobilizing as well, forming a campus-wide media coalition to work on issues of journalistic rights.

Aguilar's lack of respect for the sovereignty of the Judicial Board goes hand in hand with his commitment to eroding student rights, and must be fought at every turn.



WE TOO SUFFER THE SLINGS AND ARROWS OF UNJUST OPPRESSION

Proving the adage that politics makes strange bedfellows, the crass and unfunny Koala staff show off their hate filled humor magazine while posing with other victims of oppression. That's right. The UCSD administration has been violating the Student Conduct Code left and right to harass the Koala out of existence. So, to defend due process and the right of the public to be informed, the Guardian editors in chief and various members of the Associated Students ended up fighting side by side with these dumb bigots.

How to be a good homemaker

Constructive solutions for the lack of migrant farmer housing

Migrant farm workers in San Diego have a housing problem. Owners of agricultural fields are no longer required to provide any type of shelter for their employees. Most of these workers live in the canyons next to the fields, either sleeping in their clothes in the dirt or lucky enough to have been able to get a ride into town (about 40 minutes) and pick up a piece of cardboard or wood with which to construct a shelter. Wood and water are of equivalent value in their economy.

For hundreds, if not thousands of workers in California, housing (a bad word in activist circles for the regulations it implies) is nearly impossible to come by. These workers build their houses out of flimsy materials, only to have them torn down by their employers whenever it suits them. Not only are their employers not responsible for providing shelter, they often destroy whatever structures their employees build for shelter.

The project, Las Casitas, was started by Jim Guerra in order

to meet the housing needs of migrant farm workers in Southern California. Using a construction method invented by Nader Khalili of the Cal-Earth Institute called Superadobe Technology, Guerra is teaching migrant farm workers to construct adobe domes for shelter. The structure costs less than \$300 to construct and provides up to 50 years in shelter.

The superadobe dome is constructed out of long sandbags filled with a mixture of dirt and concrete, laid out in a spiral, fixed with barbed wire and finished off with plaster made out of dirt, water, hay and concrete. The structure is so simple to create that an 8 ft diameter, by 8ft tall adobe dome can be constructed in one day. With the relative inexpensiveness and brevity involved in constructing such a shelter, Guerra's vision has finally taken a step toward its goal of providing a strong, dignified shelter for every migrant worker in (for now) San Diego. On April 15, 2002 Guerra

and a group of about 7 workers, finished the first dome.

Jim Guerra's project, called Las Casitas, is to train as many migrant farm workers in San Diego as he can so that they will in turn train other migrant farm workers.

If you are interested in getting involved, you can help Las Casitas in many ways. If you are interested in building superadobe domes, you can contact Coleen Lassegard at classegard@yahoo.com

If getting dirt under your fingernails is not your style you too can still help. These workers often eat, if at all, one meal a day. A good way of helping out is to donate canned food and can openers. You can donate blankets and/or clothes. You may also want to see if you can go out to the fields and take water and/or food. Contact ni@libertad.ucsd.edu for more info.

Janitors:

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tors or supervisors force janitors to cut corners by giving them too much work, we (the students and faculty) have to pay the price. It is also important to remember that janitors have access to rooms that have expensive personal belongings and lab equipment. Having janitors that know their area and who can be trusted is important. When janitors are overworked and treated as sub-human, and they have no say in how they do their work, how can they be expected to do a good job?

Palestinians:

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family, and colleagues. Public opinion must be swayed in the United States, and although the situation seems bleak at present, it could change in a heartbeat with the efforts of a strong and diligent few. The Palestinians are not giving up their fight for freedom and sovereignty. Hence, we cannot give up on them. There is a war of guns and tanks and bloodshed and death. Ours must be a war of words and ink. Both are powerful, both have tremendous results, and both are ours for the taking.

Some information from this article was taken from Arabic-news.com from the 3/26/2002 edition.

Do you hate your Dean of Residential Life?

Adobe architecture offers an inexpensive housing opportunity

Projects such as Las Casitas (see NI article) should make us evaluate the ways in which we live. Are we building the right structures for a sustainable Earth? Do we really have to shell out hundreds of thousands of dollars just to have a dwelling where you, don't have to hear your neighbors through the walls. Is insurance only necessary because our houses and apartment buildings are not weather- or fire-proof? Shouldn't they be?

Alternative architecture is not just about building a better house. It's about reimagining the spaces we live in and the ways in which we affect the world, in environmental and economic ways. The current standard of building a house/apartment primarily out of wood is destructive and unnecessary. It may have seemed like a good idea back when forests were abundant—but today it is destructive because our forests are disappearing and it is unnecessary because there are better, cheaper, and more emotionally and physically healthy ways of constructing living spaces.

Two of the notable alternative architecture projects currently underway in the U.S. are Nader Khalili's Cal-Earth in Hesperia, California and Earthship Biotechnology in Taos, New Mexico.

Khalili's Cal-Earth (California Institute of Earth Art and Architecture) design is based on the principal that everyone should be able to live in a house that they themselves have easily and simultaneously strong and easily constructed-dirt, sandbags and the arch.

Khalili's design is called Superadobe Technology. "Superadobe is an evolving concept based on a super-long, instant adobe element. Imagine it to be like sandbags, filled with earth from the site and fitted



together like adobe or masonry block, only bonded with barbed wire instead of mortar. Or it can be a super-long sandbag, coiled to make walls and domes the way a potter coils a pot" (Cal-Earth Newsletter).

The idea is simple: "Use the materials of war (sandbags and barbed wire) to create a safe shelter in most regions of the globe as well as in your backyard. Utilize minimum amounts of purchased product and maximum amounts of the free earth under your feet. Participate in a family or community activity by building a shelter, or a sustainable community. Create a shelter with maximum protection against natural and man-made disasters."

Not only are the adobe domes fireproof and disaster-resistant, the structures are surprisingly beautiful. While the emergency structures used in the Las Casitas project are intended to be quickly and easily built, Superadobe Technology is also used to construct much larger projects including 3+ bedroom houses. Using the arch as the fundamental design unit, Khalili stacks arches side-by-side for larger projects. The effect is amazing. From the inside the structure allows light from all sides, and

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Uribe:

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wrote DEA chief Marshall. "However, there is a dispute over whether such advance notice was required for these shipments."

