

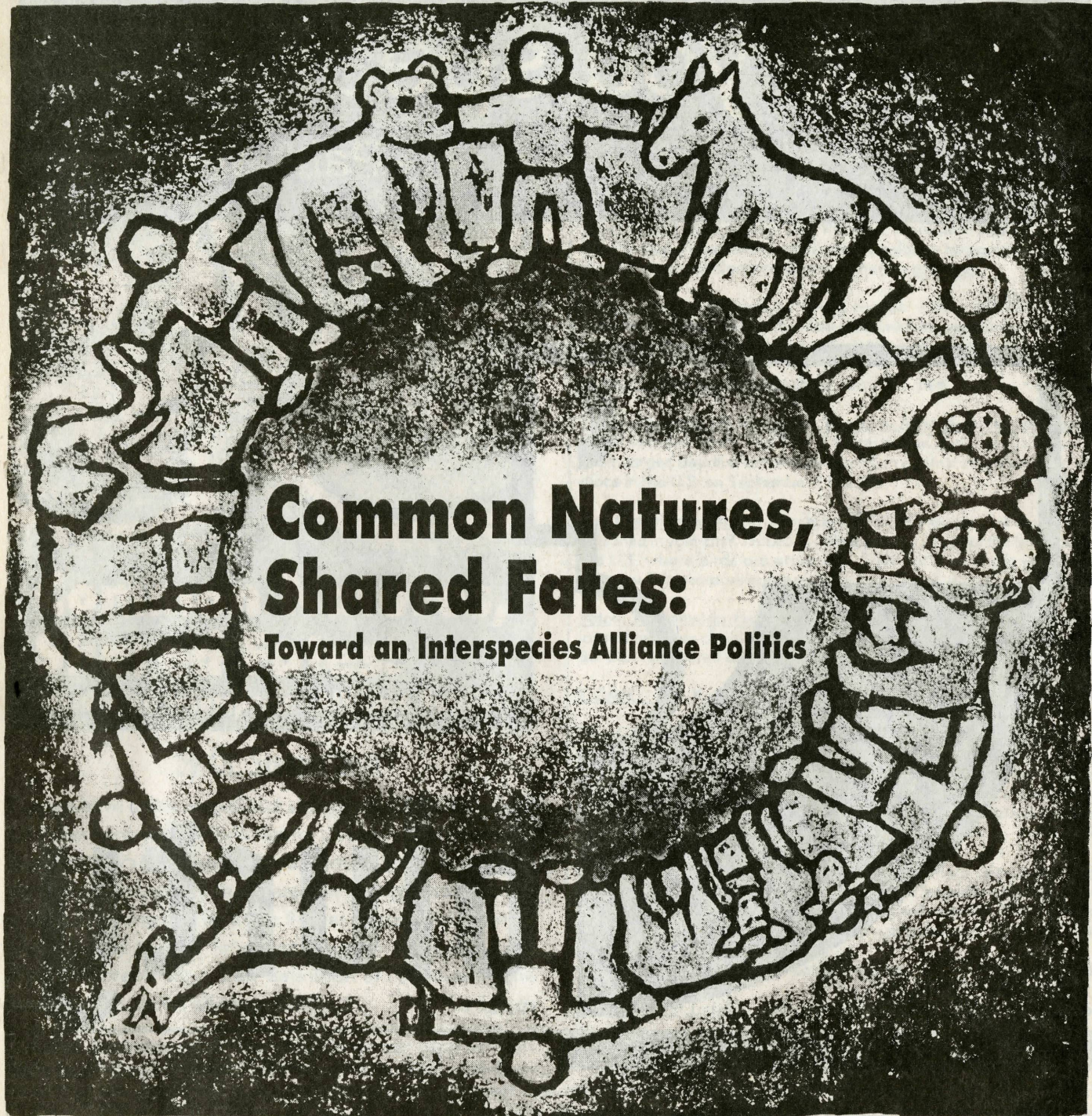
covering issues the way the media should

IMPACT

December/January '02-'03

press

#42 - Free (or \$2 by mail)



Common Natures, Shared Fates:

Toward an Interspecies Alliance Politics

**A
L
S
O**

**Petco: Nationwide Hell
For Animals**

**The Arrogance of Empire:
The U.S. War Against Iraq**

**Seven Deadly Sinners:
CEOs vs. the Environment**

"Never separate the
lives you live from the
words you speak."

- Paul Wellstone



blurty

publish yourself @ blurty.com

things within

IMPACT PRESS • ISSUE 42 • DECEMBER/JANUARY '02-'03



art by Eric Spiller

Common Natures, Shared Fates: Toward an Interspecies Alliance Politics

by Dr. Steven Best

Can we have a diverse political struggle that also is unified? Can we overcome the debilitating divisions of postmodern identity politics? Can human and animal rights communities come together, or are their interests antagonistic? In this groundbreaking article, Steve Best explores how common grounds and shared fates can become the basis for a New Enlightenment, a new definition of community, and a new "interspecies alliance politics."

• PAGE 22

"Capital punishment is the most premeditated of murders, to which no criminal's deed, however calculated, can be compared. For there to be an equivalency, the death penalty would have to punish a criminal who had warned his victim of the date at which he would inflict a horrible death on him and who, from that moment onward, had confined him at his mercy for months. Such a monster is not encountered in private life."

-- Albert Camus

"...The power to declare war, including the power of judging the causes of war, is fully and exclusively vested in the legislature...the executive has no right, in any case, to decide the question, whether there is or is not cause for declaring war."

-- James Madison, 1793

CONTENTS:

Notes From the Cultural Wasteland by Morris Sullivan: Paranoid or not, we all need to worry about the Homeland Security bill. • PAGE 8

The Shame (Sham) of the Democratic Party by Philip Farruggio: Most Democrats are political posturers. It's time for the American people to stand up and say, "Enough is enough." • PAGE 10

Branding New and Improved Wars by Norman Solomon: Marketing a war is serious business. And no product requires better brand names than one that squanders vast quantities of resources while intentionally killing large numbers of people. • PAGE 11

Over-Priced Musings by Don Pflaster: Marijuana Inches Closer To Legalization - Despite pro-marijuana legislation being defeated across the U.S. this past election, the movement is growing. • PAGE 12

Seven Deadly Sinners by Craig Mazer: CEOs get rich as their companies destroy the Earth. Now these men are exposed. Find out just how rich they're getting and what their companies are doing. • PAGE 14

COMICS: The Muddlemarch by Neal Skorpen • PAGE 21

The Arrogance of Empire - The U.S. War Against Iraq by Dr. David Michael Smith: The Bush Administration is planning to launch a much larger, deadlier act of state terrorism against Iraq than what took place in the U.S. on September 11, 2001. • PAGE 30

