

BCA Dispatch

Newsletter of the **Boston-Cambridge Alliance for Democracy**
January 2002

September 11, 2001
Disaster has struck
Like April 14, 1912
Giants have sunk

*Icarus plays with blinding fire
Fights with the stars' power
Promises of victory
Bad omen*

From Icarus to the Titanic
Down to the Pentagon
Greek tragedy and
Shining hubris

*The Gods are angered
The whole world all aboard
Titanic leaves for the Infinite
Bon voyage!*

From Troy to Palestine
Up to New York
Stories of war, terror and
Burning vengeance

—Alain Mignault
Quebec and MIT

BCA CHAPTER NEWS

Chapter Calendar

(Continued on page 8)

The Boston-Cambridge Alliance for Democracy's next meeting will be on **Wednesday, January 16**, from **7:00 to 9:15 p.m.** at **Cambridge Friends Meeting**, 5 Longfellow Park (9 min. walk from Harvard Square T station, west on Brattle St.)

"The Psychology of War: Domestic and global impacts of the war on terrorism" Discuss the issues with Harvard social psychologist **Herbert C. Kelman**. For 30 years Prof. Kelman has brought together influential Israelis & Palestinians in problem-solving workshops to encourage constructive negotiating, peace, and a mutually enhancing relationship between the two peoples.

* Preview of powwow on BCA concerns for our next five years.

MIND vs. BUSH

Not entirely by accident, this issue of the Dispatch contains four pieces by social psychologists. Your editor is one, with reflections on "tragedy". Alain Mignault, who briefed BCA last February on demonstrations in Quebec, wrote the poem above. Herb Kelman will be our guest on Jan 16. And another former colleague, Phil Zimbardo, provides the following analysis which stands midway between the American Psychological Association's board of directors (give tech support to victims and Bush) and our focus on personal relations with corporations, finance, government and primarily civil society. —Ed.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF TERRORISM

Mind games and mind healing

by Philip Zimbardo, President, American Psychological Association

As the war in Afghanistan winds down and the relentless hunt for Osama bin Laden continues, our government is gearing up for what is promised to be a long battle against the shadowy,



ubiquitous enemy of world wide Terrorism.

Leaders from the corporate, scientific and technical sectors of our country are collaborating to develop strategies for combating almost every conceivable kind of terrorist attack—bio-terrorism, cyber-terrorism, nuclear-terrorism, terrorism against our reservoirs, grain stores, food delivery systems, and of course airlines, tunnels and bridges. They are working on the assumption of international enemies with sophisticated technologies and ample resources to deliver lethal attacks that would cripple our nation's functioning.

Putting their big security plans into operation will cost billions of "better safe now than sorry later" taxpayers' dollars. Given the current state of national angst over the devastating attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, along with the anthrax mail contamination, most Americans are ready to pay almost any price for greater security.

But what is missing in this big view of the demonic, technologically savvy Enemy bent on mass destruction? Missing is the recognition of the less obvious psychological perspective on what terrorism is all about. Terrorism is the process

(Continued on Page 3) >>

The End of Tragedy

Everybody agrees that the deaths of nearly 3250 people in the aerial attacks of September 11 were tragic. Certainly all these premature and violent deaths were horrible, indiscriminate (apart from the perpetrators) murders, pathetic for surviving family and friends. But whether they were truly "tragic" depends on each victim's story.

To be a tragedy in the Greek or the Shakespearian sense, the victim would have to be partially responsible for a forbidden act, but not consciously responsible. Sophocles' Oedipus killed a challenger on the road who turned out to be his father (parricide), and later married a woman who turned out to be his early-estranged mother (incest). When he discovered these things, he blinded himself—a prototypically "tragic" fate attributed to knowing gods. Shakespeare's Othello was set up by the scheming Iago to suspect that his wife had been unfaithful. Intensely jealous, he smothered her, which led to general mayhem and Othello's suicide. His death was "tragic" because Othello would not have killed his gentle wife if he had not had those character faults—jealousy and pride—which rendered him blind to her innocence.

The people who died in the Pentagon crash may have included some who understood the provocative nature of US military designs on oil fields and pipeline routes throughout the Middle East, and helped to implement strategies to take them over by force (ethically forbidden). Their deaths were equally horrible, but they cannot be said to be "tragic" because the victims knew their responsibility. That they knew they were putting thousands of Middle Eastern combatants and possibly hundreds of thousands of noncombatants at risk of death, while they themselves sat in the apparent safety of an American office building, only compounded the ethical transgression.

Some in the World Trade Center were high level agents of overseas commercial enterprises which thrive on US economic, political, and military pressure, for example, through "structural adjustment" requirements of IMF and World Bank loans, or treaty provisions forced chiefly by the US Treasury Department on "middle powers" and "third world" nations through the World Trade Organization (WTO). Some of these people were fully aware of their complicity in imperial adventures, and so cannot rightly be called tragic victims.

