

new indicator

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Peaceful Students for Economic Justice Protest Greeted with Admin Violence

Students for Economic Justice, or SEJ, has been an active group in supporting the effort to unionize all janitors on UCSD campus. On May 1st they held a rally in the Price Center that approximately 400 students, community members and union organizers attended. The purpose of their current campaign is to protest UCSD's patronage of Bergensons and Merchants, non-union, janitorial subcontractors, and the firing of Alejandra Rodriguez for union organizing. UCSD has a long and spotted past when it comes to dealing with unions, and their treatment of the janitors is one of the best

"It was sad that no matter how much we did not do anything violent, the vice chancellor and some other security people acted violently towards us..."
- Eleazar Loza



SEJ Member Forcibly Removed from Chancellor's Associates Meeting

examples. During a labor dispute in 1995, where many janitors became unionized under AFSCME, UCSD started to subcontract out about half of its janitorial jobs. Sub-contracting, in the case of the janitors on campus, is when UCSD pays a company to keep certain buildings clean. That company then hires workers and directly deals with them in order to do the job. The effects of this, in our situation, are that 1) UCSD pays less for these jobs due to their being non-union, and 2) UCSD can wash its hands of any mal-

treatment of the janitors employed by the subcontractors because UCSD didn't hire them. Currently UCSD uses the subcontractors Bergensons and Merchants. Two years ago, many janitors attempted to unionize but Bergensons offered many of them a raise if they would be quiet. Unfortunately, almost all of those who benefited from this have since gone on to higher paying jobs and Bergensons did not give this raise to any new janitors. Currently Janitors are paid minimum wage or just over (i.e. \$6.25 per hour). SEJ

believes that janitors should be paid a living wage... (11.24/hr), get family health insurance, sick days, and holidays for all janitors, and get a contractor who respects the rights of workers to organize and is in compliance with all labor and employment laws.

More than three weeks ago, SEJ delivered letters and demands from hundreds of students to Chancellor Dynes and Vice Chancellor of Business Affairs, Steve Relyea urging UCSD to do some-

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N.I. Interviews Ralph Nader

On March 22, 2001, the College Green Party at UCSD hosted a lecture by Ralph Nader, about the California energy crisis. Afterward, Howard Buckstein interviewed Nader. In the following transcription, the interview is divided into three sections: Academia, Politics and Media in an attempt to show how these three categories relate to each other, and - ultimately - society.

ACADEMIA

Howard Buckstein: Idealism is often associated with immaturity and egotism. The American media dismissed, curtly, your campaign as "willful prankishness" by "an ego run amok". Ecological movements and anti-war efforts have been summarized similarly, and this seems typical of the treatment given to young people generally, and persons of all ages when they try to stop inequality. How can we get society to value idealism more positively?

Ralph Nader: By realizing that without idealism there is no civilization, there is no justice. Idealism is the antidote to the cruel theme of humankind. It's the antidote to injustice. It's the antidote to brutality. For anybody to characterize idealism as something naive or lightheaded is to engage in a controlling verbal process known as propaganda and, or, ignores the lessons of history. Idealism is another

way of saying you have realizable futures, that you are increasing the framework for social and political enablement for people to fulfill their lives' possibilities.

HB: Why do American academics seem so disengaged from critical public discourse outside of the university?

RN: I think they have a nice reward system: they teach their courses and write their articles, and get them published; they get recognition in their subsociety of their discipline; they get tenure. There is not a burr under their duff. So unless something disturbs them -- such as distance learning, which some professors view as an appropriation of their work, as it involves licensing of faculty work by universities to corporations -- they don't seem to be active and committed. And this is a sad waste of human resources, because they know a lot about the problems. They don't engage the civic culture and try to do something about civic problems.

Part of it is they're harried: they've got families, they've got work; they've got to do exams; they've got to write recommendations. Still, it doesn't account for the overwhelming lassitude you see among faculty across the country.

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Free Trade is Not Freedom

The FTAA (Free Trade Area of the Americas) is an agreement planned to expand the NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement), which already includes Canada, Mexico and the USA. These agreements, NAFTA and FTAA, are basically treaties signed by political leaders and designed to rule trade relationships between the countries involved. The FTAA agreement is planned to include all North and South American countries (except Cuba) and to be actually signed in 2005. Indeed, these agreements play a major role in international relations and the everyday life of each individual, much more than the crude term "trade" would lead us to believe.

To have an idea of how the NAFTA works, one just has to go to the border between San Diego and Tijuana, at San Ysidro. One thing is sure: the NAFTA doesn't mean free movement of persons. On the contrary, it means that maximum police control has been implemented at the border, from day-to-day control to violent and murderous gatekeeper operations. Not far from the San Ysidro border checkpoint, there is a vast cleared zone (fondly referred to as the "demilitarized zone"). A board indicates what this zone is going to be used for: "International Gateway of the Americas/Porta Internacional de las Americas, 370000 sq. feet, spring 2002. Old Navy, GAP, Nike, Banana

Republic..." That's what NAFTA is like: the only freedom is for the circulation of products.

The FTAA is going to reproduce NAFTA's peculiar schema, which can be explained as follows:

1. In order to obtain investments from the US, the Central and South American countries will have to provide guaranties, in which they engage to cut off public policies designed to reduce inequalities, promote development and protect the environment.

2. The peoples of those countries will remain under control, not having the right to move freely. In the US, a violent police forces will still threaten undocumented immigrants. In their respective countries, workers will have to accept lower wages, even if they work in plants built by US corporations. And the US will continue to accept legal immigrants only when it is impossible to get the working force needed by other means and will seldom grant any social protection or fair wages. Here this spectrum merges with poor American workers. Thus, the border works as subtle machinery extracting labor at the cheapest cost, while ignoring any social and environmental needs.

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We Never Said We Would Pay for Division II

Students are now being told that they will have to pay for UCSD's move from Division III to Division II intercollegiate athletics one way or another, whether it be from an increase in student fees of \$19 per student per quarter or from monies taken from Student Health and Psychological Services. However, students were not notified on the original ballot asking their approval for the move to D-II (shown below), that this would cost students any money.

Yet, during and after the Campus Life Fee Referendum campaign, I kept hearing the stories that STUDENTS HAVE TO PAY for Division II athletics. So I thought I might have supported the wrong cause by voting in favor of the move in 1997, and I was blaming myself for not carefully reading the ballot. Then I realized I was not the only one who felt that way. So I went to the AS offices and found the original 1997 Division II referendum ballot documents: The referendum made no indication that students would have to pay for a fee increase in order to move our sports team to Division II. The language of the referendum is as follows:

*General Referendum Question
REFERENDUM QUESTION 1
Would you support UCSD moving from NCAA Division III athletics to Division II (without scholarships)?*
Yes
No

There is no mention of money. Nor did the Voter Information Pamphlet indicate that there would be a fee increase. It read:

*GENERAL REFERENDUM QUESTION
REGARDING DIVISION II SPORTS
Assessment of Student Opinion
For the last several years, there has been a great deal of discussion about UCSD's status as a Division III school. Many people believe that it is time for UCSD to move into Division II, while others contend that we should remain in Division III. This general opinion question has been put on the ballot to assess what STUDENTS think about UCSD moving into Division II athletics.*

** Per NCAA rules, a school must be in compliance with Division II regulations for two years prior to entering the division. Thus, any change UCSD makes could be no earlier than August 1999.*

(Various reports are available that address athletic division issues for UCSD. If you would like to read these reports before voting, please contact the Associated Students Offices at 534-4450).

In short, students never committed to, nor were they informed about, the financial cost entailed by the move to Division II. If a \$57 per year, per student cost was to have been attached to the opinion referendum, the result of the referendum could very well have been quite different. It is clear that students never agreed to foot the bill. However, administrators are now telling us that we must pay - due to a supposed financial crisis. These administrators are at fault for - in

the best case scenario, perhaps - of not understanding our school's financial situation, for which they are responsible.

Administrators have threatened that if the money for D-II doesn't come from increases in student fees, it will come from cuts to vital student services such as health and psychological services. It seems unimaginable that someone would propose cutting psychological services, which help students deal with some of life's most serious issues, and health services, which literally help students deal with life and death issues, to pay for elite sports. Yet that is what Vice Chancellor Joseph Watson has proposed.

There are several things students can now do, and request AS to do: Students can first request of the administration - particularly the Office of Student Affairs - to fully disclose their budget. Since the administration has made so many questionable claims about budget shortages and proposals for budget cuts, students and members of the public have good reason to be able to assess UCSD's financial situation using the same information the administration has. Moreover, it is our fees and tax dollars that fund such things. The administration should disclose this information without reluctance under the university's supposedly "open" window policies, or else, the Freedom of Information Act.

Second, students, after reviewing budgetary details, should decide how many teams, and which teams, should be promoted to Division II. According to a new book co-authored past president of Princeton University William Bowen, some intercollegiate teams unfairly require much more money to fund than others. We should consider whether we can really afford the more expensive sports. We should also consider whether all the teams to be promoted to D-II have indeed been sweeping Division III, as the rhetoric went in 1997. Why not just promote those teams that no longer find D-III challenging enough and let the other still compete in D-III?

Finally, considering that UCSD's campus life is quite corpse-like and that too many students are mentally overworked, UCSD can promote sports clubs more, and intercollegiate athletics less. Athletics have many positive elements. But, many students do not qualify for intercollegiate athletics. All students, however, can participate in sports clubs. Yet the administration focusses on the pricey intercollegiate athletics rather than the more affordable, easily accessible clubs: In the recently failed fee referendum, for example, only \$2.50 per student per quarter would have been allotted to sports clubs compared to the \$19 per student per quarter for intercollegiate athletics. When this administration-supported plan failed, Vice-Chancellor Watson threatened to cut sports clubs. Whose interests are they championing?

Committee for World Democracy's Budget Cut for 3rd Straight Year

In a matter of eleven minutes which were bragged about in Volume 103 issue 18 of The Guardian, released the day after student organization budget appeals, the A.S. passed the finalized budget for Fall quarter. This clearly shows the lack of consideration for the appeals put forth by seven student organizations including the Committee for World Democracy. The finalized budget not only stripped CWD of the line item status, but also cut its budget once again. This cut is only one in a line of systematic cuts to CWD's budget over the last 3 years. The relevance of the line item to CWD is that it allows for CWD to secure its yearly allocation at the beginning of the year instead of having to return every quarter to request funding. This allows for the flexibility crucial in providing a program which includes a diversity of high caliber speakers who present alternative points of view to the UCSD campus, and who often need to be contacted and booked far in advance. By removing the line item, the A.S. inherently alters the very nature of CWD's mission, as it limits the range of speakers it can bring to the easy to book and local people. This of course leaves out valuable speakers who are foreign or who have difficult schedules- such as film directors like Yareli Arizmendi, or Javier Elorriaga from the FZLN; both of whom CWD was able to bring into UCSD in previous years under the line item.