The Creation of a Bird Sanctuary by Jill Bielawski: Are birds being poisoned in your city? Probably, unless you live in one of the few places in the U.S. where birds are protected. Find out how to get your city to embrace this compassionate move. • PAGE 36

Petco: Nationwide Hell For Animals by Heather Moore: Petco, the largest pet store chain in the country, puts on an animal-friendly facade. But don't be fooled by Petco's public relations whitewash. • PAGE 38

COMIC: The K Chronicles by Keith Knight • PAGE 41

Dead Man Walking - U.S. Struggles With the Death Penalty by Kari Lyndersén: For good reason, the death penalty has come under national scrutiny in the past few years, as questions have been raised about its constitutionality; the racism and classism inherent in the criminal justice system; prosecutorial and police misconduct; and the growing number of innocent people released from Death Row. • PAGE 44

Who Is The Real Enemy? by Peggy Butler: There is one fact that, whether for apathy or detriment, is of utmost importance in the social dominion of African-Americans at the present moment. This fact is the seemingly unawareness of Black-on-Black violence. • PAGE 49

Quickies - A Little Bit On A Lot of Records • PAGES 50-57

Activist Event Listings: Join a protest, attend a rally. • PAGE 57

QUOTES:

IMPACT press

covering issues the way the media should

PMB 361, 10151 University Blvd.
Orlando, FL 32817 • 407.263.5504

editor@impactpress.com

www.impactpress.com

Editor

Craig Mazer

Contributing Editors

Stacey Matrazzo • Morris Sullivan

This Issue's Contributors

Steven Best • Jill Bielawski
Peggy Butler • J.C. Carnahan
Philip Farruggio • Marty Kelley
Keith Knight • Alex Llama
Kari Lydersen • Chris Maxwell
Kevin Mercer • Heather Moore
MacKenzie Pause • Don Pflaster
Robert Pursley • Neal Skorpen
David Smith • Norman Solomon
Morris Sullivan

Illustrators

Charley Deppner • Collin Holmes
Tom Hope • Christ-Mierd
Greg Rebis • Eric Spitler

Layout

Craig Mazer

Copy Editors of the Issue

Stacey Matrazzo • Randy Badilo
J.C. Carnahan • Kevin Mercer
Chris Lupton

Webmaster

Ben Markeson

front cover
Eric Spitler

back cover
Greg Rebis

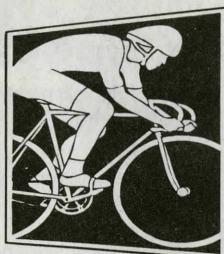
advertising info:
407.263.5504



© 2002 Loudmouth Productions, Inc. IMPACT press is a bi-monthly publication and is a registered trademark of Loudmouth Productions, Inc., a nonprofit organization based out of Orlando, FL. IMPACT publishes 12,000 copies bi-monthly. **ORDERING INFO:** Back issues: page 63; Subscriptions: page 20. **Boring stuff:** Ideas expressed in IMPACT press are not necessarily those of the staff or publishers of IMPACT press or Loudmouth Prod., nor should they reflect on anyone other than that specific writer.

A Fact from IMPACT: Think Globally, Buy Locally! Buying local food reduces energy consumption. In America today, the average food item travels a staggering 1,200-1,500 miles (estimates vary) from source to supermarket.

"I know of no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves, and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion by education." - Thomas Jefferson



From the Editor

From the battlegrounds of Afghanistan to the looming attack in Iraq to the floor of the Senate, the Bush administration is fighting to get their hands on more oil. Whether it comes from the Caspian Sea, oil-rich Iraq or the mirage of oil in Alaska, they are desperately clawing for the dwindling supply of "black gold." But is our government so blinded by oil riches that they can't see how desperate our Earth needs us to seek alternatives?

As I write this, the Bahamian-flagged tanker Prestige is pouring its 70,000 metric tons of heavy fuel oil into the sea along the coast of Spain. This disaster will easily surpass the devastation of the Valdez oil spill—it is possibly twice as disastrous. It is already estimated that clean up could take as long as four years and the destruction it will cause to the ecosystem is unfathomable.

Now, this oil wasn't bound for the U.S., but that is irrelevant. The point remains that, as long as we depend on oil, this kind of disaster can happen. And this is only one aspect of the havoc wreaked upon Earth by oil. Others include air pollution (leading to numerous health problems), global warming and habitat destruction.

Why is the American public not up in arms over our lack of alternative energy options? A look at the roads will help clue you in. Too many people don't seem to care, more concerned with whether or not their new SUV's interior matches their cell phone case. As their gas guzzling boat-on-wheels dominates the road, the last thing they are thinking about is, "Am I doing my part to save the environment?" If they did care, they'd unload that beast of a vehicle in favor of something more efficient.

Many Americans are being extremely foolish. Or extremely selfish. To think that our current behaviors have no negative impact on the Earth is quite ignorant. However, I believe many do realize it but are simply too selfish—call it lazy, if you will—to make a change. I don't mean sell your car and buy a hybrid vehicle. Not everyone can afford that. But, how about trying to use a bike instead? If you can avoid driving, do so. Try to carpool. And don't even think about buying an SUV or any kind of "light truck." Unless you're hauling bricks, you don't need a 4-liter, 210 horsepower vehicle, and the measly 17 miles per gallon you get should be illegal. It's not about being a free country; it's about respecting our Earth and the fact that there are generations to come who don't need to be punished by materialistic decisions.

This should be such an easy concept to embrace. I know there are many of you out there who completely support the vigorous and immediate pursuit of legitimate alternative energy options. Now if only we could get the Bush administration to open their minds long enough to think about someone besides themselves, maybe we could change their mind. I'm tired of having to see beautiful sea-faring birds coated in oil, sure to die a slow death. I'm sick of fragile ecosystems being destroyed by the pursuit of more oil. I'm ready for America to wake up and be a true leader of the world and prove it.

• craig mazer •

Make an IMPACT

World Resources Institute
<http://www.wri.org>

Renewable Energy Policy Project
<http://www.crest.org>

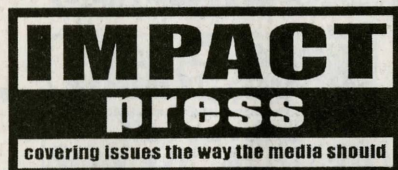
Alternative Energy Institute
<http://www.altenergy.org>

Sustainable Energy Institute
<http://www.culturechange.org>

NEW! 100% Recycled **IMPACT** T-Shirts



(on the back)



(centered on the front - 2.5" x 4")

Get a Shirt and Support **IMPACT** press!