In contrast, the deaths of most victims in the World Trade Center crash were "innocent" of provocation and thus, like Oedipus or Othello, tragic. Some were artists, researchers, teachers, and clerks, and of course fire-fighters and other rescuers. Perhaps most who worked in the buildings were only cogs in the wheels of empire and probably proud to be helping "to bring American civilization with its affluence and democracy to the disadvantaged of the world." Their deaths, shadowed in chauvinistic bias, were tragic.

There is a larger domestic tragedy behind these deaths. That is our general ignorance of the cogs and wheels of our empire—ignorance of our system of global exploitation and domination or intended domination. This ignorance makes us innocent when as adults in a literate society we should be aware. Like the crashing and burning of an airplane in the guts of a skyscraper, the only cause many of us see is terrorists at the wheel, and the "evil" people who inspired or sent them. Few of us ask about creation of banana-republics and the assassination of elected independents. Few recognize the currents of US aggrandizement from the Cherokee lands to Mexico to China to

Panama and the Philippines to the Marshall Plan to Guatemala and Chile and to the Persian Gulf and Afghanistan. In school and on TV we are treated mostly to "progress" and "leadership" from the top.

Most of us are not researchers—we depend on journalists to research and sort the causes of dramatic events, and all too often pay no attention to quiet or continuous events—some heartening like the educating of girls in India, and some grinding like the forcing of peasants from their lands in Colombia. Some of us are taught in school how to research civic topics, and then if we're lucky we take a 60-hour job and have no time or energy for research. We give our charity to feed the poor rather than to researchers and writers and videographers who may not produce immediately useful results. Most of us are unaware of the concentration of media ownership and the gentrification of journalism, with increased conservatism and self-censorship. As cinematic and communication technologies advance, the images and rhythms of selected "news" events enthrall us and contribute to our ignorance. Are we better off for seeing the fiery crash into the South Tower ten or twenty times rather than once? Are we better off for seeing the frightened people fleeing ten or twenty times—or only in the 'papers?

How can we see and understand the actions and interactions of many agencies of the US and other governments (and the UN) and of our and other organs of business and of civil society, over decades, extracting wealth from foreign lands while eroding the ecosphere and setting back efforts for equality? How can we expect ordinary folks there to love us? How can we not expect a fundamentalist backlash?

Yes, we need the history of many Howard Zinns and Eduardo Galeanos, the current documentation of many Noam Chomskys and Maude Barlows, the reflections of renegade aristocrats like Lewis Lapham and synthesizers like Walden Bello, and of system-analysts like Donella Meadows. With this we may see the end of tragedy. Such enlightenment can help us conceive of alternatives to unethical and unsustainable current policies, and encourage us to make informed choices to ensure a constructive national policy.



The Father, the Son, and the Unholy Ghost
FLASH Bush Sr, Bush Jr, & Enron Corp. in Scandal

"By any yardstick, Enron is a massive financial scandal, a tale of concealed debt and shell companies, incompetent auditing and scanty regulatory oversight not to mention the sudden impoverishment of thousands of employees obliged to hold their pension savings in now worthless Enron shares, even as senior executives cashed in stock and stock options for up to \$1bn (£700m) during 2000 and 2001."

—Rupert Cornwell, *The Independent*, UK
 The Bushes and Enron have been very close. Stay tuned for hearings in the US Senate. —Ed.

Hate*

Ellen Denoncour (age 13), New Hampton, NH

We think we own this country
and I admit that sometimes we do
and I admit that sometimes it seems easier to hate
than to fully understand
but I don't hate
I don't kill
so why should I have to grow up in a world that does
why should I have to grow up
in this ghetto of a country called AmeriKKKa
where no one respects anyone else
for their race for their gender
and look at this so-called dominant "race"
we're supposed to be the "civilized" ones
but we're the ones with
blood dripping from our thoughts
empty-headed thoughts
twisted jealous thoughts
of crime and violence
some free country
some equal rights for all
I think what we have here are some sick lies

Advice to Teen Women -- And All of Us What You Can Do to Bring On Justice!*

Finding out why this happened can help you make sure your government officials don't let this happen again. Here are some ways to get you started.

- § Organize discussion groups at your school for you and your classmates. Here are some topics to explore together:
- § Relationship between the U.S. and countries within the Middle East
- § Past U.S. involvement in Afghanistan
- § The Taliban's laws
- § FBI and terrorism Immigration laws and visas into the U.S.