After emphasizing the importance of the line item and of being granted its budget request, in the last part of CWD's appeal, the organization stated:

"CWD would like to express its frustration with the way in which A.S. conducts its business -- in a frenzy of meetings allowing student organizations only 5 minutes to present an argument in their defense. We consider this highly exclusionary, inappropriate, and outright undemocratic."

These feelings came from the treatment CWD received from A.S. For example, the disregard of over 300 signatures collected in two days from students in support of

CWD's program, the sudden withdrawal of the line item which had been recognized as essential to the organization's work by previous student governments, and the fact that in order to justify this withdrawal the A.S. relied on a document which was not made available to CWD until two hours before their appeal and which is full of rhetoric highly ambiguous and left to interpretation. Ironically, the A.S. used arguments of justice and equality for cutting the budget of an organization which has for the last 24 years done nothing but promote these qualities on campus and the community.

A.S. does not take into consideration the value of an organization which educates, provides a democratic space for discussion of important alternative issues, and gives the UCSD community access to high quality speakers and films which few of us would be able to see and learn from through other means. At the same time, the A.S. proudly doubled the budget of Fall Fest to "improve the quality of life at UCSD..." Therefore, spending 70,000 on one day when students can get drunk is considered to be more valuable than having 30 events a year to educate students, or more valuable than allocating more funds for cultural and educational organizations as a whole. Members of the A.S. divert attention from this discrepancy by pitting organizations against each other to compete for very limited funds directed towards their programs and their contributions to the UCSD campus.

Members of CWD stated, "What can we do before this authoritarianism but to keep on defending CWD's right and need to exist in such an elitist campus; CWD is one of the few windows which have throughout the years allowed UCSD students to see that there is more going on in the world than abstract finals and life in La Jolla; this is a window that the elitist nature of UCSD has always tried to shut close. But for 24 years there have been students committed to keeping it open and this will continue; CWD will keep on fighting and asking UCSD's students for support."

unlikely to be there for more than an hour (even though the events were well under way at this point). "We were told that the chancellor was not there and would not arrive for over one hour" says SEJ member Josh Wilson. "Less than 10 minutes later, the chancellor came out of the party where he had been the whole time." After requesting a meeting to discuss the above issues, Dynes claimed that he had not received any information concerning the matter. Chancellor Dynes said that without more information about the situation, any meeting would be unproductive. Members of SEJ were concerned that the administration was trying to stall them until the end of the school year when students would leave and momentum would be lost. They requested a guarantee of a meeting with the Chancellor which he denied. The chancellor said that this was not the appropriate place to express their opinions and asked that they not try to enter. Members of SEJ conferred and decided that there had been more than adequate time for a response and that if

SEJ:

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they filed over 900 signatures, through fax and letter to the chancellor but have to this day not received any response. Due to the administrations ignoring them in their attempts to be heard, members of SEJ decided to approach the Chancellor during a banquet at the Shelly Eye Center.

On May 22nd, about 20 members of SEJ, went to the Chancellors Asso-

"The audience seemed to want to hear but the admin/people running the show wouldn't let us communicate with them."
- Josh Wilson

ciates meeting at the Shelly Eye Center (close to East Parking). They requested to speak to Chancellor Dynes and were informed that he was not there and was

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Tinkering with Evolution: the problems of genetically modified plants

What are GM crops?

Genetically Engineered Foods known as GM (genetically modified), or transgenic crops, are plants that have been altered through various biotech methods, such as gene splicing. Simply defined, genes are segments of DNA and are considered the "blueprint" of life. Recombinant DNA techniques have been in use for several decades, but this can be misleading, since manipulation of genes in plants and foods are relatively new and different compared to millennium old, traditional process of seed hybridization and animal husbandry. Recombinant DNA consists of isolating specific genes from a foreign source, such as a bacterial gene displaying the desirable trait. For example, exhibiting a toxin that targets specific insects, which are harmful to crops, and transferring those genes into plant cells. The plant cells then uptake the toxin, which kills off undesirable pests before they can destroy crops. Ideally, these genetically altered seeds will have higher yields and reduce pesticide usage.

Large biotech agribusinesses claim that GM food can feed the world, stave off nutritional deficiency, and protect the environment, among other things. Yet when looked at closely these claims have many problems.

Presently, everyone knows about the ever increasing human population and the problems of feeding so many hungry mouths. Biotech agribusiness claims the development and introduction of GM crops are imperative in solving the problems of world hunger and nutritional deficiency. A recent advertisement in Scientific America, sponsored by the Council For Biotechnology Information, portrays a picture of young Asian child eating rice, a major source of carbohydrates in the Asian diet. This advertisement champions "golden" rice as having the ability to fight "global vitamin A deficiency that now causes blindness and infections in millions of the world's children." This idealism purported in the advertisement is, however, deceptive. GM foods are essentially commodities for large agribusiness, and in the basic tenets of corporate capitalism, the bottom line is increasing profits. The causes of global hunger and nutritional deficiency are multifaceted and mainly related to poverty and access to food rather than the actual food traditionally consumed in any given country. Indeed, the traditional Asiatic diet does not lack in nutrition, rather, inadequate amounts of these traditional foods is the cause of nutritional deficiency. Golden rice is nothing more than a token humanitarian gesture by the biotech agribusiness industry to give itself a better public relation image; the modern Trojan horse. Giant biotech agribusinesses, like Monsanto, are not in the business of feeding people. Historically, Monsanto is a major manufacturer of pesticides and herbicides. As more and more studies reveal that the practices of monoculture, which rely on these chemicals, are unsustainable and harmful to humans, as well as the environment, the industry has shifted its focus to biotechnology.

The quest for sustainable GM crops: an oxymoron?

Supporters of GM crops tout that modified seeds will require less pesticide usage on farms, thus, are a sustainable means of producing food with high yields. Granted, growing GM crops inserted with strains of pesticide genes, do decrease the need of spraying pesticide, but they also

require the increase in use of herbicide to control weeds. Fewer pests, means all seeds will be more likely to grow, weeds included. Therefore, these transgenic crops are also modified to include resistance towards herbicide, such as Roundup produced by Monsanto. Pesticide usage may go down, but herbicide usage increases, endangering ecosystems of nearby farmlands, increasing herbicide residue on produce, and contributing to soil erosion.

Gene pollution is another source of environmental problems with transgenic crops. Genes are not stagnant and may flow to other nearby relatives, creating "superweeds". These superweeds may become resistant towards pesticides, viruses, and herbicide, furthering the increased need for herbicide. These superweeds may also wreak havoc on nearby ecosystems, disrupting them. Introduction of these novel crops have some ecologists worried due to the fact that GM crops are planned to be planted globally. As a result, GM crops could possibly displace indigenous plant populations, just as the introduction of "exotic" animals have displaced various indigenous species.

Another consequence of GM crops on the environment is the destruction of natural wildlife. In 1999, The Boston Globe reported a study published in the journal Nature, done by scientists at Cornell university who discovered:

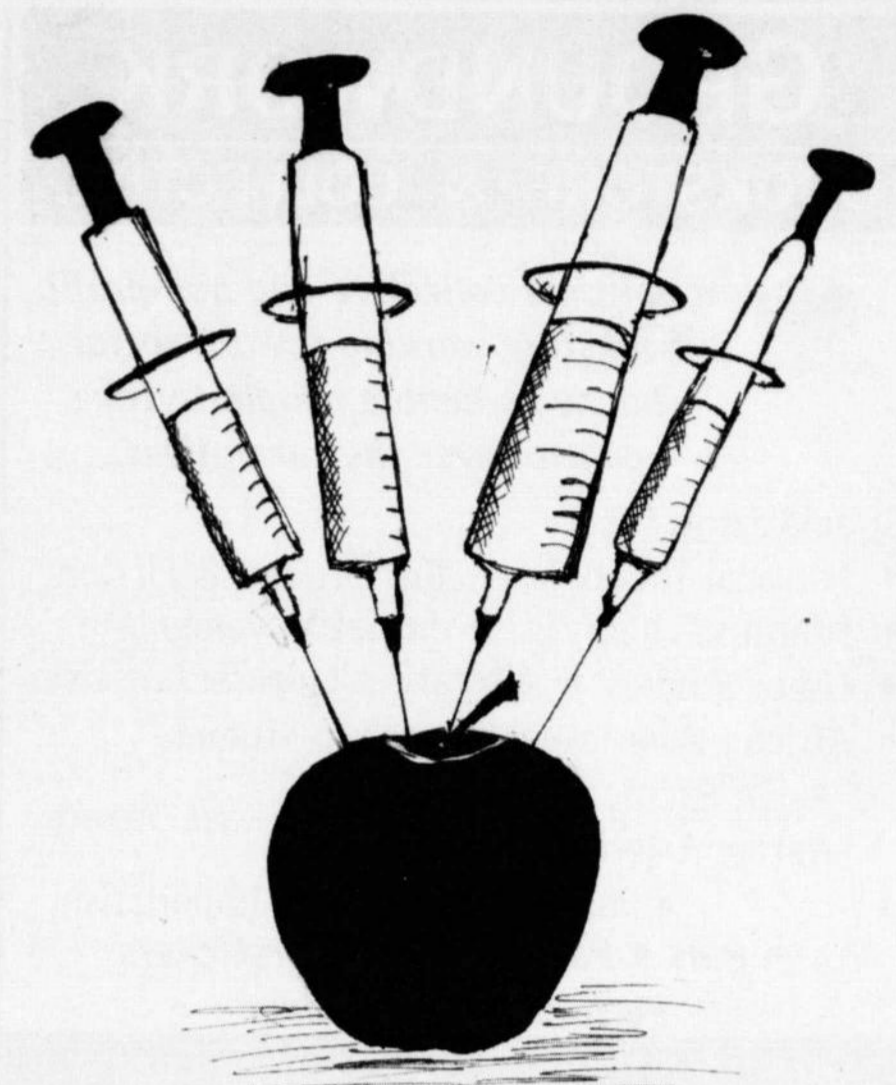
"(The) pollen from genetically engineered corn containing a toxin gene called Bt (a bacterium, genus species name: *Bacillus thuringiensis*) killed 44 percent of the monarch butterfly caterpillars who fed on milkweed leaves dusted with it. By contrast, caterpillars fed with conventional pollen all survived. The results are all the more shocking given the fact that nearly 25 percent of the US corn crop now contains the Bt transgene and the Corn Belt states of the Midwest are where half of the monarch butterflies are produced each year."

This study raises the question of a potential disastrous impact on wildlife living nearby transgenic farms. What other species will be harmed by toxins inherent in GM plants? Will ecosystems be damaged by a potential invasion of novel proteins expressed by these plants? One can speculate what may happen, since biomes are already being degraded by human activity. As "development" of farmlands in third-world countries increases, unsustainable practices that promote monoculture, such as GM crops, will have a negative impact on local ecologies.