This fantastic shirt is made of 100% recycled material (95% cotton, 5% polyester) of the utmost quality and are made in the USA. They are available in ash (gray) with black ink in XXL, XL, L, M, and youth large (like a small). Try and list alternate sizes (in case we are out of stock of what you want).

How much could such a great shirt cost? \$25, \$50, \$100? No way! Because we love our readers, each shirt is available to you for only \$12ppd U.S. (\$15/Canada and \$19/elsewhere).

IMPACT press T-Shirt Order Form (fill this out now and dress snazzy!)

Name _____ Ph# _____

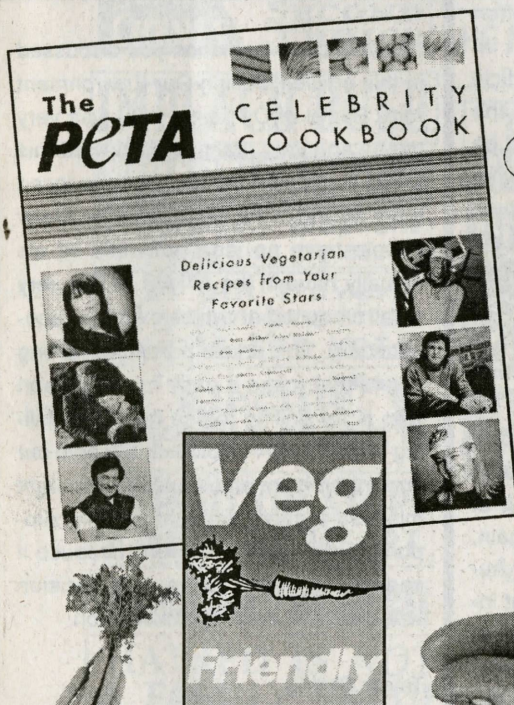
Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zipcode _____ Email _____

Alternates/Comments: _____

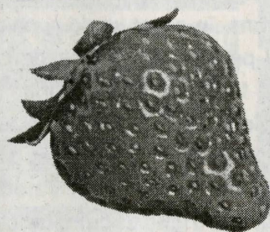
Quantity	Sizes

Send check/money order to: **IMPACT** press, PMB 361, 10151 University Blvd., Orlando, FL 32817



128 pp, 1-59056-027-2, \$20 pbk, 9 1/4 x 10 1/4

The **PETA** CELEBRITY COOKBOOK



**Delicious Vegetarian
Recipes from your
Favorite Stars!**

"If you want to stay healthy and energetic on and off the playing field, use your head when deciding what to put on your plate!"

—**Kristine Lilly**

"I like vegetarian food because it's positive fuel: healthy, light, and no guilt."

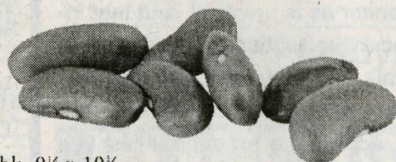
—**Wendie Malick**

"When I see bacon, I see a pig, I see a little friend, and that's why I can't eat it. Simple as that."

—**Paul McCartney**

"Going vegan is the single best thing I've done in my life."

—**Alicia Silverstone**



LANTERN books

To order call 1-800-856-8664 or visit www.lanternbooks.com

Speak Your Mind. . .

Please proof your letters. IMPACT will try to decipher them. However, help us avoid having to do extra work. ALSO - keep your letters under 400 words. Thanks!

IMPACT:

Thanks. As I read your letter ("From the Editor" Issue #42), many common chords were struck, and now I realize my mistaken attitude. We don't go fishing anymore, and my father probably doesn't feel the same way, but I will have a discussion with him nonetheless. Keep fightin' the good fight.

Simply Rich

IMPACT:

Good editorial ("From the Editor" Issue #41). I even get mentioned - though that is not necessarily good. You can use this as a letter to the editor in your next issue - I no longer fish, and agree with you that it is cruel.

Dad (Lloyd Mazer)

IMPACT:

The article "The Search for Species Identification" (Issue #41) was very eye-opening. What a brilliant writer!

Sincerely,
Dorothy Kerrin

IMPACT:

Thank you very much for discussing animal rights issues in your magazine. It's great to see AR issues discussed with human rights issues. So many times the animals are forgotten about.

Josh Kahn
Mahwah, NJ

IMPACT:

This being my second mail to you I assume tells you I'm reading you. I've unfortunately got more reading than I can possibly get around to, and seldom respond to articles (any articles) unless they push a certain button, the article on animal cruelty ("From the Editor" Issue #40) hit said button. I am well aware that there are myriad untold stories of such inhumanity around us every day, and despite my being an omnivore I bristle at such disgrace. It's one thing to kill an animal for food (and we can debate forever on that) but it's quite another to cause the kind of heartbreaking pain to what is essentially a manifestation of pure innocence to these mostly defenseless creatures. If not for the "law" I would be one of the many that would exact a hard to forget penalty on such perpetrators. Believe that! There is no known constructive reason in my world that would justify any such cruelty, and unless I make a conscious effort at self control it causes a near rage. I interpret such godless acts as your article describes as being the actions of the smallest of "characters" attempting to be the "biggest" of men for god knows what reasons. In a just world such men should (and perhaps would) be destroyed. Lets hope then for a just world, for if these people would commit such heinous acts against a kitten would they stop short of doing the same to an innocent human given the right circumstances? We all know the answer to that! If we fail to protect the smallest of life under our stewardship, will we then protect anything at all when the occasion requires it? Again, it's one thing to kill an animal in as humane manner as is practical, and that includes the euthanization of sick or antisocial animals, not just foodstocks, but I and mine will be among the very first to demand an accounting for such unjustified cruelty as your article describes.

Karnie Vhore

IMPACT:

I think that you may have your facts a little confused. Bernie Ebbers name should have been used in your article "7,254 Ways To Help You Understand WorldCom Chairman John W. Sidgmore" (Issue #40). It was Bernie that as in charge when the recent misdeeds took place. John S. was put into his current position after Bernie was fired from the position.

You barbs and humor would be better suited for Bernie, Scott Sullivan or David Myers.

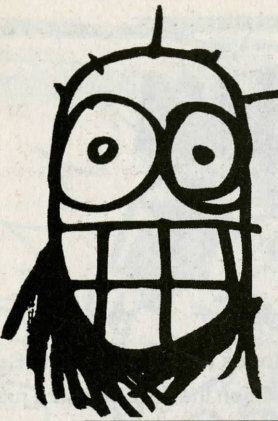
Tom

PS. I did enjoy the thought process, however.