Look here for information:

- ▶ Read newspapers
- ▶ Listen to National Public Radio shows about the issue
- ▶ Watch Frontline's show about Osama bin Laden on PBS
- ▶ Visit PBS.org and read Bin Laden and others' letters
- ▶ Visit alternative news Web sites such as
www.alternet.org, www.commondreams.org,
www.igc.org, and www.indymedia.org
- ▶ Get information from the Center for Defense Information at
www.cdi.org or 202-332-0600
- ▶ Visit the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan's Web site at www.rawa.org
- ▶ Read *Teen Voices*, "Busting Stereotypes: Muslim Women In America Break It Down," Volume 9, Issue 3
- ▶ Read *Teen Voices*, Part 1 of You Can Make a Difference Series, "Nell is Changing the World," Volume 10, Issue 2
- ▶ Read *Teen Voices Online* and use the bulletin boards to share information

* Reprinted courtesy Teen Voices, Alison Amoroso, Editor, Boston

Zimbardo (Continued from Page 1) of inducing fear in the general population by means of acts that undercut an established sense of trust, stability and confidence in one's personal world. Unpredictable, dramatic acts of seemingly random violence are the terrorist's signature. Our fear is a realistic emotional response to events that can harm us, and we react to fear by fleeing or fighting it, or freezing in its presence.

Fear becomes anxiety when it generalizes beyond the specific danger situation to become a more pervasive feeling of personal vulnerability to things that are not intrinsically dangerous, but are linked symbolically or historically to danger. Anxiety may be triggered by current events that link to unresolved earlier conflicts, to feelings of loss of control, or to childhood states of inadequacy. The actual danger of most terrorist attacks is relatively small compared to on-going dangers in our every day lives, such as accidents, stress-induced heart attacks, obesity-induced diabetes, or disability and death from smoking.

It is the irrational anxiety that terrorists are able to spread wide and deep that amplifies their impact. Kill one president, make everyone feel threatened. Torture and rape a few and make many feel insecure. Destroy a building and have citizens worry that their's will be next. The terrorists' omnipresent weapon is exaggerated fear that spreads into action-crippling anxieties, especially when delivered repeatedly by television and print media. It is more likely that terrorists would suicide-bomb some urban subways or time-bomb a few rural school buses than poison our water or food supply.

The key to combating terrorism is adopting their minimalist mind set of the rippling impact of singularly dramatic deeds, not using the lens of our grand vision of what major calamity we would inflict given our power--if we were terrorists.

In a profound sense, everything of terrorism is about psychology. Beyond their mind games is the way we cope with their threat. When national leaders repeatedly issue alarms for hyper-vigilance, they ignore all the psychological research about the negative effects of non-specific warnings without any action focus--only making us more paranoid and less mindfully alert.

Many of the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks have turned to psychologists for counsel, therapy, and aid to help with their overwhelming personal and family grief and stress, and we have continued to give them our services freely. Psychology is also at work in the remarkable transformation that has been taking place in communities throughout the United States. We have changed since our initial sense of feeling victimized as the hated enemy of unknown forces, as being vulnerable in a way Americans have never felt on our homeland. We are developing a more thoughtful, mature outlook on life, sensitive to the preciousness and fragility of all life, and aware of the need to connect more deeply to family and friends.

Research shows that *reinforcing one's social support network* is the single most powerful act any of us can do to improve our health and longevity. There seems to be a shift away from our preoccupation with future goals and materialistic ambitions towards a better blending of our time frames to include present joys and indulgences as well as embracing past links to our roots and spiritual values. In volunteering money, blood and services, more Americans than ever before are reaching out to help our near and distant neighbors. We have all been the beneficiaries of learning of the sacrifices of so many ordinary men and women in police, fire and emergency forces at Ground Zero, who have become the nation's new breed of hero, replacing celebrities and

the idle rich and famous.

The losses of Sept. 11 still hurt and sadden us, but we are emerging as wiser, and are collectively discovering new sources of resiliency that are apparent only when our resolve and courage are put to extreme tests. We are going beyond simplistic patriotism, with its songs and slogans, to question how much of our basic freedoms we are willing to surrender for an illusion of security. We are becoming aware that there are not simple, immediate solutions for complex problems that have been in the making for decades. We can be proud of the ways in which most Americans have demonstrated tolerance for the ethnic and religious diversity that so enriches our national purpose. We can now better appreciate the depth of resiliency that has always been the hallmark of people of color and the poor in our nation, learning from them that a sense of community and kinship helps transcend suffering and victimization.

Psychology is all about making the human connection, about understanding and contributing to enriching human nature. And it is about our enduring televised imprinted memory of September 11. Vibrant lives of thousands of people from New York City and its neighboring Global Village are now images held tenderly in the arms of our million memories. Psychology is about thinking, feeling and acting—sometimes to create a bit of hell and sometimes a bit of heaven on earth.