It was that greed on the part of the cocaine precursor traffickers that now has led to this trail of paper, and that forced Donnie Marshall to make these words a part of the public record.

Perhaps because he was at the end of his term, or perhaps because his own troops - the DEA agents - were already furious with the bureaucratic cover-ups regarding these seizures, or perhaps because Donnie Marshall wanted to do something right before his legacy at DEA came to an end, Marshall rejected the non-binding recommendation of the administrative law judge, and ordered the 50,000 kilos permanently seized.

Marshall, the administrator, ruled:

"The Administrator finds that based upon the evidence in the record, Colombia produces between 70-80% of the world's cocaine hydrochloride. Potassium permanganate and hydrochloric acid are List II chemicals that may be used for a variety of legitimate purposes, but are also used in the illicit manufacture of cocaine. Potassium permanganate is not produced in South America and therefore must be imported..."

"Between 1994 and 1998, GMP was the largest importer of potassium permanganate into Colombia. Since approximately 1994, GMP conducted business with Eland, a Hong Kong company. From 1996 through 1998, Eland's sale of potassium permanganate to GMP had become consistent, with Eland selling GMP in excess of 200 metric tons during that time."

Kind reader, click your calculator. One kilo of potassium permanganate makes 10 kilos of cocaine. GMP's excess of 200 metric tons was sufficient to make 2,000 metric tons of cocaine hydrochloride.

A key fact, though, upon which the Narco-State is built, should be kept in mind: There are other, legal, uses for potassium permanganate, such as to manufacture printed circuit boards and other hi-tech playthings that are not exactly staples of the Colombian economy. This is one of the key loopholes through which the \$500 billion dollar-a-year illicit drug industry glides.

Likewise, there are other uses for the humble coca leaf, too. But the U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia calls legal coca farmers "terrorists." In Colombia and Ecuador, U.S. helicopters and airplanes spray toxic herbicides over those farmers. Given the central importance of potassium permanganate to cocaine manufacturing, Andean peasants would be as justified in sending those choppers and airplanes to Oakland and Long Beach harbors to blow up the ships. The double standards, and selective enforcement, by U.S. officials

have eternally doomed the "war on drugs."

Uncontrolled Substances

Still, DEA chief Donnie Marshall, in one of his final official acts, was clearly troubled by the reports from some honest Colombian law enforcement agents who found that Moreno's GMP company leaked permanganate like a sieve, systematically violating the very safeguards that are meant to keep the precursors from the hands of narco-traffickers.

DEA chief Marshall reported: "The Direccion Nacional de Estupefacientes (DNE) is the Colombia government agency that issues, revokes, and renews chemical permits for individuals or companies that handle controlled chemicals. The DNE also establishes the total quota of controlled chemicals to be imported per month by permit holders. A company may not import more than its quota in any given calendar month without the permission of the DNE."

"In general, a DNE permit is required if an individual or company wants to handle in excess of five kilograms or five liters of a controlled chemical per calendar month. Therefore, no permit is required if a person wishes to purchase less than five kilograms or five liters in a calendar month."

Regarding the shenanigans at Moreno's GMP to get around this rule, Marshall wrote:

"The Colombian National Police (CNP) is the enforcement entity of the DNE, and is authorized by the DNE to conduct investigations that could result in criminal or administrative penalties..."

"On June 10, 1997, the CNP inspected one of GMP's facilities finding that on nine occasions between June 3, 1997 and June 6, 1997, GMP had failed to enter required information into its control logs concerning the sale of 2,450 kilograms of potassium permanganate..."

(Again, kind reader, the math: that's enough precursor to make 24,000 kilos of cocaine, worth about \$24 million dollars in the jungle, and \$700 million dollars by the time the drug enters Los Angeles.)

DEA Chief Marshall continued:

"On December 15, 1997, the CNP inspected GMP and found record keeping discrepancies. GMP kept its control log tracking its sales and purchases of controlled chemicals on a computer. GMP was not authorized to maintain its records in this manner. GMP's general manager at that time testified that he was confused by this allegation by the CNP since GMP had been keeping computerized records since 1991... the CNP investigated the addresses and telephone numbers listed on GMP's seized invoices. This investigation revealed discrepancies including addresses that did not exist, telephone numbers that did not match the addresses listed on the invoices, and telephone numbers that did not exist."

"In addition, the CNP noted invoices issued on the same date to different named individuals listing the same address and telephone number. The invoices each reflected sales of 4.6 kilograms of potassium permanganate, below the threshold amount. The CNP discovered that the individuals listed on the invoices had not actually purchased the potassium permanganate, but their personal identification cards had been used by their employer to obtain the chemical."

"By letter dated January 22, 1998, CNP officials concluded that GMP, 'may be guilty of selling controlled chemical substances, for which purpose it is using fictitious addresses, names of actual persons and is making sales of controlled chemicals in amounts greater than those stipulated by the Office of the National Director of Narcotics without receiving a license from the D.N.E.'"

"Evidence was represented at the hearing that GMP representatives also investigated the questioned invoices to determine the identity and location of the purchasers listed on the invoices. While GMP representatives were able to locate some of the individuals and companies named on the invoices, many remained unknown. Many contained fictitious addresses, and in some instances, no addresses were provided on the invoices..."

Uribe's campaign manager, Pedro Juan Moreno Villa, also spoke during the DEA administrative law hearings. According to DEA chief Marshall, "Mr. Moreno testified that he was unaware of any GMP controlled chemicals being diverted to the manufacture of cocaine or any other illicit drug."

To shed some perspective on the value of potassium permanganate, even before it is converted into cocaine, the South China News - covering the story from their end of the pipeline, where the permanganate is manufactured - noted on October 23, 1999 that the chemical fetched \$75 per kilo in late 1997 (when the first and second of Moreno's GMP-bound shipments were seized) and that the price then skyrocketed to \$280 US dollars per kilo by 1999.