IMPACT:

I believe the information you discussed in this article ("Selling Our Environment for a Barrel of Oil" Issue #32) was very useful and very practical. I showed this article to a family member and convinced them drilling is the wrong answer. Many people have no idea how little oil we actually have in the ANWR. It is a very small amount that can be extracted economically. The article presented strong points that make it easy for a person who is for drilling to see how little drilling in the ANWR would actually help our current problem and situation. I thought this was a good article and I fully support your opinion not to drill because it seems like in the future, this decision would be the only logical solution.

Taylor Streng
Current Student at Linfield College



stickergiant.com

Over 3000 stickers representing all points of view. The first amendment is yours to use. Say it with Stickers from StickerGiant.com.
<http://www.stickergiant.com>
toll free 866-774-7900

BULLSHIT

**BUSH
CHEATED**

I SAW CHANDRA WITH ELVIS

**RE-ELECT
GORE IN 2004**

YUCK BUSH!

**Not another
SON OF A BUSH
in the White House**

**BUSH AMERICA'S
CHENEY SECOND
CHOICE**

IMPEACH BUSH

BIPARTISANSHIP

**I'll hug your elephant
if you kiss my ass**

**It ain't over
til your brother
counts the votes**

**Electile
Dysfunction**

**EXECUTION STOPS
A BEATING HEART**

FIGHT THE RIGHT

**HATRED IS NOT
A FAMILY VALUE**

**ARM
THE
HOMELESS**

Read my lips, Junior:
**NO NEW WAR
IN IRAQ**

INVEST IN AMERICA
Buy a Congressman

JESUS IS A LIBERAL

**SUPPORT YOUR
LOCAL REVOLUTION**

MALL★WART
YOUR SOURCE FOR CHEAP PLASTIC CRAP

I Love My Country
BUT FEAR MY GOVERNMENT

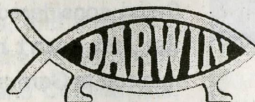
HE IS NOT MY PRESIDENT

**THE ROAD TO HELL IS
PAVED WITH REPUBLICANS**

QUESTION AUTHORITY

**CAN'T SEE THE FOREST
FOR THE BUSHES**

**"SPEAK YOUR MIND, EVEN
IF YOUR VOICE SHAKES"**



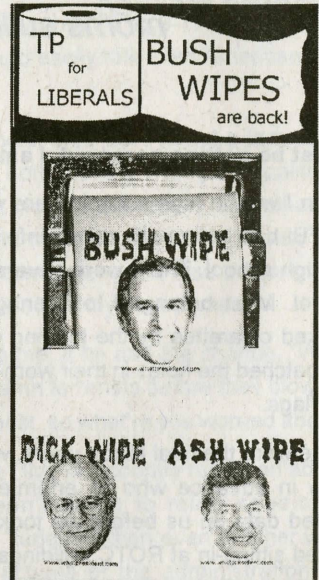
**Think Globally
Act Locally**

**THE REAL AXIS OF EVIL:
CHENEY, BUSH, ASHCROFT**

**Dubya
Stands for
Whore**

evil doer

**Blow it out your
Ashcroft**



**Jenna Bush
stole my ID**

**BUSH
is a
DUMBASS**

**MY OTHER CAR IS
A PAIR OF BOOTS**

**SAVE THE
HUMANS**

TREEHUGGER



It's Patriotic.



<http://www.stickergiant.com> 866-774-7900

<http://www.stickergiant.com> 866-774-7900

Notes from the Cultural Wasteland

morris sullivan
morris sullivan



I must be getting paranoid. I am afraid to write this column.

When I was in high school, there was a rumor going around that the FBI had been in to collect information on the "subversives" in my high school. There were several of us subversives in my high school. Most belonged to Teenage Democrats, had long hair, smoked cigarettes by the loading dock with journalism students, and patched the holes in their worn-out Levis with pieces of American flags.

These were the final Nixon years, when the administration liked to know in advance who its enemies were. Nixon, we imagined, wanted data on us before we took to the college campuses and started sitting-in at ROTC buildings. The FBI, I'm sure, took great pleasure in discovering I was failing Latin.

For the first time since Nixon resigned, I've been wondering about those FBI files. In recent weeks, I've gotten e-mail after e-mail from associates and organizations about the "homeland security" legislation that is winding its way through Congress at the behest of the Bush administration. Designed to nip terrorism in the bud, the legislation consists of several bills and plans that, proponents say, will prevent the series of snafus and dis-communications that permitted the 9-11 strike.

A lot has been written about this new legislation, but William Safire (*New York Times*, Nov. 14, 2002, "You Are a Suspect") and Dan Morgan (*Washington Post*, Nov. 16, 2002, "Disclosure Curbs in Homeland Bill Decried") probably explained the issues best.

A prominent player in the new plan, John Poindexter is the same guy that worked alongside Oliver North to swap weapons for hostages in Iran, then allegedly funded Nicaraguan Contras with cocaine money, then excused himself by saying it was his duty to withhold information from Congress, and even the President. "I made a very deliberate decision not to tell the President so that I could insulate him from the decision and provide some future deniability," he said (*Guardian*, Nov. 25, 2002, "No More Mr. Scrupulous Guy").

Poindexter plans to build the Department of Defense an Orwellian database that will keep track of, as William Safire said, "every purchase you make with a credit card, every magazine subscription you buy and medical prescription you fill, every academic grade you receive, every bank deposit you make, every trip you book, and every event you attend..." (*New York Times*)

And while the government is busily keeping tabs on us, the Home-

land Security bill has made it harder for us to keep tabs on it. Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), said of the legislation that its disclosure rules represent "the most severe weakening of the Freedom of Information Act in its 36-year history."

"This would hurt and not help our national security," Leahy said. "And along the way it would frustrate enforcement of the laws that protect the public's health and safety."

With the reemergence of folks like Poindexter on the national scene, some media pundits and activist groups have even accused Bush, Jr., of continuing grand traditions started by the Reagan-Bush administration of ignoring pesky documents like the Constitution and Bill of Rights, and annoying organizations like the UN and Congress.