CORPORATE GLOBALIZATION

U.S. vs Venezuela: The Scent of Another Coup

by Conn Hallinan, San Francisco Examiner, December 29, 2001

There is the smell of a coup in the air these days. It was like this in Iran just before the 1953 U.S.-backed coup overthrew the Mossedeah government and installed the Shah. It has the feel of 1963 in South Vietnam, before the military takeover switched on the light at the end of the long and terrible Southeast Asian tunnel. It is hauntingly similar to early September 1973, before the coup in Chile ushered in 20 years of blood and darkness.

Early last month, the National Security Agency, the Pentagon and the U.S. State Department held a two-day meeting on U.S. policy toward Venezuela. Similar such meetings took place in 1953, 1963, and 1973, as well as before coups in Guatemala, Brazil and Argentina. It should send a deep chill down the backs of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and the populist coalition that took power in 1998.

The catalyst for the Nov. 5-7 interagency get together was a comment by Chavez in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist assault on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. While Chavez sharply condemned the attack, he questioned the value of bombing Afghanistan, calling it "fighting terrorism with terrorism." In response, the Bush Administration temporarily withdrew its Ambassador and convened the meeting.

The outcome was a requirement that Venezuela "unequivocally" condemn terrorism, including repudiating anything and anyone the Bush Administration defines as "terrorist." Since this includes both Cuba (which Venezuela has extensive trade relations with) and rebel groups in neighboring Colombia (which Chavez is sympathetic to), the demand was the equivalent of throwing down the gauntlet.

The spark for the statement might have been Sept. 11, but the dark clouds gathering over Venezuela have much more to do with enduring matters—like oil, land and power—than current issues like terrorism.

The Chavez government is presently trying to change the 60-year old agreement with foreign oil companies that charges them as little as 1 percent in royalties, plus hands out huge tax breaks. There is a lot at stake here. Venezuela has 77 billion barrels of proven reserves, and is the US's third biggest source of oil. It is also a major cash cow for the likes of Phillips Petroleum and ExxonMobil. If the new law goes through, U.S. and French oil companies will have to pony up a bigger slice of their take.

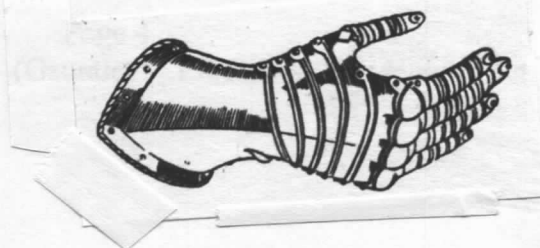
A larger slice is desperately needed in Venezuela. In spite of the fact that oil generates some \$30 billion each year, 80 percent of Venezuelans are, according to government figures, "poor," and half of those are malnourished. Most rural Venezuelans have no access to land except to work it for someone else, because 2 percent of the population controls 60 percent of the land.

The staggering gap between a tiny slice of "haves" and the sea of "have nots" is little talked about in the American media, which tends to focus on President Chavez's long-winded speeches and unrest among the urban wealthy and middle class. U.S. newspapers covered the Dec. 10 "strike" by business leaders and a section of the union movement protesting a series of economic laws and land reform proposals, but not the fact that the Chavez government has reduced inflation from 40 percent to 12 percent, generated economic growth of 4 percent, and increased primary school enrollment by one million students.

Rumblings from Washington, strikes by business leaders, and pot-banging demonstrations by middle-class housewives are the fare most Americans get about Venezuela these days. For any balance one has to go to the reporting of local journalists John Marshall and Christian Parenti. In a Dec. 10 article in the Chicago-based bi-weekly, *In These Times*, the two reporters give "the other side" that the US media always goes on about but rarely practices. The attempts by the Venezuelan government to diversify its economy, turn over idle land to landless peasants, encourage the growth of coops based on the highly successful Hungarian model, increase health spending fourfold, and provide drugs for 30 to 40 percent below cost.

Alleviation of poverty is not on Washington's radar screen these days. Instead, U.S. development loans have been frozen, and the State Department's specialist on Latin America, Peter Romero has accused the Chavez government of supporting terrorism in Colombia, Bolivia and Ecuador. These days that is almost a declaration of war and certainly a green light to any anti-Chavez forces considering a military coup.

U.S. hostility to Venezuela's efforts to overcome its lack of development has helped add that country to the South American "arc of instability" that runs from Caracas in the north to Buenos Aires in the south, and includes Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia and Peru. Failed neoliberal economic policies, coupled with corruption and authoritarianism have made the region a powder keg, as recent events in Argentina demonstrate. And the Bush Administration's antidote? Matches, incendiary statements, and dark armies moving in the night.



215-214 Fast Track Vote: The Shocking Details

"That last GOP textile guy was crying!"

by Lori Wallach, Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch

...On Thursday [Dec. 6] we went into the morning with a 20-vote lead. (Made possible by incredibly hard work by many including the cross-sectoral grassroots with whom we work, dedicated Democratic leaders in Congress and excellent work top-to-bottom by the U.S. AFL-CIO.)