Interestingly, US regulatory agencies, namely the FDA and USDA, have been largely complacent in prompting long-term studies on the affects of GM crops. Transgenic crops were allowed to be planted and supplied to U.S. markets during the mid-1990s, without adequate testing. The possible dangers of not having strict enough regulatory precautions on emerging technologies are discussed in an article written by Worldwatch Institute, citing a study published in Nature:

"(A) lack of precaution was presented in a December 1999 article in Nature reporting that the insecticide produced by a widely planted variety of transgenic corn can accumulate-in its active form-in the soil for extended periods of time. The authors note that the effects on soil organisms and soil fertility are largely unknown, but potentially enormous. But, like earlier

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Biodev 2001 is coming to San Diego on June 24-27!

Rallies, marches, and conference will coincide with BIO2001, the largest ever convention of the Biotechnology Industry Association. **Beyond Biodevestation 2001 is the 5th Grassroots Gathering to Celebrate Biodiversity and Question Genetic Engineering.**

Speakers from around the globe including Vandana Shiva, Anuradha Mittal, Peter Rosset, Percy Schmeiser, Britt Bailey, Claire Cummings, Brewster and Cathleen Kneen, will be in attendance.

The panels will address many of the pressing concerns about the emerging technologies of genetic engineering from Biopiracy (corporate patents on life-forms) to the safety of genetically modified foods (GMOs). Much of the world's peoples have been voicing their concerns and expressing strong resistance to these technologies for years.

It is imperative that the people of the US take responsibility for our nations role in its pervasiveness.

If you would like to attend the conferences, please register on through the Biodev website before JUNE 7th. Any further information on genetic engineering issues, pro and con, may be accessed through links on the website: www.biodev.org



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Got Theatre?

For the past two years I have been involved with the San Diego activist community. I have attended rallies and helped organize demonstrations for many different political events. These range from benefit concerts for the Zapatistas to anti-racism rallies. My attraction to these events has been the community and the camaraderie that they cultivate. A rally incorporates or rather should incorporate both art and socially conscious causes, as well as provide the participants with a feeling of solidarity with something beyond their immediate surroundings, be it the indigenous people of Chiapas or the poor of South Carolina.

At a typical rally in San Diego you will see people from all different racial, social and economic backgrounds. You will see, depending on the subject of a particular rally, a fifty year old black woman next to a fifteen year old Hispanic teen with both groups coming together to further a "greater good". Demonstrations have proven to be breeding grounds for social consciousness and civic participation. At an anti-police brutality protest I attended in San Diego, people in cars would stop and honk their horns to show support for all the people protesting. Even though no particular attention was paid to ways that one might draw outside participation, passers by would stop and take over the megaphone to give their testimonial of how the police had abused and misused their authority. This entire event happened at a major Lemon Grove intersection, with police standing across the street, intimidating and indirectly antagonizing the mass of people gathered. This demonstration had puppets, live music and drums that accompanied the chants that went from the time I arrived to the end of the event. It was by far the best and most festive political event I have ever attended.

For all these positive things, I was left with the feeling that something was missing—it was not passion or pagentry, because that's what seemed to keep this event going despite the hot noonday sun. It was something more obvious than that. In pondering this, the answer became clear that the missing ingredient was spectacle, specifically a dramatic one. Even though you had people holding up handmade signs, others handing out flyers with information and still others chanting and singing, the event lacked a dramatic dimension. Without a sense of drama, all of the signs and the pamphlets lose their three-dimensionality and therefore are easily ignored especially by the very people who should be joining in the demonstration. In this the real value of theatre is found. A given theatre piece may be good or bad, but it is never indifferent and it is never ignored.

Augusto Boal, the greatest political theatre director of our time has written a great deal on the theatre as a weapon and goes as far as to call this collection of theatre exercises an arsenal. And it is indeed beneficial to think of theatre as a

powerful weapon, better still as the only weapon against the problem of the spectacle-less demonstrations, rallies and protests. A war is indeed being waged against the people. Powerful corporations have used their resources to assure that all "non-consuming" aspects of the population are eradicated—not with lead and gunpowder, but with an infinitely more powerful weapon—the media. It tells us how and what to think. Theatre on the other hand defends the mind and makes it question the messages it is bombarded with every day.

Guerilla theatre or Street Theatre as it is most commonly referred to, by nature creates a sacred triangle between the performer, the viewer and the message or content. Nothing else has the ability to take people and appeal to their minds, bodies and spirits simultaneously. Theatre transforms the format of a demonstration from monologue to dialogue. By its simple presence at an event, theatre transforms a group of loosely knitted people into a tightly knitted community is only for a moment. When you witness a Guerilla Theatre presentation, you see a raw honest event that does not aspire to the polish and size of any big sterile money making musical. Guerilla Theatre guarantees an immediately interactive politically charged message. Best of all it's cheap and quick.

Knowing this, the question is why we don't utilize this powerful weapon more often? The answer is very simple and sad. From the late sixties to the present we have been conditioned to believe that only the students of acting can and should act. Acting like art has become the property of a few privileged elite. We have unknowingly adopted the idea that acting is for television networks and film studios to handle. We have been taught to fear the telling of our story because it might not have the polish of a popular sitcom. Drama's power has been harvested and distilled by the media and now they have perfected the use of the hypnotic qualities of television while we are still debating whether drama should be incorporated into our next protest. Why should corporation use drama to tell us what to think and how to dress and who to vote for and we not use drama to tell people to think for themselves.

The corporations have learned how to use the power of drama to shape the collective consciousness of the masses. They are shaping our future with no concern for our dreams and goals. Why have we the masses not begun to portray what we want our own future to look like? Why have we not begun to incorporate drama into every political event we participate in? How much more of a response would one get from an apathetic world in the message was wrapped in the spectacle of drama? It is no enough for us to be free-thinking people—we must free others, and without drama it cannot and will not be accomplished.

Free Trade:

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3. The "free" circulation of goods stands as the third piece of this schema. But of course, the word "free" seems to be employed in a strange manner when we consider the other side of the coin explained in points 1 and 2 above. The "free" circulation of goods means that Corporations can go to where ever the labor is cheapest to make their product, and then "export" the product where ever they want, within the agreement's scope, for "free".

4. NAFTA (and the FTAA after it) gives corporations the ability to sue countries for making barriers to free trade. Past barriers to free trade include: constitutions, raises in workers wages, laws preventing monopolies and laws protecting the environment to name a few.

"Illegal" immigration is created by the NAFTA policies, which at the same time prevents people from entering freely the US and deny the countries where they come from the means for a genuine development.

The opposition to the FTAA process - the planned extension of NAFTA - appears to be essentially an opposition to the way the wealth is produced, when inhumane and destroying the environment, to the unfair redistribution of that wealth, and to the police control used to those ends. Numerous alternatives have already been elaborated worldwide and that is what a lot of activists and citizens were expressing during the protest around the summit of the Americas in Quebec City last April. Moreover, this protest has revealed the existence of another kind of wall, not a border wall, but the security fences installed to protect the summit officials. On one side of the wall, protesters who want world leaders to be held accountable for the decisions they take. On the other side of the wall, these leaders, elected or not, mostly trying to avoid the light the former shed on their negotiations. And when they have to talk, they often use the magic term intended to justify everything, "free trade economy". The great merit of these protests,



in Quebec City and elsewhere, is to show that the "free trade" rationale has, in fact, the shape of an ideology. It is also to show that the global market is not some sort of mythical monster against which the "free" citizen can't do anything and which seems impossible to grasp. Despite its often chaotic unfolding, this global market has its source and its ground in decisions taken by human beings, made of flesh and blood, either elected officials or corporate officials. It is indeed possible for citizens, organizations and trade unions to have them reshape the policies that deal with everyone's life. The range of possible sorts of involvement is wide: from building alternatives to FTAA policies to supporting the non-unionized janitors here and now at UCSD.

Footnotes:

1 For a description of the US-Mexico border, cf. Janette Habel, "The line that divides Mexico and the US", *Le Monde diplomatique*, December 1999 <http://www.en-monde-diplomatique.fr/1999/12/11/habel>

2 "Nafta's chapter 11 allows foreign investors to bring proceedings against countries in case of losses caused by the application of public standards, such as those relating to environmental protection. As a result, the Mexican government had to pay \$16.7m to the California-based Metalcad Corporation because the Mexican state of San Luis Potosi denied Metalcad permission to install a waste disposal facility that posed a public health hazard and against which the local population had voiced its strong opposition."

Dorval Brunelle, *Chasing the holy grail of free trade*, *Le Monde diplomatique*, April 2001 <http://www.en-monde-diplomatique.fr/2001/04/05/america/summit>

3 Dorval Brunelle, *ibid.*

N.I. Restaurant Guide

Pokez

Excellent family run Vegetarian Mexican Restaurant. Open Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 8:00 pm, Saturday 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, and Sunday 9:00am to 4:00pm 947 E St. San Diego 92101-6511 (619) 702-7160

Zias Afghan Cafe

Zia's Afghan Cafe is a place that focuses on Middle Eastern cuisines. Many Vegan dishes, as well as catering to the omnivore. Expect the average entree to cost under \$8. 4118 30th Street San Diego, CA 92104-1906 (619) 285-1635

Golden Dragon

Part of old San Diego. Chinese food, a few vegetarian dishes. One of the few restaurants in San Diego open after midnight. Go checkout Hillcrest cinema then go eat, it will still be open. In Hillcrest on University St. between 4th and 5th ave. Open until 3am 414 University Ave. San Diego, CA 92103 (619)296-4119

Hari Krishna Temple

Good Veggie food - cheap. ISKCON Temple of San Diego, 1030 Grand avenue Pacific Beach, CA 92109 (619) 483-2500

Dao Son Noodle House

Vietnamese and Japanese inspired cuisine. Very very good and most dishes under \$7. 2322 El Cajon Blvd. San Diego, CA 92104 (619) 291-5051

Jyoti Bihanga

Good vegetarian and organic cuisine - reasonable prices. 3351 Adams Ave. San Diego, CA 92116 (619) 282-4116

Mandarin Dynasty

Offers variety of vegetarian dishes. They are very accommodating on any request, much like your mommy. Try it, you will like it. 1458 University Avenue San Diego, CA 92103 (619) 298-8899

Chinese Formosa

Completely vegetarian/vegan Chinese food but you wouldn't believe it... so go there and see for your self. Slightly expensive. 16769 Rancho Bernardo Center Drive San Diego, CA (619) 487-8999

Red Sea Restaurant

Excellent Ethiopian food, good prices. 4717 University Avenue San Diego, CA 92103 (619) 285-9722

Ocean Beach People's Food Co-op

Healthy, organic and vegetarian food. Oh yeah, also a good place to do your grocery shopping. Has one of the best prices on organic produce, and other environmentally sound hippie stuff. 4765 Voltaire St. San Diego, CA 92107 (619) 224-1387 www.obpeoplesfood.com

Flavor of Thai

Some of the best Thai in town. What's that? You've never heard of a mock duck? Well, swing by and try some. 4768 Convoy Street San Diego, CA 92111 (858) 268-3750 <http://www.flavorthai.ppg.com/>

Mama's Bakery & Deli

Don't let the name fool you. Cheap and good Lebanese food under \$5. Serves falafel, hummus, etc... Next to Live Wire. 4237 Alabama St. San Diego, CA 92104 (619) 688-0717

SEJ:

continued from page 2

they didn't act their voice would not be heard. "having attempted to work persistently within the system for 3 weeks and being ignored, we decided that the patrons of the university should know about this issue," said Josh Wilson.