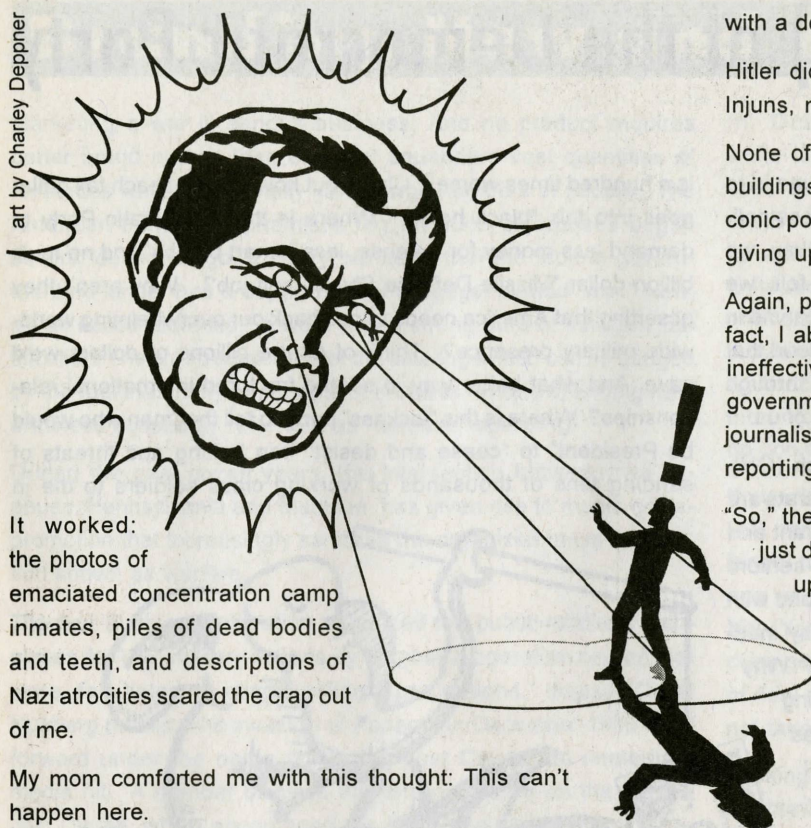
Some groups have even accused the Bush Brothers of manipulating elections. This November, Jeb Bush was reelected governor of my state. In fact, he got reelected despite a recording made by a reporter, which trapped him on magnetic tape discussing a referendum item limiting school class sizes—which the governor opposes. Jeb Bush told those assembled in his office, including the recorder-wielding reporter, that he has some "devious plans" that will presumably go into place should the referendum pass.

That's right: devious plans. I could envision the scene, a scruffy cub reporter, tape recorder in his shirt pocket, steno pad in hand, scribbling frantically: "Bwah ha ha!" said the Governor, twirling the ends of his handlebar mustache. "I have a number of deeeevous plans."

Perhaps I should derive some comfort knowing such evidence suggests each Bush kid is, as Francoise Ducros, communications director to Canadian prime minister Chretien reportedly said, "a moron."

Being considered a moron by other world leaders is pretty bad. But that wasn't bad enough for Herta and Paul Amirson, justice minister to Germany's Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder. "Bush wants to divert attention from his domestic problems. It's a classic tactic. It's one that Hitler used."

When I was a kid, my mom gave me a book on the holocaust. I'm not sure why; we're not Jewish, but I think she wanted to plant in me the seeds of tolerance. Or maybe she just wanted me to see what kinds of things humans could do to each other, and to develop an appropriate wariness of political power.



It worked:
the photos of
emaciated concentration camp
inmates, piles of dead bodies
and teeth, and descriptions of
Nazi atrocities scared the crap out
of me.

My mom comforted me with this thought: This can't
happen here.

Then she told me about her World War II. She told me about see-
ing Japanese subs off the coast of California, and about her best
friend, a "sweet little Japanese girl," being taken away with her
family to a concentration camp.

"I cried and cried," she said. "But America is a free country. And we
learn from those things. We know better than to let something like
that happen here again."

Despite historical evidence to the contrary—the near-genocide of
Native Americans; slavery, lynchings, and Jim Crow; Japanese
concentration camps and McCarthyism; and the current anti-Islam
discrimination and racial profiling—my faith in the ultimate
wisdom of the American people makes me cling desperately to
the belief, "This can't happen here."

Yet I'm sure the Germans didn't think they were in cahoots with the
powers of darkness when they supported the Nazis. I doubt white
Americans bothered to know or care about blankets infected with
smallpox being delivered to Indian reservations, and most took
racism for granted, without a second thought. Like 1940s Ameri-
cans and their attitudes toward the Japanese and Communists,
I'm sure most of us manage to ignore, overlook, or justify the anti-
Muslim discrimination that lies stinking under our noses.

Paranoid or not, I think we should all worry about this a little, and
be very wary. As the first phase of the homeland security bill made
its way onto the floors of Congress, the government issued yet
another terrorist alert. Perhaps it's coincidental, but one look at
history will reveal that the first step in taking away a people's free-
dom is to create a "for your own safety" situation, creating a crisis

with a depersonalized, "evil" enemy.

Hitler did it with the Jews. Americans have already done it with
Injuns, niggers, Japs, and Commies.

None of whom, of course, crashed airliners into giant American
buildings. With the anger and fear created by 9-11 as fuel, a dra-
conic political administration could easily talk even Americans into
giving up some civil rights.

Again, perhaps I'm being paranoid. After all, I'm not a terrorist; in
fact, I abhor violence as being both morally wrong and politically
ineffective. (I want to make that clear to the reader, as well as the
government agent hiding behind my rhododendrons.) Even as a
journalist, I would be loath to condone, much less perform, any
reporting that jeopardized the safety of my countrymen.

"So," the President might say to me, if he had the chance, "We're
just doing this to catch the damn terrorists before they blow you
up. You ain't a damn terrorist, so what're you worried about?"

I'm worried because I live in a country run by an admin-
istration that doesn't seem to mind squelching
thoughts, that gets "furious" when even another world
leader questions the actions of the administration and
casually (and even unofficially) draws a parallel between
the presidents actions and those of Hitler or morons, and
tells talk-show hosts they have to "watch what they say."

I'm worried because, as I read about the administration's under-
mining of both the Freedom of Information Act and protections of
individual privacy, visions of Big Brother keep popping into my head,
saying, "Freedom is slavery" and "Ignorance is strength."

And I fear that, as we head toward a war with Iraq and begin mobi-
lizing reserves and the National Guard, I'll turn on the news one
night to hear the President say, "War is peace."

Paranoid or not, I worry because the words of anti-Nazi activist
Pastor Martin Niemoller keep running through my mind: "First they
came for the communists, and I didn't speak up, because I wasn't
a communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up,
because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the Catholics, and I
didn't speak up, because I was a Protestant. Then they came for
me, and by that time, there was no one left to speak up for me." ❧

Make an IMPACT

Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press
<http://www.rcfp.org>

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
<http://www.aclu.org>

National Freedom Information Coalition
<http://www.nfoic.org>

Right to Privacy
<http://www.righttoprivacy.com>

The Shame (Sham) of the Democratic Party

by Philip Farruggio

Let me be as concise as possible. You watch C-Span or tune in to those "talking heads" shows and you invariably come across politicians "posturing", especially during election cycles. Okay, we progressive minded—a.k.a. practical, well read working—folk, we know where the Republicans are coming from. They are candid in their harsh anti-working folk rhetoric. They tell ya right out loud that they represent the wealthy, and will do whatever they can, through legislation (or lack of) to protect the rich and "tax" the rest of us.