By 4 PM, when the time expired on the Fast Track floor vote, it was 214-211 in our favor. (The White House, with Bush himself calling frantically, had used the wartime do-not-betray-your-president line to get some 7 right-wing opponents of WTO/NAFTA/etc who have ALWAYS voted against Fast Track. The GOP House leaders had beaten the living daylights out of some rust belt and Florida Members (and promised them stuff on citrus trade and anti-dumping stuff opposite of what one would understand came out of Doha) getting another seven votes. And three Dems, for reasons still to be understood, one of whom was in a news conference in the AM against Fast Track, shocked us by voting for it at the last minute.)

BUT—we still had won if only by three votes. Then the Speaker of the House (the Chair of the entire House of Representatives) OVERRODE the powerful chair of the trade committee (the infamous Bill Thomas) and promised on the floor in a letter to Republicans from textile and apparel producing states to UNDO what little concessions of new market access for textiles and apparel had been granted to African, Caribbean and South and Central American countries in previous trade bills (AGOA, CBI, ADNA) The deal, which Chairman Thomas had refused to grant, was that the new market access granted in those three trade deals would apply only to clothes made from fabric not only woven in the U.S., but died and finished here too! FYI, the U.S. textile and apparel unions did not call for this language—it was an industry thing because these are automated steps in the U.S., not job-creating steps.

With this, one more textile-and-apparel GOP voted for Fast Track, the GOP Leaders then physically prodded one more right winger—who had been holding out praying his vote was not needed by the leadership and that he could vote his usual no—up to vote yes AND they dragged a GOP textile guy who had already voted no up to take his no card out and change his vote to yes (about 15 minutes after he had cast it)—making a tie. The last and 215th vote which beat us was another textile GOP—who is predicted to lose his seat for this vote. He used the takeback on AGOA and CBI as his cover. But basically he just crumbled under the pressure of all of the GOP leaders; the President called him on the floor, etc. He signed his own "Get Out Of Congress Fast" card with this vote and did it anyway.

Just as this guy was casting the deciding vote, Chairman

Thomas, who is Mr. Trade-uber-alles, raised the so-called "red card" to switch his own vote to no and bring down his OWN FAST TRACK, i.e., he was switching because he could not bear seeing his three previous trade bills gutted for such a close and uncertain passage of a trade procedure that may or may not lead to any more agreements, giving how divisive trade is in the U.S. He was crying. That last GOP textile guy (envisioning his imminent return to the private sector?) was crying. And literally 10 seconds (it is all timed and reported) after that last guy

voted before Thomas really could switch (who knows if he really would have?) the GOP leaders gavelled the vote to a close.

EVERY RULE OF DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURE was broken—not the least that we had won and the GOP stopped the clock. DEMOCRATS WERE SCREAMING AT THE CHAIR "regular order, regular order," meaning that the time had long expired, we had won, and the chair needed to call the vote. Instead, the House GOP leaders busted the rules of procedure, stopped the vote clock and used rally-around-the-flag wartime manipulations and "you're the last vote" pressure tactics to get a bunch of Members to switch votes.

Well, the "war" is winding up, the "deals" given will prove empty quickly, and being the last and 215th vote when it is a vote against your constituents only makes you a hero to the GOP leadership. At home, being the vote that saves NAFTA expansion for a democratic defeat has quite a different effect—please meet Rep. Bob 215 Ney, R-OH) or Rep. Susan 215 Davis (D-CA). This week, several of these weasels will get gift certificates from their local coalitions to their local tattoo parlor for free "215" tattoos—because we intend to make sure about 20 of them are remembered that way for good. Democracy is like a muscle—only works when exercised.

* And of course all of our non-lobbying research, analysis, etc., is underway too, having collected all of the promises, side letters and other baloney expect our first post 12-6 report to be on the deals and corporate \$\$\$. There is a big money story underlying why the House GOP would put several seats vital to their maintaining a majority at risk for this latest corporate boondoggle. ✓

ACTION ALERTS

Starts This Thursday! Call Anyway!

Civil society SEMINAR on **A FORCE MORE POWERFUL**
"Studies in Mass Nonviolent Social Movements"

Adapted from the Peter Ackerman, Jack DuVall PBS Series.

Jan 10 thru June, 2002. Thursdays, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

AFSC Offices, 2151 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge MA (near Porter Square MBTA) First Thurs. Video; 3rd Thurs. Reading and discussion. Preregistration & reading required. Space is limited.

Contact: Brit Eckhart 617-722-2637x2 or Juniper@greenet.net

Sponsored by Boston-Cambridge Alliance for Democracy and the AFSC Peace and Economic Security Program.