Members of SEJ were not dissuaded. They joined hands and proceeded to enter the meeting. At the entrance they were met with physical resistance by security and administrators present. "The senior director of external relations, Edgar M. Gillenwaters, attempting to block the way, pushed us into two tables adjacent to the tents entrance. The tables and the glasses on them crashed onto the floor," said Josh. "People were holding us, pushing us and reacting violently. Tables were thrown on the floor and glasses were broken. Students were pushed on the broken glass... A few members received cuts," said Eleazar Loza. Only 5 SEJ members were able to enter the tent. In the process of doing so one member of SEJ was elbowed in the mouth by E. M. Gillenwaters. "I don't know if it was

intentional but it appeared to be. I didn't do anything about it because we were there peacefully" said Eleazar Loza. Eleazar proceeded to explain to the Chancellor's associates about the chancellors complete disregard to the letters, petitions and phone calls. He demanded a meeting with the Chancellor. Josh recollected his experience in the tent: "As Eleazar was pulled from the tent I saw the open stage and ran onto it. At this point the rest of SEJ were chanting 'no justice, no peace'. Over the chanting I apologized to those assembled for interrupting their meeting and informed them that janitors at UCSD were being paid minimum wage mostly with no benefits and that we were trying to get the university to hire a union contractor. I told them that Alejandra Rodriguez got fired because of her attempts to organize her co-workers and held up a sign with her picture on it. At this point, Gillenwaters grabbed hold of my belt, and violently threw me from the stage. The chancellor, who had been on the stage with me, loudly warned Gillenwaters to take it easy and calm down." Realizing that they would only be met with more violence, members of SEJ left. Shortly after leaving the tent, campus police arrived and demanded that they leave the premises.

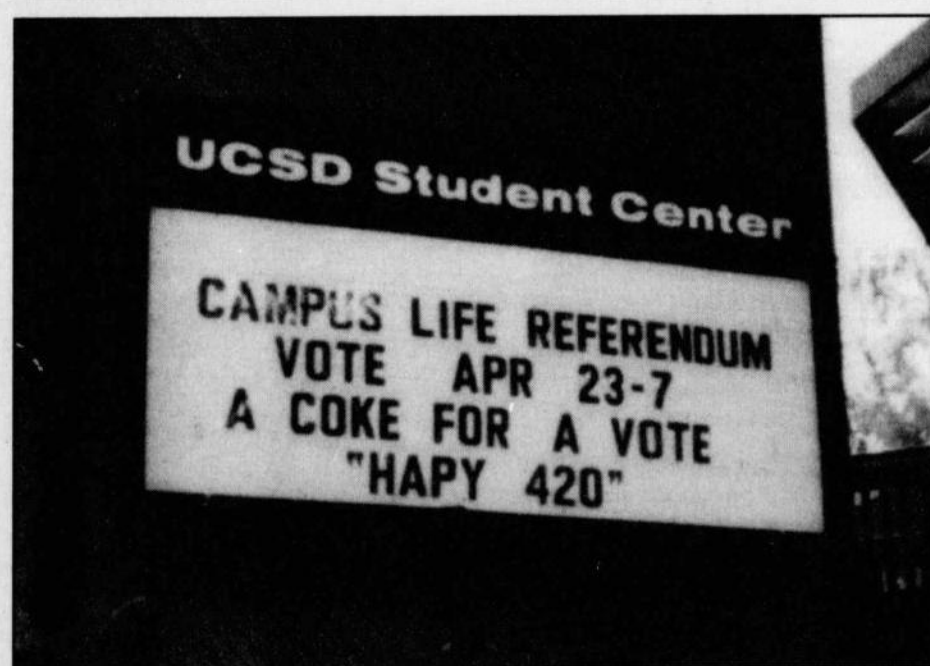


The General Store Co-op is a student-run store which was founded in 1980 to offer students a less expensive alternative to the high Price Center. As a student cooperative, we try to provide the University community with the best quality merchandise at the lowest prices. And we succeed!

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.

We also sell textbooks, which are guaranteed to cost less than at the UCSD bookstore.

The General Store Co-Op is located in the Student Cooperative Center, in between the Food Co-Op and KSDT. 858-534-3932



In their attempt to pass the "Campus Life" Fee Referendum, the UCSD Administration invested a huge amount of time and money to entice students to come out to vote. (They spent well over \$10,000 on propaganda during the weeks before and during the Fee Referendum.)

New publications suddenly emerged. Do you really think that "Centerpiece - the Guide to the University Centers" would have existed if it weren't for the Referendum? Do you think we'll ever see another issue?

Bribes were offered. Here's just some of the things that were offered to people who had voted: cookies, cokes, beer, a keg for the fraternity or sorority that had the most members vote, first choice of rooms for sorority members who collected the most voting stubs.

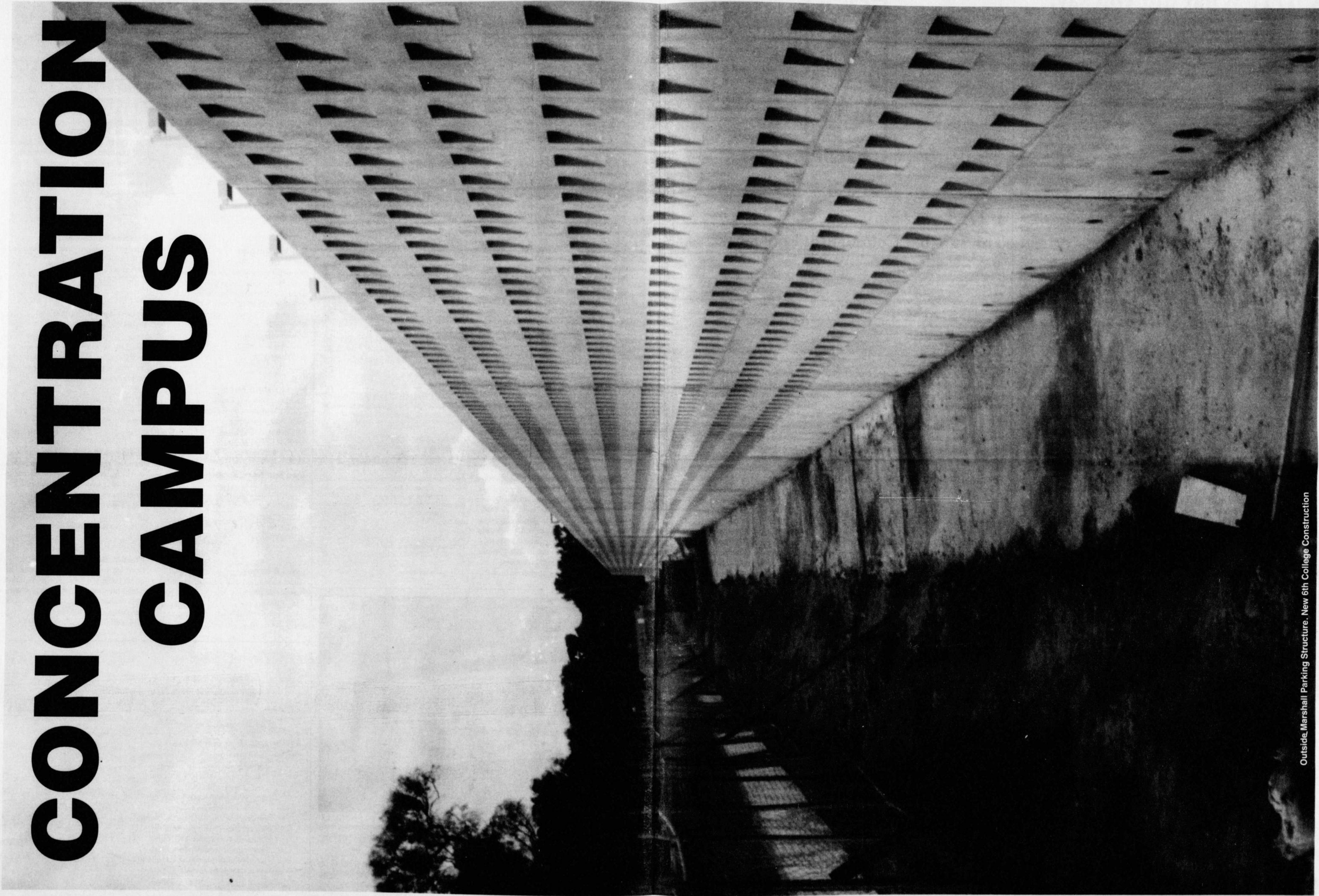
...talk about corruption...

engine number two. from life in utopia to twice broken heart

can you still hear the butterfly song?
on the burned down overpass
with blood red soar throat screaming through fog
plunged into dark headlight paths
with glowing yellow mockery globes
breaking the beats of your heart
like the speed bumps on back country roads
not on navigator's chart
propellers wheezing and losing grip
engine number one in flames
fingers grasping the chains in their link
rising and screeching to save
the war hero in jacket and scarf
cuts out the second in time
crushed under the twice broken heart
politics and love both die

mike rancourt

CONCENTRATION CAMPUS



Outside Marshall Parking Structure. New 6th College Construction

KSDT? What did you say?

UC San Diego has a campus radio station. It is called KSDT. This comes as a shock to many of the 15,000+ students on this campus. With a university of this magnitude and "importance," why do so few students know about, let alone listen to, KSDT? This question can be answered through a short history of radio on the UC San Diego campus.

In 1967, a group of UCSD students began broadcasting a low power FM signal from a garage in Pacific Beach with the help of Chuck Cox from Audio-Visual Services. Soon after, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, Robert Topolovac and Jack Williams of the Language Laboratory developed a budget and description for KSDT (San Diego Tritons), which would become UC San Diego's student run radio station. In late 1968, the students moved into a quonset hut on the Matthews campus and began to broadcast by carrier current to the dormitories by hooking into the electrical system of the dorms. Because KSDT could not support itself financially at the time, it essentially was "owned" by the UC Regents for all operating monies flowed from the University. In the mid 70s, the FCC offered the UC Regents a FM broadcast license to use for KSDT. Incredibly near sided in hindsight, the Regents declined the offer and instead bought KSDT a spot on the "hot" new radio technology at the time, cable radio (many at the time thought that cable for the radio would do what cable did for television). But because only a small fraction of the general population were willing to pay for the cable radio service, KSDT programming was still not available to the majority of the San Diego population.