Thus, the 50,000 seized kilos of Mr. Moreno's precursor substance were worth \$3.7 million dollars when seized, but within two years grew to a black market value of \$14 million dollars, before they might have even touched a single coca leaf.

The Hormiga Strategy Controls Cocaine Market

A common expression in Spanish refers to "trabajo de hormigas," or "ant's work," and it applies to the manner used by Moreno's company to move large amounts of the cocaine precursor drug through small sales of volumes just under the five kilo threshold for which buyers must have a license.

As stated by the DEA: Much of GMP's permanganate went out the door in small volumes

of only 4.6 kilos - enough to make 46 kilos of cocaine, valued at \$30,000 a kilo in Miami, or \$1.38 million dollars per "small" shipment - at a time.

The bottom line is this: coca grows on trees in Colombia, and most of the battles between military, paramilitary, police, rebels and the poor farmers - if anyone hopes to control the coca leaf market - will be waged in vain for decades to come.

But he who controls the potassium permanganate market in Colombia - a product that must be imported from continents far away - truly controls the global traffic of processed cocaine.

The same strict standards set by Moreno's GMP company will no doubt be applied when Mr. Moreno and Mr. Uribe - and their customers from the ranks of the narcos and paramilitary groups - get their mitts on the entire Colombian military and law enforcement complex, and the \$2 billion US dollars of Plan Colombia.

The Back Story: The House that Pablo Built

In 1982, when Uribe became mayor, his city of Medellín, capital of Antioquia, was a boomtown. The Medellín Cartel, with Pablo Escobar as its maximum leader, was taking the city by storm, constructing public housing for the poor, paying taxes, stoking Mayor Alvaro Uribe's construction of a world-class subway system. ("He must explain the much-debated Metro contract," pleaded columnist Antonio Caballero in a recent column in the national news-weekly *Semana*.)

The Liberal Party, through which Uribe and Escobar rose in the same electoral wave to mayoral and legislative power, is to Antioquia what the Democratic Party is to Boston: the entire political show.

But there were serious rifts in the party, then as now. One group, the New Liberalism movement, led by Luis Carlos Galán, was horrified by how organized crime had taken over the party and the City. As globally renowned Colombian author Gabriel García Márquez wrote in his award-winning chronicle, *The Autumn of a Drug Lord*, about the life and death of Pablo Escobar:

"In 1982 Pablo Escobar had tried to find a place in the New Liberalism movement headed by Luis Carlos Galán, but Galán removed his name from the rolls and exposed him before a crowd of five thousand people in Medellín."

As every law enforcer and scholar of narco-trafficking knows, not even Galán's courage could stop Escobar.

Pablo Escobar presided over the economic renaissance of Uribe's Medellín. He built the houses, the people came, the people voted, and Pablo Escobar got himself elected to the national Congress.

In an oft neglected history by the journalists who write of Escobar's legend today, Con-

gressman Escobar traveled to the United States in 1982, where this photo was taken, of Pablo and his son, in front of the Reagan-Bush White House, which would, soon, involve Escobar, with Panamanian President Manuel Noriega, and the Nicaraguan paramilitaries known as the Contras, in a cocaine-for-arms deal that coincided with the explosion of crack on the urban streets of North America.

The daily *El Tiempo* of Bogotá captioned that photo: "In 1982, as a member of Congress, Pablo Escobar traveled to the United States. In the photo he appears with his son Juan Pablo, in front of the White House."

As cultural critic Jason Manning, author of *The Eighties Club*, wrote:

"In 1981-82, an alliance between Pablo Escobar, Carlos Lehder, Jose Gacha and the Ochoa family resulted in the formation of the Medellín cartel, which ran most of the 50 cocaine labs in Colombia. In 1982 Escobar cut a deal with Panamanian strongman Manuel Noriega, which allowed the cartel to ship cocaine through Panama for \$100,000 a load. That same year, Escobar was elected to the Colombian congress; he bought votes by building low-income housing in the Medellín slums."

Or, as PBS Frontline reported in its Drug War timeline for that era:

1981-1982: Rise of the Medellín Cartel... The alliance between the Ochoa family, Pablo Escobar, Carlos Lehder and Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha strengthens into what will become known as the "Medellín Cartel." The traffickers cooperate in the manufacturing, distribution and marketing of their cocaine.

And, in the PBS Frontline chronology:

March 1982: Pablo Escobar is elected to the Colombian Congress... Escobar cultivates an image of "Robin Hood" by building low-income housing, handing out money in Medellín slums and appearing throughout the city accompanied by Catholic priests. Escobar is elected an alternate representative from Envidado, but he's driven out of



Congress in 1983 by Colombia's crusading Minister of Justice, Rodrigo Lara Bonilla.

García Márquez, author of *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, *Love in a Time of Cholera*, and other classics, wrote that Escobar, now a Congressman, "had not forgotten the insult and unleashed an all-out war against the state, in particular against the New Liberalism. Rodrigo Lara Bonilla, who represented the New Liberalism as justice

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minister in the Belisario Betancur government, was murdered in a drive-by shooting on the streets of Bogotá. His successor, Enrique Parejo, was pursued all the way to Budapest by a hired assassin who shot him in the face with a pistol but did not kill him. On August 18, 1989, Luis Carlos Galán, who was protected by eighteen well-armed bodyguards, was machine-gunned on the main square in the municipality of Soacha, some ten kilometers from the presidential palace."

Colombian journalist Alfredo Molano, who *Narco News* interviewed in exile in Barcelona in July 2000, and whose predictions in that interview about what Plan Colombia would bring have resulted to be, unfortunately, all too accurate, wrote of Escobar, Medellín, the violent prevention of the legalized Patriotic Union (UP) and M-19 parties from being able to participate in free and fair elections in 1990, and the assassination of Luis Carlos Galán, the last best hope for Colombia, in a September 2000 article for *The NACLA Report*.