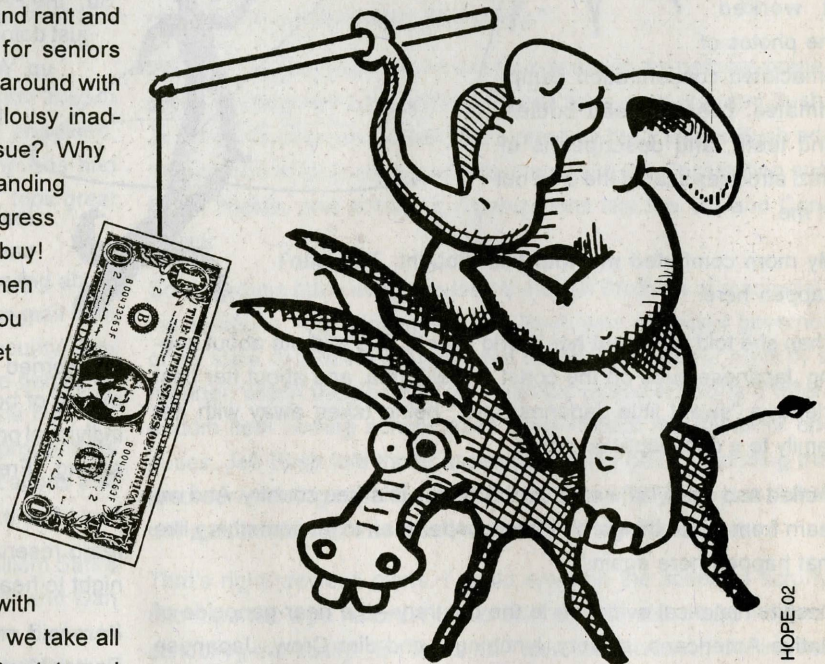
Now, with a handful of exceptions like Dennis Kucinich (OH), Barney Frank (MA.) and Jim McDermott (WA), most Democrats are professional "posturers". They stand up in Congress and rant and rave about the need for prescription drug reforms for seniors ("crumbs" from the table), while 40+ million of us walk around with no health insurance, and another 100+ million have lousy inadequate coverage! Where are the Democrats on this issue? Why do we not hear Senators Daschle and Gephardt demanding universal Medicare for every American? After all, Congress has the best medical coverage our tax dollars can buy! Instead, they force us to play the "health lottery": when your "number" comes up and you get too ill to work, you lose—everything! "Yipee yi yo, isn't the free market grand!?"

We have an election system so corrupt, yet all the Dems shout about is "right to vote" and procedural fiascoes like Fla. 2000. Where are they on the key core issue—a.k.a. money in politics? Why are they not demanding a *National Clean Election* law following the Maine model? The McCain-Feingold bill is, with all due respect, a diversionary "snail step". Only when we take all the money out of campaigns will we have true reform. On state and county levels, where are the local Democrats demanding those same clean election laws? They can't. They are too busy running around 'sucking up' to donors to keep pace with the Republicans.

Why are the Democrats so afraid to bring up the issue of "so few earning so much" while the rest of the nation struggles? Why aren't they shouting in the halls of Congress that any nation where 1% of the population controls over 85% of the wealth is strictly "Third World". Shouldn't they be demanding either a maximum income ceiling (say up to a few million per person), or legislating an income "surtax" on that elite 1%? Think of all the new schools, hospitals, roads, teachers, police and firepeople those revenues would create. Yet, all we hear is silence from the Democratic Party.

Finally, we have, since WWII, been living in a "War Economy". For decades, defense contractors have been feeding at the public trough, stuffing their wallets with our taxpayer dollars. Eisenhower himself warned us all, upon leaving office, of this "Military Industrial Complex". That was 1961—40 years later, the "War Economy"

is a hundred times worse!! Check out how much of each tax dollar goes into this "black hole." Where is the Democratic Party to demand less money for defense, less "smart bombs" and no multi billion dollar "Missile Defense Shield" con job? Why aren't they asserting that America needs to pull back our overwhelming world-wide military presence? Think of all the billions of dollars we'd save. And what better way to soothe fractured international relationships? Where is this "jackass" party to tell the "man who would be President" to "cease and desist" Iraq baiting and threats of sending tens of thousands of working class soldiers to die in



some Middle Eastern "power play"? Instead, they follow him like "lemmings off the cliff of reason". Few of us admire or respect Saddam Hussein—except of course Reagan and Bush Sr. during the "me '80s", when he was busy doing our dirty work against Iran. Where do you think Iraq got all that military hardware from anyhow? It seems that Ike's warnings fell on too many deaf ears.

Alas, if we had such a Democratic Party two years ago, America would not be in this current mess. Isn't it time for all decent hardworking Americans to say, "Enough is enough—shame on you Democratic Party!" ❧

Philip Farruggio, son of a longshoreman, is "Blue Collar Brooklyn" born, raised and educated (Brooklyn College, Class of '74). A former progressive talk show host, Philip runs a mfg. rep. business and writes for many publications. He lives in Port Orange, FL. You can contact Mr. Farruggio at e-mail: brooklynphilly@aol.com. His op-eds have been published in various publications, including: *The Ft. Lauderdale Sun*, *The Daytona News-Journal*, *Counterpunch*, *The Progressive Populist*, *Buzzflash*, *Whose Florida* and others.

Branding New and Improved Wars

By Norman Solomon

Norman Solomon is executive director of the Institute for Public Accuracy, a nationwide consortium of public-policy. His latest book is "The Habits of Highly Deceptive Media." His syndicated column focuses on media and politics.

Marketing a war is serious business. And no product requires better brand names than one that squanders vast quantities of resources while intentionally killing large numbers of people. The American trend of euphemistic fog for such enterprises began several decades ago. It's very old news that the federal government no longer has a department or a budget named "war." Now, it's all called "defense," a word with a strong aura of inherent justification. The sly effectiveness of the labeling switch can be gauged by the fact that many opponents of reckless military spending nevertheless constantly refer to it as "defense" spending.

During the past dozen years, the intersection between two avenues, Pennsylvania and Madison, has given rise to media cross-promotion that increasingly sanitizes the organized mass destruction known as warfare.