Fast forward to 1999, where along with the recently added internet streaming mp3 audio, cable radio (on Cox Cable 95.7), intracampus electrical line broadcast (on 540 AM), and intracampus television broadcast on sister station SRTV (UC San Diego television) are the ways in which KSDT can be heard. The following year, 2000, the UC Administration decides to discontinue both the Cox Cable broadcast and electrical line broadcast. The television broadcast signal on SRTV also disappears, which leaves KSDT with only their streaming mp3

audio capabilities through which to broadcast a signal.

So why, once the University realized that cable radio was a dead medium for broadcast, did neither KSDT itself or the UC Regents obtain a FM signal upon which KSDT would broadcast? The short answer is because no one could. The FCC has traditionally set aside licenses in the area from 87.9 through 91.9 on the radio dial for college, community and other non-profit groups (at a highly discounted price compared to the other regional of the radio dial, traditionally referred to as the "commercial band") who wish to run their own station. But here in the San Diego area, things work differently. In the mid 1960s, large stations whose broadcast signals sat close to the Mexican/American border began to complain to the FCC about signal interference caused by Mexican stations which broadcast on the same signal and bleed across the boarder. Although at the time there were relatively few stations on the FM band compared to today (thus, still relatively easy to buy a signal which a Mexican station did not already broadcast upon), the FCC was sympathetic to the American stations and created a statute which allows commercial stations within seventy-five miles of the Mexican/American boarder to buy and broadcast in the traditionally non-commercial band. And soon after the FCC offered the UC Regents a license in the educational band in the 1970s, all available licenses in that band was bought by both independent and commercial stations.

In essence, then, there are no available licenses for KSDT to buy, either in the traditionally sparse community band or the highly impacted commercial band in San Diego. And this lack of FM broadcast capabilities is what makes KSDT an invisible student run organization. Most students, and general public, listen to a radio station through a radio, and not an internet connection. Without this radio outlet, KSDT remains an unknown name to even those who could be described as traditional supporters of independent radio. This overall naivete of both student and public is what KSDT must confront in their struggle to survive on the UC San Diego campus.

Grunions

Fish jump on the beach
Once birds go to sleep
And bury themselves in sand
In almost full command.
And the golden beds
Turn silver instead
And the women lay their eggs
Keeping only their heads
As the men fight to fertilize
Calling secret sweet lies.
It's hard to say goodbye to night.
We're always wishin'
We're always fishin'.
Howard Buckstein



We are a non-profit, student run & owned business. We sell tasty vegetarian food (burritos, bagels, yogurt, fruit juices...) at low prices.
We're located in the student cooperative center near the reveille campus along with soft reserves, the grove cafe & THE CO-OPS

FTAA: This is What Colonialism Looks Like

The FTAA is a continuation of the imperialism that began thousands of years ago in Europe.... Advocates of the FTAA would not dare refer to their policies as forms of colonization or feudalism.... Instead they will justify their actions in the name of "development" for the "poor" countries of Central and South America. Development? What the first peoples of the Americas need is "recovery" not development. Recovery from the very same colonization, domination, and genocide that multi-national corporations want to perpetuate for their own gains today.

-Leonard Peltier 5/20/01

FTAA is an acronym for Free Trade Agreements of the Americas, and is, effectively, an attempt to extend the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to include another 31 countries in the Western Hemisphere. In 1994, 34 countries from the Western Hemisphere met in Miami to discuss the creation of FTAA in order to develop an area "in which barriers to trade and investment will be progressively eliminated". These long standing barriers to free trade are policies that enable countries to control the goods imported and exported between countries by imposing tariffs. Tariffs are bad for business. Thus the FTAA and NAFTA can be viewed as immense business deals between multinational corporations (and governments whose campaigns they finance) in order to increase corporate profits - at the expense of democratically made laws. These deals are fundamentally anti-democratic in many ways:

First, citizens are not permitted to view the texts of the deals; moreover, not one referendum has been held to ask citizens whether they want these deals which will certainly alter the future of their countries.

Second, evidence shows that the FTAA will have disastrous consequences on the working classes in all countries participating in the agreements - as NAFTA has done in Canada, US, and Mexico. According to the Economic Policy Institute, NAFTA was a success for investors and financiers of businesses, as volumes of trade and financial flow between countries increase. But, at what costs, and to whom?

Job security dwindled in the US, since NAFTA enables corporations can threaten to move productions of manufacturing jobs to Mexico, due to the availability of cheap labor. This undercut any attempt for workers to bargain for higher wages, benefits, and rights.

Those jobs that did head south to Mexico, were not a panacea for Mexican laborers. Most jobs were in maquiladoras, where workers wages, benefits, and rights are suppressed even more than they are in the US. Moreover, this influx of US business did not help the Mexican economy since the exports of goods had little to do with development of the local Mexican economy, but rather the bottom lines of the foreign corporations that own the

maquiladoras.

Third, FTAA would increase the power of multinational corporations, allowing them to bypass countries' environmental and worker protection laws. While this hurts all of us, it affects the lower socioeconomic class disproportionately. These "free" trade deals will erode social services for the lower classes since the deals encourage the transfer of government services - such as public education, water, electricity, postal services, and health care - to private enterprise. This might benefit the new owners of these services, and those wealthy enough to afford them, but it will leave the fast-growing lower classes in the cold and dark - literally. Is this really progress?

Fourth, FTAA would allow corporations to sue governments, if they deem that government laws are unfair to corporations. Officially, the FTAA would provide a hemispheric "regulatory takings" clause that values corporate profits over human costs.

Fifth, the FTAA would also allow large US biotechnology and agribusiness firms to "force feed" controversial genetically modified (GM) products to other countries. Forcing farmers to buy patented GM seeds and herbicides, will increase the impoverishment of poorer communities, who have successfully relied on farm-saved seeds for generations for sustenance. GM foods will also encourage the advance of monocultures in other countries, endangering any nearby ecosystems.

Sixth, the FTAA agreement calls for the expansion of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) for biotech industries to protect their patents. This controversial patent law gives biotech corporations the right to privatize formerly public information - such as gene sequences of plants - and to patent traditional medicines of indigenous peoples. IPR laws will give pharmaceutical companies and biotech agribusiness monopolies over essential medicine and foods.

The FTAA is corporate colonialism and will have dire consequences for us all. For further information on the FTAA and how to stop it, please check out these resources:
www.stopftaa.org
www.globalexchange.org/ftaa/topten.html
www.tradewatch.org/FTAA/ftaafactsheet.htm
www.tompaime.com/opinion/2001/04/19/1.html
la.indymedia.org/display.php3?article_id

Interview with Ralph Nader

continued from page 1

There are notable exceptions: Professor Elizabeth Warren of the Harvard Law School has been a champion in going after the bankruptcy legislation that is passing through Congress. She has connected her expertise in bankruptcy law to public advocacy and public enlightenment.

HB: America's major universities, such as the University of California, seem to be producing students with less commitment to social justice than was the case thirty years ago. To what would you attribute this trend?

RN: Thirty years ago there was the Vietnam war, there was the draft; these are things that shook up the student body. When Nixon was elected, he decided to get rid of the draft, because he knew that was a way to deflate the activity on campus. You don't have a comparative perturbation of the campus these days, obviously. You have serious problems, but they are: global warming, corporate globalization, sweatshops; and students tend not to relate to these. The slight activity you see now on some campuses do involve students saying 'we don't want to buy in the campus store products that come from sweatshop labor overseas, and make US companies, who buy them from overseas firms, rich at the expense of serf or slave labor'. So they cling to a connection with the outside world at their campus. The more connections they can make between how university research is distorted by corporatization, how faculty are punished for speaking out, because of the corporate influence by the money flowing into the university, the more active they will be. If they don't make those connections, they're not going to be aroused.

POLITICS

HB: If you were to be tried for 'corrupting the youth' under similar circumstances as Socrates, how would your course of action differ from his?

RN: I prefer to be a plaintiff, rather than a defendant. So, I'd try to head it off.

HB: How do you respond to those who claim that Canada's and Western Europe's social safety net must be trimmed before the baby boomers retire en masse, or else those countries will collapse, and then use this claim to justify the relatively limited social spending in America?

RN: Well, that's a pull-down strategy by corporations who are working with corporations in Canada and Western Europe to say: 'Lookit', we strip workers of their effective right to form unions, we don't have full paid maternity leave, we don't have full paid sick leave as a matter of law in this country, and look at us: we're being paid, as CEO's, far more than you guys are, and have a lot more luscious stock options and severance pay, so why don't you do it?' And it's part of the corporate globalization process that consist of 'pull-down' rather than 'pull-up' trade agreements. They pull standards of workers, environment and consumers in Western countries down to the lower levels in the Third World, because corporations seek any jurisdiction that allows them lower cost, even if they abuse their workers or pollute the environment. If they can break down national barriers -- which represent attempts of nations to lift up their standards of living -- if they can level them and pull them down to lowest common denominators, they make more money.

And that's what these trade agreements do. And it isn't done all at once. It's done gradually, as a process of erosion, because the societies won't tolerate a sudden decline. But the first step is that standard of living doesn't improve; then it's stagnant; then it starts declining, like wages.

HB: How do you respond to socialists who say that your politics are a step in the right direction, but argue that what America really needs is a Marxist revolution?