Authentic journalist Alfredo Molano wrote:

"Meanwhile, the paramilitary forces had been growing dramatically, in many cases financed by the head of the Medellín Cartel, Pablo Escobar, especially around the northern region of the Magdalena Medio. With Escobar's financing and the army's tolerance, paramilitaries began decimating the leftist UP with impunity. It was during Barco's subsequent administration that most of the UP's activists were murdered. The final days of Barco's government were notably violent. Gunmen assassinated four presidential candidates Carlos Pizarro of the M-19 (who had just turned in their arms); Jaime Pardo Leal of the UP, followed closely by his replacement, Bernardo Jaramillo; and

the Liberals' Luis Carlos Galán who would certainly have won the election."

The chief beneficiary of the assassination of that courageous man, Galán, "who would certainly have won the election," is a current backer of the coming Uribe-Moreno Precursor Narco-Ticket, as Alfredo Molano explained in his 2000 article:

"Galán was replaced by Cesar Gaviria, a party hack who had been Minister of Government, and who was elected president for the term 1990-1994."

César Gaviria, today, is the US-imposed chief of the Organization of American States, backer of Plan Colombia, and mentor to key Uribe operative (albeit opportunistically) Rafael Pardo, who recently won the election as representative in the Senate of "Colombians Abroad." Gaviria presided over the big sellout of Colombia's sovereignty to a foreign power that now has Plan Colombia as its logical - but our guess is, futile - attempt to put the lid on democracy in Colombia through paramilitary terror.

Uribe and Moreno, together, were the key movers behind the paramilitary rise in Antioquia in the mid 1990s.

As Uribe's chief of staff, Moreno had many responsibilities: Among them, establishing heavily armed and government-trained vigilantes known as Rural Vigilance Committees (CONVIVIRS, as they were known, and came to be feared, across Uribe's province). These vigilante brigades served, according to Amnesty International and dozens of respected human rights organizations, as thinly-masked and government-sanctioned boot camps and recruiting agencies for Colombia's cocaine-soaked paramilitary forces.

The Archbishop is Assassinated

Those violent policies came home to roost last week with the

assassination, in Cali, Colombia, of Archbishop Isaias Duarte Cancino.

The Colombia Support Network said yesterday, in its statement remembering the fallen archbishop:

"Monsignor Duarte was a very fair and generous church leader. He was fundamentally important in helping CSN establish a sister community relationship with Apartado, where he was the Bishop before going on to be the Archbishop of Cali. His nobility of spirit and his commitment to peace were evident to all of us who had the privilege of meeting with him and working to establish links to promote social justice and peace in the region of Apartado. He was respectful and supportive of all who sought peace and justice, from the Patriotic Union administrators of the early 1990's through the mayoral administration of Gloria Cuartas, to the international presence which CSN and others brought to Apartado."

(The Archbishop's friends also report that hours before his assassination, a priest in his diocese called Colombian authorities to report suspicious individuals near the Archbishop and request more security for Father Duarte, and that the Colombian State did nothing.)

When, in 1997, Governor Uribe sent his CONVIVIR vigilante troops into the municipality of Apartado, the aforementioned Mayor Gloria Cuartas wrote the governor a letter on April 10, 1997, reporting on the disruption to the peace and tranquility of her town caused by the entrance of the CONVIVIR forces.

On behalf of Governor Uribe, his chief of staff, the GMP Chemical Products company owner Pedro Juan Moreno Villa, replied to Mayor Cuartas on government stationary, which provides a glimpse into the attitudes and values with which Uribe and Moreno governed Antioquia, and may soon govern all of Colombia:

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF GOVERNMENT

MEDELLÍN, ANTIOQUIA

April 17, 1997

Madam GLORIA ISABEL CUARTAS MONTOYA

Mayor, Apartado, Antioquia

Re: Your message of April 10, 1997, directed to the Governor of Antioquia

Distinguished Madam:

In relation to the mentioned message, allow me to demonstrate to you the following:

You fall into the same errors committed by distinguished directors of well-known associations in defense of human rights, which is to say: "They believe themselves to be professors of a subject with which they are not familiar and afterwards they ask for explanations".

Apart from this, your protagonistic eagerness leads you to spread your message to different sectors of society, to whom you send your incomplete and deformed view of the situation. How much better it would be if before issuing your verdict you had taken the trouble to consult,

analyze, engage in dialogue, and, once you had formed your conception, based upon a rational analysis of events, you had expressed your opinion upon the matter. Perhaps in this way your collaboration to achieve peace would be more effective.

For your information I attach the following:

1. A pamphlet illustrative of the Convivir Associations.

2. A letter of last March 20 sent to Mr. Vivanco of Human Rights Watch, in which you will find detailed information about all of the topics which trouble you.

The Commander of the Seventeenth Brigade, General Rito Alejo del Rio, will be able to provide you with details about their actions and other doubts which assail you on this topic.

Sincerely,

PEDRO JUAN MORENO VILLA

Secretary of Government

Attached: the mentioned documents

Copy: Dr. Alvaro Uribe Velez Governor of Antioquia

Uribe's CONVIVIR project did turn, as Mayor Cuartas and many others had predicted, into a Frankenstein monster. The Uribe-backed brigades went on such a bloody rampage of massacres against unarmed civilians that they were banned, even in Colombia, by the end of 1997. Although Colombian courts ordered the return of the high-tech weaponry provided by the Colombian government to the Uribe-Moreno vigilantes, (weapons of the class reserved for exclusive use of the Colombian Armed Forces), few of the assault rifles made it back to the government.

Uribe's CONVIVIR vigilantes - exactly as the human rights organizations had warned - simply took their weapons and joined the ranks of Carlos Castaño's narco-terrorist units of the so-called Self-Defense Forces of Columbia, or the AUC.

The U.S. State Department calls the AUC a "terrorist organization," even as it now backs its candidate, Uribe, for president of Colombia.

Business Week recently reported on the plans of candidate Alvaro Uribe Velez to invoke this same paramilitary strategy on a national scale:

"Uribe Velez claims that if elected President, he will take a firmer line with the rebels. That's just what he did lead between 1995 and 1997 when he was governor of Antioquia, Colombia's second-largest province and onetime home to the infamous Medellín drug cartel. There, Uribe Velez promoted the creation of the controversial Convivirs. Styled as self-defense patrols, these armed militias supplied intelligence to the armed forces and helped police combat crime."