Jan. 10 (video) Denmark resists Nazi occupation

Further parts will deal with strategic nonviolence in South Africa, Chile, Poland, India, and the US South

Couldn't Make It to Davos, Switzerland? Then Protest Where They Meet This Month--New York

Join up with Students for Global Justice, who publish this call ♣♣
Target: **World Economic Forum, Waldorf Astoria Hotel, Manhattan**
When: Thursday, **January 31st** to Sunday, **February 3rd** 2002
Meet At: **Columbia University in New York City**

1. BACKGROUND ON THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM (WEF)

Every year, 1,000 top business leaders, come together to shape the global agenda, while political elites and media luminaries gaze on admiringly. By its own description, the WEF is a special club of elite business leaders, whose annual meeting is the world's global business summit.

What is the WEF's agenda?

At the New York WEF summit, the world's richest CEOs will collabo-

rate with the world's most powerful politicians to set the global economic agenda. Meanwhile, in the halls of Congress, the world's most powerful politicians are collaborating with the world's richest CEOs to expand the "war on terrorism."

The WEF agenda has already led to a world in which every day 19,000 children die in the developing world from undernourishment. While the world's richest 200 people have doubled their wealth in the last five years. This neoliberal economic agenda has also led to a world in which the U.S. government, spending over \$270 million annually on its military budget, supports dictatorships and autocratic regimes, and leads other nations into wars that kill millions of more innocent people. Most recently, this agenda has led the U.S. government into another protracted war, while it attacks the rights of workers, students, and immigrants at home. It has led to a world where the people of Tuvalu are faced with the possibility of fleeing their island nation if the rise in sea level caused by global warming continues, where as many as 50,000 endangered species disappear forever each year, and where 214,000 acres of rainforest—an area larger than New York City—is cut down every day.

What can I do?

It's time to make the connection. The same people who stand to gain from extending the war are perpetuating the global economic conditions that foster terrorism. Capitalism propels war, and war protects capital. U.S. imperialism and global corporate domination go hand in hand.

In the name of democracy, in the name of economic justice, in the name of the global anti-imperialist struggle, and in the name of the Earth, we call all students, activists, rabble-rousers, and concerned citizens to share their ideas, fears, inspirations and tactics. Our "leaders" will never make the necessary changes; it's up to us to do it for ourselves!

Join us to say

- NO to the War on Terrorism,
- NO to the WEF,
- NO to the global economic conditions that foster terrorism,
- and, YES to a world organized around principles of democracy, equity, sustainability and solidarity.

2. NATIONAL STUDENT MOBILIZATION AND CONFERENCE

What is the outline for the conference?

The four-day conference will comprise of **three days of workshops and panels, mostly in the evenings** and on Thursday and Friday so as not to conflict with **direct actions to shut down the WEF being planned in the city on the weekend.**

We expect hundreds of students from all over the nation, from California, the Pacific Northwest, the Midwest, the South and the East Coast. We're in contact with students abroad in Canada, Europe and Asia. Together, and in solidarity with other initiatives against the WEF, we will seek to model the world we wish to create.

What are the workshops, panel discussions and forums about?

- *Legal, media, medical and tactical trainings*
- *Forums on the history of the WEF and the policies it promotes*
- *Workshops on globalization, labor, sustainable development, and human rights*
- *Education about the environmental impact of globalization*
- *Speakers on the corporate influences behind US foreign policy decisions*
- *Focus on indigenous peoples' right to self-sustainability*

And much more, specific topics TBA.

3. HOW TO GET INVOLVED AND FOR MORE INFORMATION

How can I register for the conference?

To cover the costs of the conference, we ask that participants pay a registration fee on a sliding scale from \$5 to \$10. No one will be turned away from the door due to lack of funds. The collected funds will go towards the reservation of spaces, rental of sound equipment, etc. You can pre-register for the conference by sending a check or money order to the Columbia Student Solidarity Network. Please email the WEF Counter-Summit Organizing Collective (www.globaljustice@peopleforpeace.org) for more information.

Where will I stay?

Arrangements are being made to provide housing for all out of town students. To reserve a space ahead of time, please email the WEF Counter-Summit Organizing Collective (globaljustice@peopleforpeace.org) for more information.

We cannot provide **transportation to New York**. However, many local and regional groups are organizing either group bus or plane trips to New York. We encourage you to use The Anti-Capitalist Convergence Ride Board (**Boston?** try Basav Sen 617 628 2928--Ed.] (<http://www.abolishthebank.org/en/transit.html>) to either find or offer transportation. If that doesn't work, e-mail email the WEF Counter-Summit Organizing Collective (globaljustice@peopleforpeace.org), and we will do our best to put you in touch with a group organizing transportation from your area.

Where can get more information or help organize the conference?

More information about the National Student Mobilization and Conference will be posted at The Students for Global Justice website (<http://www.studentsforglobaljustice.org>). Check for updates.