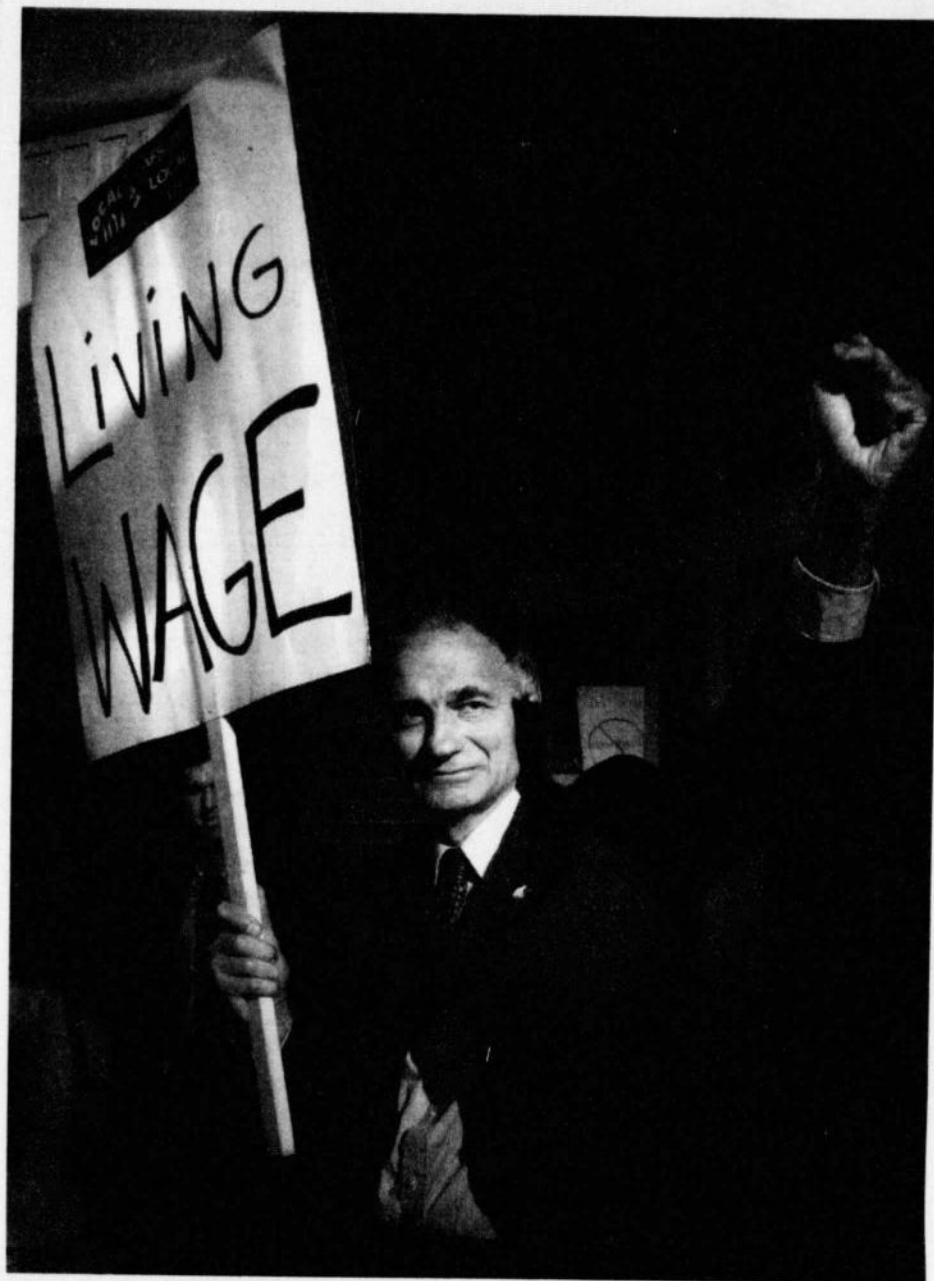
RN: I don't think many people believe that anymore, because they've seen that monopolies in business and government create terrible abuses. Remember, we had cotton plantations and other plantations in this country that introduced slavery and held, for over two hundred years, human beings as slaves. Corporations are not required to observe the rule of law; are not held accountable; are not given boundaries. There are really no discernible limits to their cruelty because they justify everything by cost reduction and maximizing profits. So, they'll destroy their own framework of law and order in their pell-mell rush for preferred profit over the next company. And that's what you see in the transition from the Soviet Union to Russia -- the move from criminal communism to criminal capitalism. The issue is: 'how can power be distributed so that it is efficient, effective, yet accountable?' And that has to be a mixed system that has economic models other than a multi-national corporate one -- co-operative models for example; worker owned models; small business network models; and government involvement in various ways. It could be as yardsticks, seeing the production of public power as yardsticks to private electric power. Or it could be in facilitating the organization of consumers vis-a-vis banks and insurance companies and others. Or it could be in dropping the enormous corporate welfare state apparatus, which subsidizes bailouts and transfers public assets into corporate hands in the tens and tens and tens of billions of dollars a year in our country.

MEDIA

HB: Which form of media do you think will be most effective in spreading Green Party values over the next four years: mass media or alternative media?

RN: They both have their role. One is very free and has a limited audience. The other is chattled (sic) and has a larger, soundbite-type, audience. But there is a third media, which is person to person meetings, and gatherings and rallies and marches, and living room discussions. Nothing can compare to the effectiveness of that. We can have all the virtual reality, all the electronic systems of communication -- the TV, the Internet -- but nothing has the dynamic and the personal motivational quality of person to person gatherings.

HB: In last night's speech at the University of California, you suggested that the print mass media covers corporate corruption sufficiently, but that citizens are not active enough in reading the news. However, there are those such as Edward Herman [professor of finance at the Wharton business school] who argue that the mass media cannot do a sufficient job of reporting on corporate excess because the mass media relies on corporations for advertising and is so corporate itself. Moreover, the mainstream American media devotes relatively little coverage to the



Ralph Nader in support of a living wage

Green Party. Thus, my question is: is it likely that America will achieve a level of social justice that is acceptable to the Green Party and to your own values under the current media structure in this country?

RN: Well, what I meant to say was not that it is sufficient, but that there are far more exposes of corporate abuses by the mainstream media than we do anything about -- either by prosecutions, Congressional hearings, state actions, citizen groups, countervailing power, lawsuits. Obviously, there needs to be much more, and it isn't enough, just to have a good feature on 60 Minutes or page one of the New York Times without a follow through in terms of a newsbeat. But to have a newsbeat, you must have an active democracy to give news to the media so it can provide a regular newsbeat. And big business is on a collision course with American democracy, and American democracy is losing. That's why we see these very fine exposes often -- on 60 Minutes, the New York Times, Washington Post, page one of the Wall Street Journal -- and nothing happens, because the democracy is not strong enough to take those disclosures and move them toward law enforcement, corrective action, refunds, etc. And so, any democracy worth its salt, can't rely heavily on a commercial media, because it filters the important news in the way in which it's conveyed on a regular basis: It has to have it's own media. And, unfortunately, in our country, the public own the airwaves but we don't control them. The radio and TV stations get licenses free from the FCC, and they control the airwaves. That doesn't mean we can't develop a mass movement that will require a return of some of our property, say two

hours a day -- prime time, drive time -- so that we have our own audience networks on radio and TV; and, similar, recoveries of what we own as a commonwealth, to control what we own, not letting corporations control our public lands, and the minerals and other resources, such as timber, while we own them. The split between ownership and control should be a major political agenda in political campaigns because the great wealth of this country is not just private wealth, but it's public wealth: five trillion dollars of worker pension funds; one third of America's public lands; the public airwaves; the public works; government research and development; medical and other technologies. And who gets the benefit, for free? corporations. Or else they get them at bargain basement prices. And you're not going to get all this on the commercial media. Especially since they are now conglomerates and they are all interlocking directorates and all the rest of it.

HB: I want to thank you very much.


RN: One more thing. Here you are from Toronto,

HB: Yes,

RN: And you don't allow me to put in a plug for your country.

HB: Well, please.

RN: We are the co-authors of the best-selling book Canada First, which was a bestseller for forty two weeks in Canada, and which was rejected by four major Canadian publishers in manuscript on the grounds that Canadians are so modest, they're not interested in a book about



Ché Café Collective

534-2311
checafe.ucsd.edu

Vegan All-You-Can-Eats

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 5-7pm
\$2/plate \$4/all-you-can-eat

The Ché Café Collective is dedicated to providing cheap, 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.

The Ché Café is open to having people come by and help out. The Café provides a great opportunity for people to get involved in the process of cooking, running a restaurant and/or putting on events at any level they feel comfortable at. Stop by or call us at (858) 534-2311.

The Ché Café is located on the Reville campus behind the Undergraduate library and down the hill from Stonehenge. We're the building with all the murals on it.

Collective Meetings are 8:30pm Thursday nights at the Ché Café. Open to all.

N.I. How-To: Buying Your Own Computer (cheap)

A good preliminary step would be to get a "Computer Edge" catalogue. These are free and can be found around town in various places. It lists parts and how much they cost as well as where you can buy them.

What you need to buy:

1. Motherboard: The motherboard is the part of your computer that allows all of the different parts of it to work together. Everything plugs into the motherboard. Motherboards cost between \$70 and \$200. In general, the more expensive, the more places you get to plug things into and the more reliable the board is.

2. CPU (Central Processing Unit): The CPU is the "engine" of your computer. It does most of the raw calculations necessary for running programs. When looking for a CPU, you will encounter the term "mega-hertz" (or Mhz). The more mhz, the faster the "speed" - or how many raw calculations per second your CPU can do. You will likely find between 500mhz to 1000mhz (or 1ghz). Prices range from \$60 to \$500. Usually, between 500 and 700 is enough speed depending on your usage.

3. RAM (Random Access Memory): RAM is where all of the action happens in your computer. It is similar to short term memory in mere mortals. The more RAM the more things your computer can do at the same time. Some programs require a large amount of RAM to run at all, due to the number of operations they must perform simultaneously. RAM goes anywhere from 64 MB (mega-bytes) to 1024 MB (or around 1 giga-byte). Usually, 128 or 256 is good enough. If you are going to use your computer for video or music applications, make sure to get enough RAM. To some degree, you can compensate for having a slower CPU by getting more RAM.

4. Hard Drive: The hard drive is where all of the final information is stored. This is where you save everything. Programs and personal files are both stored on the hard drive. When you are looking for a hard drive, you should consider both the size (or amount of information it will store) and the speed (how fast information on it can be accessed by the computer). Most new hard drives are at least 10 gigabytes (this means a whole lot of 1's and 0's) and are fairly affordable even up to 40 gigabytes. If you are not working in applications that require a lot of storage space (such as video or music editing), 10 gigs (short for gigabyte) is usually more than enough but, on the other hand, it usually does not cost much more to double the memory size. You can get decent hard drives for as little as \$60 but they can cost as much as \$200 plus. (a lot of the price depends on the kind of interface they have with the computer - for most cheaper computers it is good to get an IDE interface (or EIDE)).

5. Case/Power Source: This is simply the case in which to put all of the above. The power source is what is plugged into the socket at one end and into the various parts of your computer at the other. Most boxes with power sources cost between \$20 and \$100, but sometimes you can get

them free if you're buying a ton of more expensive components.

The above is the basic computer. Technically you could function with only these components. However there are some other things which make it much easier to use.

Fairly Essential Parts:

1. Floppy Disk Drive: This is how you save important information like your system settings. This is important when your computer crashes and you need to reinstall or reformat things. This could cost between \$10 and \$20.

2. A CD-Rom: It is usually good to have a CD-Rom because most programs are distributed on CD's these days and they will be useless to you unless you have a way to access their information. CD-Roms start at \$30 but it is usually a good idea to spend a few more dollars for the next best one because it will last longer.

3. Video Card: a video card is necessary in order to actually view what the computer is doing on a screen. How good your video card is determines how many colors and how good the resolution on your screen will be. Video Cards start around \$10 and can get very expensive as they get more and more fancy (up above \$500). Note: some motherboards come with built in video cards.

4. Modem or Ethernet (NIC) Card: Most likely, you will want to be on the web at some point. This requires a modem or an ethernet card. Modems take your phone line and patches it into your computer. An Ethernet card does the same for your cable, ethernet, LAN or other connection. You should be able to get a good ethernet card or modem for under \$20.