"It wasn't long before some of the local militias, which eventually numbered 67 in Antioquia and 400 nationwide, morphed into deadly paramilitary squads that targeted not only guerrillas but also suspected civilian sympathizers. That led the Colombian government to strip



the Convivirs of most of their power in 1997."

Narco Family Values

The book, *Los Jinetes de Cocaína* (The Horsemen of Cocaine) by Fabio Castillo, published online by one of the most respected global human rights organizations, Nizkor, reported:

"Another native of Antioquia is Senator Alvaro Uribe Velez - whose father, Alberto Uribe Sierra, was a known narco-trafficker - who, when he was director of the Civil Air agency (Alvaro Uribe) gave pilots licenses to many narcos."

"Uribe (the father) was arrested once in order to be extradited, but Jesús Aristizabal Guevara, then government secretary for the City of Medellín, succeeded in setting him free."

"The funeral of Uribe Sierra, assassinated near his plantation in Antioquia, was attended by then-president of the Republic Belisario Betancur, and a good part of the high society of Antioquia, amidst vocal protests from those who knew about his connections with cocaine."

The New Colombia News Agency (www.aancol.com), addressed this issue forthrightly on March 13th, when journalist Alfredo Castro stated:

"That Uribe's father was a well-known trafficker in the department of Antioquia before his death in 1983 is, on its own, not sufficient evidence to judge his son."


Uribe's Own Actions

Uribe's own actions as a bureaucrat and later mayor of the City of Medellín, as the governor of the State of Antioquia - where his government secretary (chief of staff, in US terms) Pedro Juan Moreno Villa executed Uribe's paramilitary strategy with grave consequences for the unprotected public - and his campaign manager's simultaneous control over the cocaine precursor chemical industry that thus controls the cocaine industry, indicate what kind of government the US-backed Uribe will lead if successful in the May 26th presidential elections.

The polls indicate that, if the election were held today, Uribe would win, if only because so many other candidates and potential candidates have been assassinated, kidnapped or neutralized as a direct result of US policy to aggravate Colombia's Civil War.

The New Colombia News Agency reported on Uribe's record "as mayor of Medellín in the early 1980s when the city was known as 'The Sanctuary' due to the complete protection that traffickers enjoyed from the city administration."

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Ché Café Collective

534-2311 // checafe.ucsd.edu

Vegan All-You-Can-Eat Tuesdays & Thursdays: 5-7pm \$3/plate \$4/all-you-can-eat

The Ché Café Collective is dedicated to providing inexpensive, healthy vegetarian food, all-ages entertainment, and alternative education. Entertainment at the Ché ranges from poetry readings and plays to forums, or shows of local bands.

We're located on the Revelle campus behind the Undergraduate library and down the hill from Stonehenge. We're the building with all the murals on it.

Collective Meetings: Thursday, 8:30pm, Ché Café. Open to all.

A Novel in Process

part 6, by *Stephanie Ritter*

"How do you live like this?" I asked Ana pleadingly. She was behind the counter arranging the sales slips from the day. All my thinking seemed to center around this question. How will I live like this? I asked over and over. She put the slips down and rested her palms on the counter, leaning toward me slightly. "What do you mean, how do I live like this? How is it that I am living?" Her face was expressionless. I didn't know how to answer without offending her.

I thought about it for a moment. "Remember when we were in the restaurant and we were talking about the politics of desire?"

She nodded. "Well, I guess I'm just trying to figure out which side I'm on." I shifted my weight and leaned an elbow on the counter. "I don't know how to live like this." She gave me the same expressionless look from before that seemed to demand more explanation from me. "I don't know how to live as a lesbian when I've always been straight."

I paused again, looking for words to explain. "Maybe you're not a lesbian," she said matter-of-

factly. I looked at her, thoroughly puzzled. "How can I not be a lesbian?"

"Haven't you considered that maybe you're bi?" I moved my elbow off the counter. "Well, yeah, of course I have. But, I don't think that I am... I think I've just always done what's easiest."

"You know," she said, "there's this historian who says that there aren't categories such as gay or straight, just the act itself. Maybe you should just think of it that way. Just do what seems to suit you best."

"That's part of the problem, I've always done that." "Yeah, you used to do that, except you probably never really examined your feelings to figure out why you felt the way you did. I'm not suggesting that you act blindly, just do what seems natural."

I looked at her, fearing the answer she would give me, before I had even asked.

"What feels natural is to be with you," I said. God, it hurt, I couldn't even look up at her. I felt soaked in a mixture of my own self-loathing and pity. I felt like I was asking her to rescue me, and the last thing I wanted was to feel helpless.

"You know, Sara," she said gently, "last night was your first time, maybe you should figure out if it's me or the act that you liked." Someone knocked on the front door

on." "You get embarrassed so easily, Sara," she said laughing, stabbing her burrito with her fork.

"God, it's not like you're quiet or anything!" I reciprocated her tone. "It's like you're trying to embarrass me."

"Well, maybe you need to be shaken up a bit. Now that you're a lesbian." She cocked her head to the side, awaiting my reply.

"Well, I don't plan on typifying myself by being loud and obnoxious!"

"Is that what I am?" she said smiling.

"Only in public places."

"I can't really embarrass you in private, now can I?" The night sent warm currents of air across our skin. I sat watching Ana eat her food. We went home and fell asleep. I felt heavy with alcohol and sank into the bed. I didn't think about where I was or what I was doing there. I just slept in her bed.

The next day I went to the nursery to apologize to Justin. He was busy cataloging various seeds which all looked the same to me. He didn't look up as I came into the back storeroom where he sat bent over his work.

I sat down next to him and waited for him to look up. He didn't.

"Why are you here?" he asked impatiently.

"I want to apologize."

"There's no need to. I don't want to see you, now or

I felt contentedly alone. He's an asshole. It's good that this happened, I thought to myself. I realized I would have stayed with him, never understanding who he really was, until something happened that I couldn't ignore. Would he have shown up in someone else's shirt thinking I wouldn't notice? No, he wasn't gay, that wouldn't happen. But what did Ryan mean by what he said? Maybe there was something between him and Justin that Justin had tried to deny and I hadn't realized. What a twisted triangle!