GUIDELINES for INDY PAGE editors

BCA Dispatch is experimenting with an Indy Page (opposite)—a page of 850-900 words edited independently by and for *Dispatch* readers. It may consist of one article or several, with or without graphics. Ideally, the Indy Page editor should have some experience in editing, but you can do the job if you have the ability, plus feedback from other readers before submission.

The easiest way to prepare material is to select it as you wish from the internet or retype or scan it from book(s) or periodical(s), with or without your own accompanying remarks. Your remarks might be crafted to make it easier for the reader to think about the material, to discuss it, or to take action on it.

Whether the material is yours or borrowed, the ideas expressed should be clearly laid out, should stick to a few essential points, and be put into clear language. If the material is deliberately poetic or surrealistic, the same criteria may not apply, but it will be harder to produce a good piece with good results for readers.

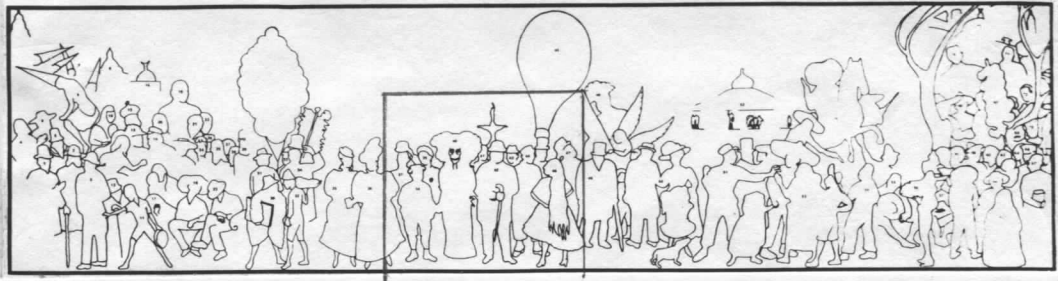
The space limitation is strict—if your material is over 900 words it may be necessary to print it in reduced-size type, making it difficult for older people, or people with visual problems, or who lack patience, to read it. You should submit the material electronically (by e-mail or floppy disk) with suggestions for layout, or negotiate with *Dispatch* editor. It will be inserted within the page border and under The Indy Page headline (with brief identifying information on the editor—please submit such information). *BCAD's* address is <DLewit@igc.org> Phone 617 266 8687. Dave Lewit, 271 Dartmouth St 2H, Boston MA 02116. Call first. Enjoy doing this, and good luck! ■

The Indy Page

All material on this page is the responsibility of a citizen editor, independent of the BCA Dispatch editor. This issue's editor is Brit Eckhart, member of the Boston-Cambridge Alliance and legislative aide to MA state representative Byron Rushing. Write her at juniper@greenet.net or call 617-722-2637 x2.



Diego Rivera



To an infrequent traveler from the United States, the rudeness of prevailing conditions in modern Mexico City numbs the senses for this celebratory encounter with one of Mexico's favorite sons. The stench of open sewers mingles with the sting of automobile exhaust fumes while a society jerry-rigged to daily battle the twin faces of guileless innocence and repressed terror exists in brute submission at the foot of overweening modernity.

Originally commissioned to grace the lobby of the Hotel del Prado in the Centro Histórico of Mexico City, "Dream of a Sunday Afternoon in the Alameda" was painted by Diego Rivera in 1947 at the age of 61. Taken as political allegory, Rivera placed his mature talents in the service of passionate advocacy of panoramic class struggle. A brochure of the Museo Mural Diego Rivera describes this work historically:

The mural was made in three large sections beginning at the left side with the Spanish Conquest, the history of the Alameda with the burnings of the Holy Inquisition, and the colonial period. Also represented are the most important events of the first half of the XIX century, such as the Battle of Independence, the American invasion, the eleven presidential terms of the General Antonio López Santa Anna, the French intervention, and the Reform.

In the middle of the central section there are three main figures: Diego Rivera, the Calavera Catrina,



and her creator, the artist José Guadalupe Posada. In this part, Rivera made a self-portrait as a nine-year-old child that is holding hands with the Catrina, who is death itself.

The third section shows the movements of the rural people and the struggles of the workers, which ended in the civil war of 1910. There is also the post-revolution period symbolized by the peasant, the young worker, and the revolutionary worker together. Modern Mexico is represented by a presidential figure, the new working class, the new architecture, and the factories.

After a damaging earthquake, the mural was moved in 1985 to its present location near the corner of the Alameda Central Park. Front and center of the mural is "La Revoltosa", a beautiful Mayan woman in European dress, face-to-face with Posada, artisan son of Mexico. The confrontation of societies in context is of a tragedy: external lamentation and strife as a stunningly beautiful race is subjected to Europeanization at their own and the conqueror's expense.