With the above you will have a fully functioning computer.

Here are a few (obvious) extras that you will probably want:

1. Monitor (or screen): This lets you see what you are doing. Screens can be found for just over \$100 but they will be small. The fancy screens can be over \$2000 dollars. It is usually not too difficult to find a used screen for cheap but you should make sure it works first.

2. Keyboard and mouse: Whatever you do, don't buy these things. If you look hard enough you will be able to find them. If you break down and have to buy them, don't fall into any expensive traps. My advice is to get the cheapest one - there is not that much difference between the various products.

3. Sound Card: if you want to hear any sound you need a sound card. A cheap one will cost as little as \$10 but they can get fairly expensive as well.

So, for a tally, you could get a working computer with screen and modem for under \$400

GM Foods:

continued from page 3

laboratory studies showing that pollen from this same corn could be lethal to certain beneficial insects, the fact that such effects had not been considered prior to planting tens of millions of hectares in this crop raises concerns about the adequacy of existing safeguards for ecological and human health risks."

So, what are these potential human health risks?

Since genetically modified foods are a recent advent in agriculture, many scientists within and outside the industry are concerned with safe consumption of GM foods. The biggest concern with safety is allergies. Since genes are spliced from a foreign source, it can express traits of the original DNA in the host plant cell, which can create a severe allergic reaction in some people. In 1997, an article in the Financial Times reported:

"A recent example (of) the transfer of a gene from Brazil nuts to soybeans. This was intended to improve the beans' nutritional quality by adding an essential amino acid, but it had the unexpected effect of triggering an allergic reaction in some people who ate them during research tests. The project was therefore dropped." In December 2000, the Environmental Protection Agency issued a scientific report advised the recall of GM product named Starlink Corn, intended as animal feed and not licensed for human consumption, contaminated 25% of corn used in processed foods, such as Taco Bell taco shells. This prompted officials to recall the Taco Bell products over concerns that Starlink Corn may cause severe allergic reactions. (sources: http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/biopesticides/otherdocs/starlink_news.htm)

Even with the given potential hazard and public relations nightmare from the recall of Starlink corn and the study with modified soybeans, scientists in the industry still maintain that GM foods are safe.

Overall, safety tests of GM foods have generally reached inconclusive results. Therefore the risks are unknown, which leads to the question on why put the general consumer population at risk with these products? Margaret Mellon with the Union for Concerned Scientists, addresses this concern, in a Q&A segment in last month's issue of Scientific America:

Nader:

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where they are first: in social innovation; in technology -- everything from credit unions, which they brought to the United States, to the first daily newspaper, the first daily radio program, and of course in sports, medicine and other areas. And I thought that as a Canadian, the least you could do for your country is to put a little footnote on this interview and indicate that I not only was the first presidential candidate ever to write a bestselling book on matters Canadian, but I was the first presidential candidate I know of who campaigned in a foreign country for American expatriate votes, having gone to Toronto and held a press conference in late August.

HB: My omission, my apologies, and my thanks.

RN: You're welcome.

"If we didn't have an abundant food supply, if we didn't have something like 300,000 food products on our shelves already, then we would have an argument for taking this society-wide risk. But we've got plenty of food. In fact, we've got too much. And although we have many problems associated with our food system, they are not going to be solved by biotechnology."

Making of the next thousand pound banana?

Another disheartening issue about GM crops, are the plethora of patent laws that protect and control farmers who decide to use this technology. The murky waters of intellectual property, a term applied to the ownership of gene data by biotech firms, does not get any clearer as time progresses. Intellectual property has been called the commodification of life, and rightly so. For thousands of years, farmers have traditionally kept their seeds and use cross-breeding techniques to achieve desired traits in plants resulting in the modern crops we have today. Granted the process is less accurate than gene splicing, but the seeds created stayed in the realm of the farmers and knowledge of this technique remained in the public sphere. Farmers shared their knowledge and seeds freely. GM seeds are patented and owned by private biotech agribusinesses. Purchase of GM seeds means a farmer is under contract to buy the complementary herbicides, like Roundup. The GM seeds also cannot be saved for next year's crops, otherwise farmers would be violating patent laws, since it is considered stealing the "intellectual property" from the industry. In order to further control this patented technology, biotech agribusinesses have been investing in research in Terminator technology, also known as Technology Protection System. This technology renders GM seeds sterile, not allowing any seeds to be saved for next year's crops. Another technology called Trait technology, or genetic use restriction technology (GURTs), refers to the use of an external chemical to switch on or off a plant's genetic traits. Many, including the United Nations and various governments, have found this to be morally offensive, since many poor farmers rely on farmed saved seeds

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SRTV Student Run Television

Featuring shows that are created, hosted, filmed, edited and otherwise abused by students.

Join SRTV!
SRTV Meetings are Tuesday nights, 9-10pm in the Student Cooperative Center. Upstairs. Above the Bike Shop. Across from the Guardian.



Critical Mass - Bike Revolution!

Are you tired of waiting around in traffic? Are you tired of spending too much time looking for a parking space? Are you working too much to pay for gas, insurance, parking, repairs, etc. for your car? Or are you one of the many who can't afford a car and must rely on this city's shitty transit system?

RIDE A BIKE!

Critical Mass is a monthly bike ride held all over the world. Critical Mass is an exciting, radical, rambunctious bike ride. It is a rare opportunity for cyclists to gain some respect on the street where they are usually pushed over, brushed by speeding automobiles, yelled at, forced to share a lane with unsafe drivers, run over, or simply prohibited. If you are sick of being disrespected while riding your bike, join the Critical Mass.

ENJOY BEING IN THE MAJORITY FOR ONCE!

In most areas, as is true in San Diego, Critical Mass is the last Friday of the month. We meet at Balboa Park by the big fountain between the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center and the Natural History Museum at 5pm. We ride slow enough so anybody could keep up and we can stay together. By riding as a group, we are more visible than as individuals. If cars have to slow down or go around us, big deal, WE'RE TRAFFIC TOO! By seeing such a large group of bicyclists riding together, others will be encouraged to ride their bikes more often. When people around us see our signs and hear our chants, they may become conscious of



the bicyclists disrespected plight. Critical Mass bike rides also provide an opportunity for bicyclists to meet and organize for their rights collectively.

WHOSE STREETS?

Critical Mass began in 1992 in San Francisco when a group of local bicyclists demanded some respect on the road. Since then it has spread to LA, Arcata, Portland, Seattle, New York, San Antonio, Tulsa, OK, Germany, England, France, and many more places. San Francisco is the largest ride around though. July is the largest ride each year, usually attracting thousands of bicyclists that take over the road.

BURN CALORIES NOT OIL!

RIDE A BIKE!

The air in urban areas is becoming increasingly unhealthy. It is estimated that cars produce 60-80% of air pollutants. Do you want lung cancer? Many car trips are unnecessary. Too many people have cars. Urban areas are now designed around the automobile. The distance between buildings, houses, parks, schools, businesses, etc. is greatly increased by cars. Roads, highways, and parking lots make up over 50% of urban areas. That is ridiculous! Cars were supposed to make it easier to get around but they are in fact making it longer and more difficult.

LOSE 2000 POUNDS INSTANTLY! RIDE A BIKE!

A popular myth is that cars bring

you freedom. This is far from true. While cars may make it easier to complete spontaneous trips faster, overall they slow you down, keep you locked and bounded in the system. To pay for a car you must work extra hours that you wouldn't need to if you were car free. You must pay for gas, insurance, repairs, wrecks, injuries, parking, tickets, etc. So you are spending all this extra time working to pay for the car and you must spend extra time dealing with government bureaucracy and paperwork to get your license, register your car, acquire insurance, etc. That's freedom for you! So wouldn't it be faster just to ride your bike and take the bus or train where you need to go?

THE DEFINITE SOLUTION FOR STOPPING AIR POLLUTION!

Imagine a city where most everything is within walking or bicycling distance. Imagine clean air. Imagine being able to go on a peaceful walk without constantly hearing the noise and smelling the foul odor of traffic. Imagine being able to cross a street without worrying about a car running you over. Imagine the streets a public areas to walk, run, ride bikes, play street soccer, socialize, etc.

Imagine an adequate public transit system not constantly slowed down by too much personal automobile traffic. Imagine a fast train like BART (but more affordable) connecting Tijuana with downtown and downtown with UCSD and east county.

RIDE A BIKE!

Alternative Resources

San Diego Independent Media Center

Alternative media for local, national, and world news. When you want the complete story, and not just regurgitated spoon-fed news.
740 16th St. San Diego
619-233-5002
<http://sandiegoindymedia.org/>

World Beat Center

A multicultural, conscious, non-profit organization which is dedicated to healing the world through Education, Music, Art, and Dance. WorldBeat Center teaches traditional drumming and dance of Africa and the African diaspora.
2100 Park Blvd. San Diego, CA 92101
619-230-1190
worldbeatcenter.org

Amnesty International

Chapter 137: Please come and write letters with us on behalf of prisoners of conscience all over the world. Together we are making a difference.
When: 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm
Where: First Unitarian Church, 4190 Front St. (across from UCSD Medical Center) Parking is Free in the Ace parking lot.

UCSD chapter

Where: The Women's Center
9500 Gilman Drive, 0096
La Jolla, CA 92093-0096
located at Building 407, University Center
(858) 822-0074
e-mail: women@ucsd.edu
<http://www.ucsd.edu/women>
listservs: womens-center

CA Native Plant Society Fire, part II

Tuesday, June 19, 2001 7:30p-9:00p
Fire Management in the National Forests
by Kirsten Winter, Cleveland National Forest
Balboa Park, Casa del Prado
email: cschneid@n2.net
www.cnpsd.org

Sustainable Community Action Network

Meets first Thursday, USIU, Green Hall
10455 Pomerado Rd., Scripps Ranch
Info: 858-503-1221
email: lyons@gaialink.com
www.scansd.net

Food Not Bombs/Activist Picnic: Feed Homeless!