I didn't want to think about it anymore. I gazed out into the distance, imagining that I could see all the way home. Why hadn't I gone home yet?

I drove into Santa Fe and left my car on one of the side streets. It had started to rain. The streets were cold. I walked around wrapped in my cotton sweater, hugging my elbows. The rain dripped off the rooftops in sheer waves. I was soaked. No one would be able to see the tears streaming off my face. I was as the weather.

So I walked, looking for no one, hoping to see no one. I was emotionally cold. I could have walked all day bumping into anyone who crossed my path, keeping my eyes on the gray cobblestone streets, never saying a word.

But it was useless. I knew I had to give myself up. I

and she waved him in.

"Tina will bring you the check tomorrow," the tall fat-bellied man in his thirties said with a tone of familiarity.

"Tell her that's fine. I'll see you later," she said as he exited the store. She walked over and locked the door.

"Let's go upstairs," she said. She smiled at me in the way she had when we had first met. Again, I wondered what she wanted with me.

I followed her upstairs and we sat on the bed.

"You need to figure out exactly what it is that you want," she said, almost contradicting what she had said earlier.

"How is that possible?" I asked her again almost pleading for the answer.

We both fell silent. After a moment I looked up at her and pulled her toward me. I started to cry silently as I kissed her lips. When she noticed my cheeks were wet, she pulled back.

"As I told you before," she said reassuringly, "I think you're beautiful, I also think you are smart and sexy, and I know you'll get through this just fine. I'd like you to stay with me for a while if you want." She brushed the hair back from my eyes. "I really enjoyed last night, but I don't want my feelings to influence your decision. You need to figure this out on your own. And I understand that, that's why I will understand if you decide to move

ever again, so there's no need to apologize, I'm not about to forgive."

"Don't you think you're being kind of harsh?"

"Harsh?" he looked up at me with a cold glare. His eyes gleamed. He paused long enough for it to hurt. "Harsh is grabbing your stuff and leaving without even explaining why. You didn't even say goodbye. I don't know who I thought you were, but I was certainly fooled."

"I explained why. You just didn't think it was a good enough reason for me to leave you. You were being totally cruel and insensitive." He looked at me disconcertingly. I paused, then said, "I need to be alone."

"Alone? Where did you sleep last night? You obviously didn't stay in a hotel."

"What do you mean by that?"

"I just know you better than that!" "Are you serious? You think I'd have sex with someone just so I didn't have to stay in a hotel?" This was too much for me. Thank God no one could hear us. "I can't believe you!"

"Then we have something in common." He looked back at the seeds and started to work again.

"But not enough. I came here to apologize but now I know it's pointless. You're unworthy of an apology." I hated sounding this angry. I was yelling at him, I felt the blood rush into my face, filling up my throat, forcing the pulse heavily through my veins. I wanted to leave and

was a criminal, a sexual one at that. I had no direction, only ambivalence as my guide, and the skies cried for me as I knew no one else would.

I wandered down the streets into an alleyway, slightly protected by a crooked, overhanging roof. I sat down on the cold wet ground. My head was covered by the hood of my sweater. I secretly prayed for apocalypse, as my personal world had already been turned upside down. But no savior in the form of war or the destruction of the current political condition, in Ana's words, would come.

So I sat, staring at the wall only four feet in front of me. The employees of the restaurant behind the wall tossed out black trash bags next to me. I thought about climbing in and seeing where the trash people would take me. Seeing if they'd notice that there was actually a body hidden in their trash bag.

I suddenly thought about mass murderers, chopping up their victims and depositing them outside of the restaurants they worked in. I looked at the trash bags next to me suspiciously. Maybe I wouldn't be the only body in this trash bag.

The author wants to know... If you have any comments (constructive criticism and praise only please!) about A Novel In Process please email Stephanie at: stephanieta@hotmail.com.

Uribe:

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"At this time, Uribe was involved in at least two city projects in which Pablo Escobar himself was also deeply involved: One, the construction of a neighbourhood for poor people known as 'Medellin sin Tugurios' ('Medellin without Slums') and, the other, a civic program that aimed to plant thousands of trees in the city.

"Pablo Escobar financed both projects in an attempt to improve his public image and Uribe publicly supported both efforts. Indeed, Uribe even opened the new neighbourhood when it was completed despite the fact that most of the positive press coverage actually went to Escobar."

Another journalist to tackle the issues that the United States press, so far, fails to address, was El Espectador columnist Fernando Garavito, in a February column. New Colombia News Agency cites him, reporting:

"Garavito pointed out that during the time that Uribe was director of Colombia's Civil Aeronautics agency (1980-1982) numerous pilot licenses were handed over to the Medellin drug cartel - allowing their pilots to fly huge quantities of cocaine out of Colombia and towards or into the United States. Indeed Uribe was allegedly sacked as director for this misdemeanour."

"Thirdly," reports New Colombia News Agency, "was Uribe's performance as a senator between 1986 and 1994 when he consistently supported legislation that the drug cartels supported and consistently opposed that which they opposed. The best example of this, and the one the both Garavito and Castillo gave, was Uribe's vehement opposition to a plan before the Colombian Congress to hold a public referendum on whether or not to allow the courts to extradite drug traffickers to the United States - a plan that the cartels were violently opposed to and which Uribe, using his

position as senator, did his best to sabotage.

Slow Boats from China

If Uribe wins the presidency, the documents on file in the DEA administrative law case against the company of Uribe's campaign manager, chief of staff, and right hand man, Pedro Juan Moreno Villa, will haunt his presidency from his first day in office.

"DEA would not suspend a shipment solely on the basis that no advance notice was filed," explained DEA chief Donnie Marshall in his August 3, 2001 report. "There would need to be evidence that the chemicals may be diverted to the clandestine manufacturer of a controlled substance."