-- Brit Eckhart

Hunger & Bitterness Stalk Argentina

—From a Letter by *Cristina Feijóo and Lucio Salas*

...The "middle classes" (forget all Marxist categories—today in Argentina "middle class" means someone with a job) had to cope with US\$ 250 per week that was the limit of bank withdrawals allowed. With that the "middle classes" hardly could eat and pay bills for public services—privatized as the neoliberal dogma demands—that are the most expensive in the world. This provoked an immediate flood from the poorest, from those marginalized from the formal economy, who arrived at the city from the suburbs with supermarket trolleys or *changüitos* searching for food, clothes and diapers in the waste. These groups of the poor—some of them organized, with an origin in the *piquetera* practice to cut off roads and motorways to demand some coins—went to ask for food in the supermarkets, forming long queues in the early hours of the morning. Some supermarkets gave away a few bags, others none, and this was this situation that originated the raids [looting]. Poor people got into supermarkets and pocketed the food...

The target was the big supermarket chains (all of them owned by overseas conglomerates). Very soon these large supermarkets increased their armed security, some even provided their employees with clubs to scatter the poor. It was then that people started raiding small shops, many of them owned by Asian traders who lacked any security...

The "middle classes" spontaneously went out to the streets... The Plaza de Mayo filled up and when the minister of economy resigned, the people stayed there demanding the same from the president. The people stayed overnight at Plaza de Mayo—at that time many leftist activists had gathered, all of them unarmed and with a pacific spirit. The repression started around 3 a.m. in order to vacate the Plaza de Mayo... That day six youngsters died there. Four of them were *motoqueros* (people who work as couriers in their motorbikes and that recently formed a union encouraged by the association H.I.J.O.S.—sons—of the disappeared, who heroically resisted the charges of the cavalry and defended the families standing as they were being punished by the whips of the mounted police just as in slavery film scenes. Simultaneously, the raids were repressed in the provinces, initially with rubber bullets, with live bullets afterwards... The number of casualties, names and ages of the dead have not been reported by the mass media. Only one TV camera broadcast scenes of a funeral and showed them once for a few minutes... Hospitals have received orders not to give information to the press...

We were a relatively important country; up until the middle of the 20th century, the Argentinean economy was as large as that of the rest of South America, including Brazil. Apart from grains and cattle, we reached a medium level of industrialization leading to import substitution, which allowed us to start exporting manufactured goods. We had a solid social fabric with mutual health companies, unions, co-operatives and a highly literate population living in their majority in urban centers.

With the last dictatorship the disaster started with privatizations and the indiscriminate opening of the national economy. And, most interesting, for the last ten years we were the exemplary pupil of the IMF, the one who followed all its recipes, the one who sent soldiers to the Persian Gulf, the "extra-NATO" ally of the US. Neoliberalism has failed with its fundamentalist recipes, but what is more, capitalism has failed as an organizer of social life... #

Continuing our outreach to Boston's Muslim community, BCA hosted a lively discussion of fundamentalism with BC's Prof. **Qamar-ul Huda**. A small but growing fraction of the 1 billion Muslims have been attracted to various fundamentalist movements which, like fundamentalism everywhere, profess (a) all that is needed is to return to the source truths—authenticity, (b) that *their* understanding is the only true understanding—exclusiveness, and (c) that the need to spread this truth is urgent—aggressive persuasion. Thus, increasing US influence or presence—because of oil and gas, &c—is alarming. Resistance is "normal" as is an Alamo-mentality in places like Pakistan.

A principal reason for the growth of Islamic fundamentalism is the failure of nationalist (Arabist, Turkist, Indonesian) and socialist (Baathist) regimes to provide basic social welfare and justice. Egypt's Sadat was assassinated as "a pharaoh" not *helping* Moslems, but jailing and killing Islamic service-activists. Such repression in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere generated fundamentalist extremists like Osama ("Community") bin Laden. We may look forward to increasing fundamentalist and labor agitation as US and Northern Alliance profiteers make hay from war destruction while ordinary folk go begging.

Countering fundamentalism are groups like the Ind-Pak "Movement for a Peaceful South Asia" exemplified by Edhi, a "Mother Theresa of Pakistan." Qamar finds bin Laden's religious understanding very weak, while George W Bush speaks nonsense like "infinite justice", pandering to campaign contributors like Billy Graham & Jerry Falwell.

On a more positive note, chapter co-chair **Dave Lewit** will be leave for Brazil and the World Social Forum on Jan 25, as a representative of the Alliance and of TOES (The Other Economic Summit).

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Please help us as we fight to make a better future for ourselves and our children — Join the Boston/Cambridge Alliance for Democracy.

(Cut out this form and send it to David Lewit at 271 Dartmouth Street, Boston, MA 02116.)

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