The first Bush administration enhanced the public-relations techniques for U.S. military actions by "choosing operation names that were calculated to shape political perceptions," linguist Geoff Nunberg recalls. The invasion of Panama in December 1989 went forward under the name Operation Just Cause, an immediate media hit. "A number of news anchors picked up on the phrase Just Cause, which encouraged the Bush and Clinton administrations to keep using those tendentious names."

As Nunberg points out, "it's all a matter of branding. And it's no accident that the new-style names like Just Cause were introduced at around the same time the cable news shows started to label their coverage of major stories with catchy names and logos." The Pentagon became adept at supplying video-game-like pictures of U.S. missile strikes at the same time that it began to provide the big-type captions on TV screens.

Ever since the Gulf War in early 1991, people across the political spectrum have commonly referred to that paroxysm of carnage as Operation Desert Storm – or, more often, just Desert Storm. To the casual ear, it sounds kind of like an act of nature. Or, perhaps, an act of God.

Either way, according to the vague spirit evoked by the name Desert Storm, men like Dick Cheney, Norman Schwarzkopf and Colin Powell may well have been assisting in the implementation of divine natural occurrences—high winds and 2,000-pound laser-guided bombs raining down from the heavens.

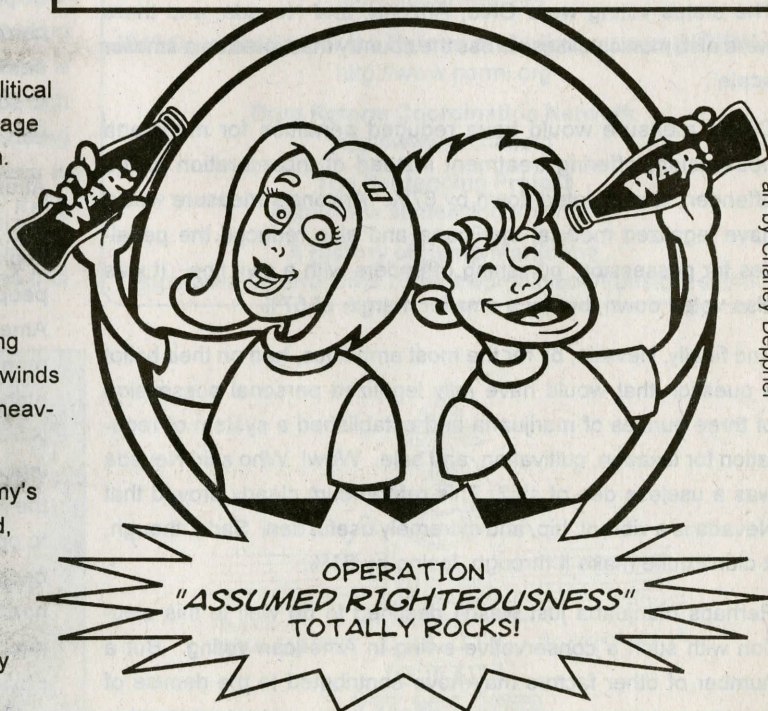
Soon after the Gulf War – a.k.a. Desert Storm – ended, the Army's chief of public affairs, Maj. Gen. Charles McClain, commented, "The perception of an operation can be as important to success as the execution of that operation." For guiding the public's perception of a war—while it is happening and after it has become history—there's nothing quite like a salutary label that sticks.

In October 2001, while launching missiles at Afghanistan, the Bush team came up with Operation Infinite Justice, only to swiftly scuttle the name after learning it was offensive to Muslims because of their belief that only Allah can provide infinite justice. The replacement, Enduring Freedom, was well-received in U.S. mass media, an irony-free zone where only the untowardly impertinent might suggest that some people had no choice other than enduring the Pentagon's freedom to bomb.

If you doubt that the Executive Branch is run by people who plan U.S. military actions while thinking like marketers, you're (no offense) naive. It was a candid slip of the tongue a couple of months ago when the White House chief of staff, Andrew Card, told the New York Times: "From a marketing point of view, you don't introduce new products in August." Not coincidentally, the main rollout of new-and-improved rationales for an upcoming war on Iraq did not take place until September.

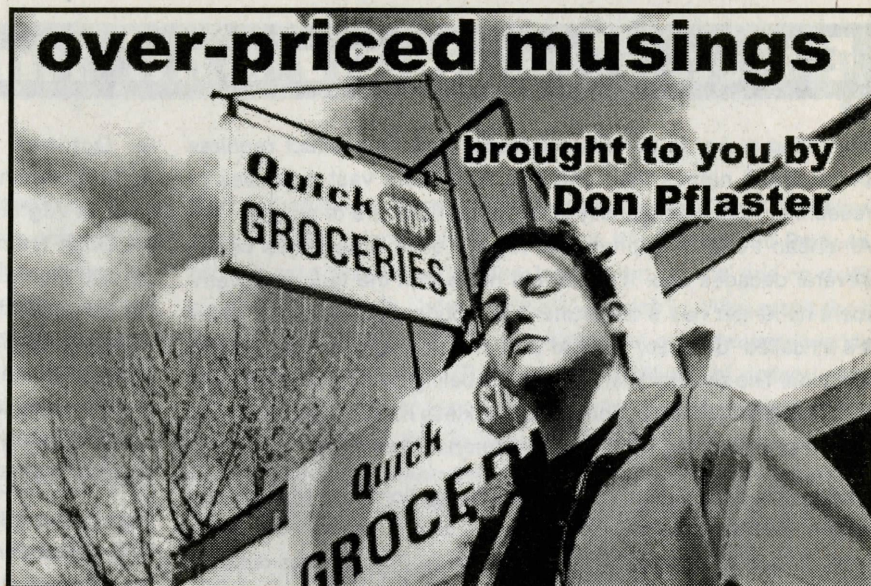
Looking ahead, the media spinners at the White House are undoubtedly devoting considerable energy to sifting through options for how to brand the expected U.S. assault on Iraq. Long before the war is over, we'll all know its reassuring code name. But we won't know the names of the Iraqi people who have been killed in our names. ❧

JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!



over-priced musings

brought to you by
Don Pflaster



Marijuana Inches Closer To Legalization

IT SURE WAS A WACKY ELECTION.

With so much at stake, and with so many congresspersons retiring, being expelled, or dying in plane crashes, one thing you didn't notice too much on mainstream news this election was that there were pro-marijuana referendums on ballots in three states (unless you lived in those states.) I scarcely knew about it until I went to CNN.com on Election Day, and in that fine hour of web browsing, I became instantly inspired by the political process.