"Accordingly," concluded the top drug enforcer in the United States in August of 2001, "the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, pursuant to the authority vested in him by 21 U.S.C. 971 and 28

CFR 0.100(b), hereby orders that the suspensions of the above described shipments, be, and they hereby are, sustained, and that these proceedings are hereby concluded. This final order is effective immediately."

The docket number, for the inquiring reporters among our readers, of the DEA administrative law case, is:

FR Doc. 00-21482
The case file is open to inspection by the public and the press.

DEA chief Donnie Marshall's ruling is available online, at the U.S. Department of Justice website:

www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/fed_regs/notices/2000/fr08237.htm

The seized precursor chemicals - enough to manufacture one half-million kilos of cocaine, with a street value of \$15 billion dollars - never made it to Moreno's warehouses in Medellin.

But, according to the DEA, 200 metric tons were sold by Moreno's company at the very time that he was Governor

Uribe's chief of staff in Antioquia.

Whether the Precursor Candidate, Alvaro Uribe, and his alchemist Pedro Juan Moreno Villa, make it to the Presidency remains to be seen. If so, all America - indeed the world - will see the US-backed Narco-State, caked in white powder, a government without credibility at ground zero of the war on drugs.

The narco-candidacy may be destined to win an election that is already neither fair nor free. But the narco-presidency that follows will be grounded at the docks from day one.

Perhaps that is Washington's intent. It would not be the first time that United States officials backed a presidential candidate in Latin America who, once elected, could be easily blackmailed and controlled due to his narco-history and documents on file in Washington DC: Pinochet, Noriega, Salinas, Zedillo, Menem, Banzer, Fujimori... and now, Alvaro Uribe.

Bombs:

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unjust gap between the rich and the poor, and the increasingly destabilizing arms trade. The only path to addressing major global issues is through international cooperation and adherence to international law."

Since 1945, the government has spent over \$5 trillion on nuclear weapons. The Bush Administration's nuclear doctrine calls for increased nuclear development and testing, a

first strike capability (ability to destroy enough of another country's nuclear arsenal in one attack that they will be unable to retaliate), and a \$240 billion missile defense system that research has shown to be impractical and inaccurate. In addition, Bush has pulled out of 7 treaties, destroying the credibility of the United States in the eyes of the international community.

Such a doctrine will only lead to a new arms race, not to increased national security. More than sixty generals and admirals have stated that the

biggest step toward real, lasting national security is getting rid of nuclear weapons. According to Lt. General Lee Butler, former head of U.S. Strategic Nuclear Forces, "It is a measure of arrogance to assert that a nuclear weapons-free world is impossible when 95% of the nations of the world are already nuclear-free. I think that the vast majority of people on this earth will endorse the proposition that nuclear weapons have no place among us. There is no security in nuclear weapons. It is a fool's game."



Adobe:

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the ceilings are vaulted in an arch fashion.

You can learn how to build with Superadobe Technology through an apprenticeship with Cal-Earth. Contact Cal-Earth for more info.

Another project utilizing alternative architecture is Earthship Biotechure in New Mexico. An Earthship is defined by the project as a: "1. passive solar home made of natural and recycled materials 2. thermal mass construction for temperature stabilization. 3. renewable energy & integrated water systems make the Earthship an off-grid home with little to no utility bills."

Earthship Biotechure uses recycled materials such as automobile tires, glass bottles, aluminum and the dirt and trees

that are found on the building site. Like Cal-Earth, Earthship Biotechure makes available the architectural designs on its website for sale. Earthship Biotechure also offers building seminars.

There are three tract housing communities built by Earthship Biotechure. Two are in New Mexico and the other is in Colorado. These communities are generally for people who can economically support themselves without living near a commercial center, thus these communities are not for everyone. But they do offer an alternative way to imagine living spaces. By integrating passive solar and wind power, using recycled materials and building on the land in a responsible way, such building projects harness innovative methods of sustainable living.

For more info contact: Cal-Earth calearth.org; Earthship Biotechure earthship.org

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The General Store Co-op carries items such as selected essential school and office supplies, household and personal items, stationery and gift wrap, clothing (including UCSD logos), and food and snack items -- all of which range from 5-25% less than anywhere else on campus.

News in Brief

BOGÓTA, COLOMBIA

Hard-liner Alvaro Uribe won the Colombian elections, receiving 53% of the vote. This does not bode well for prospect of peace in Colombia, as Uribe campaigned on cracking down on the FARC, and has been known to support the AUC. His promises of twice as many police on the streets and a \$1 billion increase in military spending will only exacerbate the decades-long civil war. The U.S. Ambassador Anne Patterson expressed excitement over Uribe's election, saying that it would be a positive development for U.S. - Colombia relations.

PAKISTAN

Washington expressed praise for Pakistan's dictator General Pervez Musharraf's attempts to round up "terror suspects" by sending troops into de facto autonomous regions along the Afghani border. They were almost completely silent about the nearly concurrent referendum held to affirm Musharraf's rule, widely believed to be a sham by the international community. Meanwhile, US troops, who only recently admitted direct combat involvement in the area, were fired upon with timed rockets by locals who resent the foreign military occupation.

VENEZUELA

Pedro Carmona, the businessman who led a U.S.-backed coup against the elected government of Hugo Chavez in April, was granted asylum by Colombia, after he escaped house arrest and fled to the Colombian ambassador's residence in Caracas. He faces criminal charges from Venezuelan courts, and may be subject to twenty years imprisonment. Meanwhile, the U.S. State Department has initiated an "investigation" into the presence of U.S. military air- and sea-craft over Venezuelan waters during the coup and their own failure to condemn the ouster.

WAR ON "TERROR"

Ari Fleischer, White House Spokesperson, told reporters on May 17 that the Bush Administration knew that terrorist attacks were imminent in the weeks preceding September 11. According to him, nothing was done because U.S. Intelligence knew hijackings would happen, but did not know that the planes would be used to crash into buildings. He also stated that the information was being presented to the Press in order to prevent rumors from circulating. U.S. media responded with restrained criticism of the Administration. Congressional hearings begin soon to look into intelligence failures related to the attacks.