Come feed the hungry homeless with Activist picnic and let us enforce food as a RIGHT and not a "privilege". We meet in Embarcadero park @ 1:30pm (Downtown on the bay) Bring Vegan/Vegetarian food to donate/feed to the homeless and have fun with other activists playing soccer, tag, and more!
For more info: JesusWasAFraud@anarchist.com

Native Americans Rights Network

For more info call: 760-358-7232

UCSD Co-ops:

General Store

The G-Store is located in the Student Cooperative Center across from the Bike Store and the Food Co-op.
Monday-Thursday 9:00am-5:00pm
Friday 9:00am-4:00pm
(858) 534-3932

Groundwork Books

Groundwork is located in the Student Cooperative Center in between the Pub and Grove Cafe.
Monday-Thursday 10:00am-8:00pm
Friday & Saturday 10:00am-6:00pm
<http://groundwork.ucsd.edu/>
(858) 452-9625

Food Co-op

Located in the Student Cooperative Center next to the Bike Shop.
Monday-Thursday 7:30am-6:00pm
Friday 7:30am-5:00pm
(858) 546-8339

Ché Café

Vegan all-you-can-eat's every Tuesday and Thursday 5:00pm-7:00pm, Check the Ché's website for event schedule.
The Ché is located on Scholar's Drive, south of Rev-elle College (right down the hill from stonehenge).
<http://checcafe.ucsd.edu/>
(858) 534-2311

everyday movement in black and red

flimsy paper in his fingers
black and red all over
focusing on ink
muted muffled voices
the poor folk petty banter
of the people he loved so much
who painted useless pictures
with triple digit shoes
and jet engine stereos
and jewels designed by status
and he cried to make them free
but he couldn't make them free
who would ever listen?

he would be called crazy
a red eyed rebel kid
with ink stains on his hands
black and red all over
the bus, sidewalk, and street
he'd paint the poor town red
black and red all over
if only he could show them
that freedom is in movement
and feet can never shift
when triple digit shoes
are nailed to slave ship floors
when triple digit shoes
are nailed to labor forced

mike rancourt

the new indicator

the views expressed in this paper do not represent those of the AS, the Chancellor, UCSD, or the Regents.
copy which is printed without a byline may be assumed to represent the position of the new indicator collective.

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

contributors and staff: adriana, alex, gordon, guillermo, howard, juffe, kellen, kris, melissa, mikell, mike, paul, rob, sam, thy

<http://scw.ucsd.edu/hst/>

UCSD
RADIO

live at
HELD //112 239 214 11 8000
located in the
student
cooperative
center

Letters to the Guardian

part one of an on-going series

To the Editor [of the Guardian]:

I am writing this in response to Brian's Wilkner's article "Attention Quasi-Marxists ..." (14 May). Wilkner's discussion is severely underinformed. He misrepresents the majority of activists he discusses, unjustly dismisses the validity of their concerns, and completely fails to acknowledge the ways in which they seek open, rational discourse as well as progressive action.

Firstly, Wilkner presents the exceptional as representing the whole through his caricature of "leftist anti-capitalists." In fact, those who share these concerns express themselves in a variety of ways, from pacifistic to confrontational. For example, the organizers of FTAA demonstrations in San Diego/Tijuana requested that all participants agree to non-violence and the demonstrations proceeded in exactly this manner. Wilkner further claims that these activists are driven by an "ingrained hatred for the establishment". My own experience with a broad variety of activists has convinced me that many "leftist anti-capitalists" are deeply compassionate individuals who seek to help all forms of life that have borne the costs of capitalism. This deep sense of care may generate feelings of

remiss at the status quo, but leaves no room for hatred.

Secondly, Wilkner breezily moves from contempt of activist methods to a dismissal of their concern. There is no question that "leftist anti-capitalists" speak and act from a tradition of critical thinking that includes not merely Marx himself, but many philosophers that preceded him and contemporary scholar/activists such as Noam Chomsky, Angela Davis, and Ralph Nader. If Wilkner thinks there is a substantial difference between them and the "quasi-Marxists" he criticizes, he should pay more attention. Furthermore, good reasons remain for taking this tradition seriously. The "shameless, direct, brutal exploitation" that Marx analyzed and criticized in the 19th century has not simply disappeared. On our own campus, janitors (along with over 400 students) recently rallied for better working conditions. Many of these individuals are paid only \$6.25 per hour and have no health benefits. One of them was recently fired simply because she was working to organize the janitors into a union (50% are non-union). Is this not "shameless and direct exploitation?" The current craze over "globalization" makes no mistake over what is 'globalized': it is capital, and

we at the n.i. believe that the guardian gets away with printing far too much trash "news" in its pages. much of this goes unopposed in large due to the limited nature of the letters that they print - rarely will you find letters opposing guardian authors' views. we have therefore set up this forum in the n.i. to provide a space for students & community members to speak out when the guardian gets it wrong.

Marx's analysis and criticism are more relevant now than they have been in the 150 years since Marx began the research that led to Capital. For example, thanks to NAFTA, American corporations can now build factories in Mexico, where environmental and safety standards are relatively less strict, and where they can pay workers even less than the US minimum wage. Is this not "shameless, direct, brutal exploitation?" The mass media, themselves owned by corporate giants, do not cover these issues adequately. The public remains seriously uninformed, which is precisely how corporations like it. Those interested in a broader perspective should explore alternative media sources such as the UTNE Reader (www.utne.com), The Nation (www.thenation.com), or the Independent Media Center (sandiegoindymedia.org, www.indymedia.org).

Finally, Wilkner incorrectly asserts that the "leftist anti-capitalists" from our campus and the community have "denounced the opportunity to engage in discourse over their concerns" or form "watchdog groups" to carry out proactive changes. At UCSD, open forums for discussion are provided by alternative publications such as The New Indicator,

the Committee for World Democracy movie series, and student organizations such as the Campus Greens and the International Socialist Organization. The public artwork that Wilkner disparages in his article can be said to support such dialogue as well, since it seems to have encouraged him to articulate his own thoughts to a wider audience and invite others to respond. Furthermore, positive activism is alive and well at UCSD. Most recently, a large coalition formed to oppose the Fee Referendum, due to their concerns over the neglect of student input into the referendum process and the proposed expansion of the corporate ventures in the Price Center. Many members of this coalition are currently involved in an open-membership group that is working to design a more fair-minded fee referendum (See the 13 May Guardian, front page). This is but one example. Spend any time at the co-ops, the Che Café, or the activities of the many campus organizations that work towards a more equitable society, and you will quickly come to appreciate the extent of the long-term grassroots movements that exist on this "very political campus."

Melissa Schweisguth, Graduate Student

Fact Sheet About Janitors at UCSD

What's Goin' on at UCSD?

Currently, UCSD contracts to non-union contractors that pay janitors poverty wages starting at \$6.25 an hour. Right now, the current SD living wage is \$11.24 an hour. This means that \$11.24 is the wage that each parent of a family of four needs to make in order to make it to the poverty level. Or, a single parent needs to make \$22.48 per hour. This amount includes merely the basic necessities like food, clothes, and housing - the amount is so high because San Diego has one of the highest costs of living. Janitors are simply asking for a living wage.

UCSD STUDENTS FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE is a group of students that fights for the rights and lives of janitors. Non-union janitors work hard to clean our buildings and facilities such as Center Hall, RIMAC and classrooms all over campus.

What is Sub-Contracting?

To cut costs, starting in 1995, UCSD sub-contracts its janitorial work. This means that UCSD pays companies to hire and manage its janitorial services. Currently, UCSD contracts to Merchants and Bergensons, which are both non-union cleaning contractors in San Diego that disrespect workers while paying them poverty wages. By subcontracting, UCSD is using our public tax dollars to support this system of disrespect and poor pay. Janitors often have to work 2 jobs to sustain their families. There are also serious concerns of legitimacy of these contractors within the janitorial industry.

UCSD union janitors represented by AFSCME Local 3299 are not sub-con-

tracted and make approximately \$11-12 per hour, with benefits and a pension. Non-union janitors are working side by side with union janitors doing equal work. Equal work deserves equal pay! The university should follow their own example and hire union contractors that pay a living wage to their workers.

The Janitors' Movement

In 1999 and 2000, 18 Service Employee International Unions (SEIU) negotiated collective bargaining agreements covering 81,000 workers. SEIU locals helped janitors organize in 25 cities. More than 100,000 janitors joined forces to win better wages and benefits.

Last year with the support of students, community members, and religious leaders, SD downtown janitors received a 90 cent raise and health care; suburban janitors received a 15% raise with additional vacation days.

But Now the Struggle Continues at UCSD....

Do You Want to Help?

Call Vice Chancellor of Business Affairs, Steve Relyea at (858)534-3390 and Chancellor Robert Dynes at (858)534-3135, and let them know that we won't tolerate this situation any longer.

Contact UCSD Students for Economic Justice at 858.534.5994 or email sejucsd@riseup.net for more information.

The following is from a document by the Maintenance Cooperation Trust Fund concerning Merchants (one of the two Sub-contractors that UCSD uses for janitorial services).

[Document]

The Maintenance Cooperation Trust Fund (MCTF) is a watchdog organization that investigates cleaning contractors in the janitorial industry. The MCTF is an independent program that works in cooperation with the Federal and State agencies to prosecute irresponsible contractors.

Merchants Building Maintenance has been investigated and found guilty of violating federal labor law by the Department of Labor. In 1992, Merchants was cited \$79,000 by the U.S. Department of Labor strike force for employing four minors. Two investigations in 1999 found Merchants in violation of failure to pay overtime, U.S. Department of Labor case numbers 1044304 and 1032013.

The MCTF is currently in the process of investigating three of Merchants contracts, one of which has been assumed by the State Department of Labor Standards and Enforcement. Our preliminary investigations allege labor law violations at the Beverly Center, 611 Wilshire, and 818 7th Street. The alleged violations are the following:

- Failure to pay overtime
- Failure to pay hours worked; and
- Child Labor

There is an ongoing investigation by the Department of Labor Standards and Enforcement which alleges that Merchants is currently employing two minors, approximately of the ages 13 and 16 at 818 7th Street in Los Angeles, case number 35-21911-146.

GM Foods:

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for their continued livelihood. (source: www.rafi.org Feb. 25, 2000 news release) Gene patenting, Terminator seeds, and Traitor seeds are means taken by large biotech agribusiness to monopolize the commercial farm industry and eventually, poorer third world farms. Regulatory agencies have not done enough to make sure that the industry does not take over the world's food supply nor have they adequately inspected the safety of GM foods. Already, many countries in Europe and Japan have protested against GM food and corporate takeover of the world's food supply. To learn more about genetically modified foods, check out the many resources on the web or use the library, and decide for yourself.

Educate and Protest

Biodev 2001 is coming to San Diego on June 24-27! Rallies, marches, and conference will coincide with BIO2001, the largest ever convention of the Biotechnology Industry Association. Beyond Biodev 2001 is the 5th Grassroots Gathering to Celebrate Biodiversity and Question Genetic Engineering. Speakers from around the globe including Vandana Shiva, Anuradha Mittal, Peter Rosset, Percy Schmeiser, Britt Bailey, Claire Cummings, Brewster and Cathleen Kneen, will be in attendance. The panels will address many of the pressing concerns about the emerging technologies of genetic engineering from Biopiracy (corporate patents on life-forms) to the safety of genetically modified foods (GMOs). Much of the world's peoples have been voicing their concerns and expressing strong resistance to these technologies for years. It is imperative that the people of the US take responsibility for our nations role in its pervasiveness. If you would like to attend the conferences, please register on through the Biodev website before JUNE 7th. Any further information on genetic engineering issues, pro and con, may be accessed through links on the website: www.biodev.org

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