GERMANY

In Berlin, protests against President Bush's arrival started with a 70,000-strong peaceful demonstration on May 21st. More demonstrations and a large variety of autonomous actions were carried out Wednesday and Thursday. In response to frenzied predictions of mass rioting by the German corporate media, Berlin saw the biggest deployment of police since World War II. Police carried out water-cannon attacks and baton charges against protesters, arresting and injuring several dozen people.

CUBA

President Bush placed Cuba on his "Axis of Evil" card this month, citing concerns that they were developing weapons of mass destruction. A press release stated that "States that ... do not [renounce terror] can expect to become our targets." Fidel Castro denounced the accusations as baseless. President Jimmy Carter visited Cuba shortly thereafter to discuss human rights issues and the potential normalization of relations with the United States. Upon return, Carter called for a lifting of the forty year-old trade embargo against Cuba, but the White House responded

that allowing food and medicine to reach the island nation would not benefit its people: "The president believes that the trade embargo is a vital part of American foreign policy and human rights policy toward Cuba."

KASHMIR

A group of militants attacked an Indian army camp in the Kashmir, killing thirty people, including several women and children. Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee condemned the attacks, reiterated his accusation that Pakistan supports terrorist groups, and insisted that retribution would be exacted. More than a million troops have since amassed on the Pakistan-India border in preparation for war, and the Indian border police and coast guard have been subsumed into the military. Pakistan initiated missile tests in the past week, claiming this is unrelated to the burgeoning conflict. The United States, while propping up the Pakistani dictatorship with troops, propaganda, and money, has been nearly silent over this crisis between the two nuclear-capable states.

RUSSIA

President Bush met with Russian President Vladimir Putin to discuss issues of common concern this week. The U.S. President, fresh from having announced a withdrawal from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in December, has agreed to sign a new disarmament treaty that better reflects the modern power relationship between the two nations. Although the agreement requires both countries to reduce their nuclear arsenals significantly, it permits the them simply to place its warheads in storage, a stipulation over which Russia has expressed disappointment. Text accompanying the agreement also commits Russia to assisting the U.S. in its global war against "terrorism". Putin and Bush discussed international arms sales and U.S. trade restrictions against Russia in addition to nuclear weapons issues in a closed meeting Friday.

OH SHIT! POEMS!

[God the Forceful Masturbator

awakens on his cloud
and gently wipes the pee from his thighs.
he has moles on his neck
and furious black nostrils for eyes

downstairs the hallways
are slippery with gunpowder
and ferns are aflame)

--Isaac Sullivan

espresso with ernesto guevara

everybody
owns this roof and all below
because we say so.

old anti-heros
smirk in paint on walls that scream
anti-history.

we stamp and we stamp;
you get in and you get food
and you get told things.

some are true, some wrong,
some right lies depending on
what we think is best.

nobody cleans up;
we wash and scrub and hose down;
gravity says so.

dirt finds its level;
so we gather volunteers
who want to be cleaned:

mystery flowers
we took (but it wasn't theft--
they needed planting);

chairs that collect rain
for vicious, sloppy kisses
on all our asses;

floors that have known love
and other stains made by folks
who just stuck around;

whiskered friends whose pause
and secret tales mean whispers
and long arguments.

we scrape the windows:
gum and graffiti will yield
space for new visions.

we count coins and days:
laying in ledgers the path
for numbers to come.

some rebuild through flame.
these rooms have burned ever since
the day they were bought.

--Says

Anyone seen my fee referendum?

With all the zany hijinks and nutty controversies in the Associated Students elections this spring, you might have thought there was a fee referendum on the ballot. After all, nothing brings out the political infighting like a vote to raise student fees. Wait a second, there was a fee referendum? And it passed? With a record breaking number of voters? Wow. Where was the campaign? Where were the angry protests? Wasn't there any opposition at all?

Ohh, the fee is for sports. Okay. Everyone likes sports, right? I guess all the protests against the "seventy five alive" fee referendum last spring had more to do with issues of University Centers expansion and student services. Because everyone like sports.

The difference couldn't be money, because this year's referendum was for more than the amount allotted last year to

sports activities. Maybe the difference is just that Joe Watson, the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs who doesn't understand why students don't like him, stayed away from the ad-hoc Associated Students committee that drafted the sports activity fee. Remember last year when he shouted, "This is my committee," and alienated everyone while undermining the legitimacy of student leadership? That was funny.

I bet that's it, because Joe "all your fees are belong to us" Watson seems to be staying away from the two other ad-hoc Associated Students committees looking at fee referendums ...oh didn't you know? There's a "University Centers Expansion Effort Task Force," and a "Student Services Task force," both meeting weekly in a student leadership chamber near you.

In winter or spring quarter next year they might ask you to

vote on whether to spend money for a bigger Price Center, more Student Health programs, a new Cross Cultural Center or whatever else they come up with.

Okay, not whatever. These committees make recommendations to the Associated Students, and then the Associated Students decide what to actually put on the ballot. So probably a water slide won't make the cut. Any way, the Associated Students (do you remember who your senator is?) make their decision and then we all get to vote.

Are you interested in influencing this process before it reaches the ballot? You could get involved with these committees. You could go to their weekly meetings. You could call 534-4450 and ask about their schedule for next year. You could contact the committee chairs (Mark Stickel for the UCEETF and Liz Erwin for the SSTF) at the same number and ask about helping out over summer. You could apply for one of the at-large positions which will open

up when current committee members graduate. You could investigate and write news articles for the Guardian. You could survey your friends and bring the results to the committees, or you could participate in the massive survey effort to be conducted next fall by Brailsford and Dunlavey...Oh, didn't you know? The UCEETF is overseeing the corporate survey firm Brailsford and Dunlavey, who will try and ascertain just what students want from the University Centers

through some combination of phone, internet, and passersby interviews. Look for them in fall.

Maybe we should just ignore this all until it's time to vote, and then break out the banners and puppets and make a big stink. Or maybe we should ignore it even then, and let the people vote who like this sort of thing. Or maybe we could get involved to try to make a good decisions about what students should or should not be asked to pay for. Maybe.