The states voting were Ohio, Arizona, and Nevada, and there were also municipalities across the country that voted on a smaller scale.

Ohio's measure would have reduced penalties for marijuana possession, offering treatment instead of incarceration to the offender. It was voted down by 67%. Arizona's measure would have legalized medical marijuana and also reduced the penalties for possession, punishing offenders with a civil fine. It was also voted down, but by a smaller margin of 57%.

And finally, Nevada, by far the most ambitious, had on their ballot a question that would have fully legalized personal possession of three ounces of marijuana and established a system of regulation for taxation, cultivation, and sale. Wow! Who said Nevada was a useless den of sin? This referendum clearly proved that Nevada is a vibrant, hip, and extremely useful den. Sadly, though, it didn't quite make it through, losing by 61%.

Perhaps marijuana just wasn't destined to do well in this election with such a conservative swing in American voting. But a number of other factors may have contributed to the demise of

Question 9, as it was referred to in Nevada.

For instance, on the same ballot there was an ominous Question 2, which was a referendum on banning same-sex marriages. This could have motivated more conservatives to come out to the polls to vote for the ban (which ended up passing) and also contributed to their automatic vote against number 9. Couple that with the possibility that more people might have supported the marijuana question had it not been such a rush to full legalization. Perhaps voters took issue with such a broad, sweeping movement and would have preferred baby steps.

Despite the across-the-board defeat of these measures, one can't ignore that there is an extremely important political base that supports a softer stance on marijuana. The average number of people casting pro-marijuana votes was nearly 40%, which can hardly be considered fringe. I think mainstream consciousness understands that marijuana users are not a serious threat to society at large, and certainly not enough to warrant incarceration.

After all, marijuana was banned in 1937, during a time of great social experimentation and abhorrence of any substance that might make you act silly. Marijuana was a rather new blip on the people's radar, because though hemp had been growing in the Americas since 1611, the practice of smoking marijuana did not manifest greatly until the 1920's. At that time, marijuana use was highest among users of opiates, mainly immigrants, and there was a common belief that immigrants were inhumane and violent. This likely spawned the linking of marijuana to violence and the *Reefer Madness* mentality of the 30's. With marijuana's link to opiate users, marijuana was classified as a narcotic, and later became the victim of a huge demonization campaign spearheaded by corporate interests. Hemp was quickly becoming industrialized and hemp paper was threatening to eat into the profits of paper made from trees. Thus, the influential William

Randolph Hearst, who owned paper holdings and a chain of newspapers, and Lammont DuPont, who owned chemicals for treating paper, began a nationwide smear campaign aimed at vilifying marijuana.

Prohibition since those unenlightened times has certainly not quelled use of marijuana, which is still regularly used by about 15% of all Americans.

A lot of the mentality about violent effects still persists today, and was employed by U.S. government drug czar John Walters and the DEA to advertise *against* Question 9 in Nevada this fall, suggesting that marijuana leads to violence and is a date rape drug. It was kind of a lopsided fight in that state, for though the marijuana initiative was heavily funded with \$2 million, it couldn't compete with the federal government's \$180 million anti-drug advertising budget.

Whether or not disinformation about marijuana persists, the most important point about the drug is that too many resources are devoted to combating it, and too many people are ending up in jail. Currently, the United States has the highest per capita incarceration rate of any nation on earth, with about two million of our population in prison. 60% of those inmates are incarcerated on drug charges. Some belong there. Most don't. Five *billion* dollars is spent annually to imprison drug offenders, three-fourths of which have never committed a violent crime. "There is a consensus among the American public that the government's war on marijuana is misguided, ineffective and unnecessarily punitive," said Keith Stroup, Executive Director for the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML). "The public recognizes that

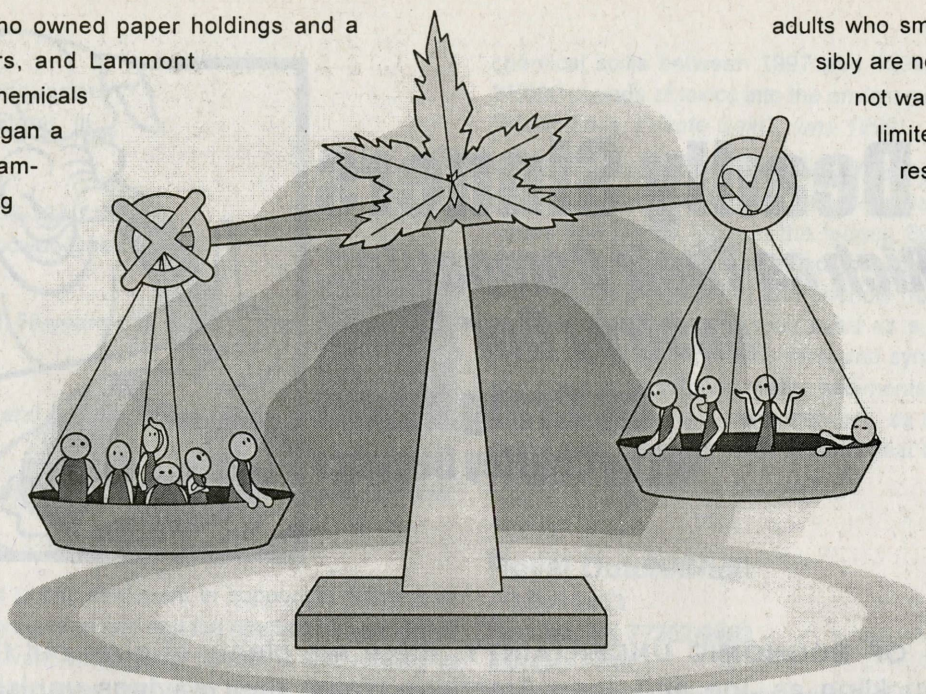
adults who smoke marijuana responsibly are not criminals and they do not want to spend our nation's limited police resources arresting and jailing them."

The good news about marijuana policy reform is that the movement is growing. The recent vote in Nevada is the highest percentage ever for a measure in favor of ending prohibition. And the more people see that marijuana legalization is becoming a major cause, the more people might not think their

ideas are so radical, and the

more politicians won't be afraid of tackling pro-marijuana issues in the future.

The time has come to undo a hysterical and misguided 65-year-old mistake once and for all. ❧



art by Greg Rebis

Make an IMPACT

Marijuana Policy Project

<http://www.mpp.org>

Nat'l Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML)

<http://www.norml.org>

Drug Reform Coordination Network

<http://www.drcnet.org>

The Sentencing Project

<http://www.sentencingproject.org>

A History of Hemp/Marijuana

<http://www.viperrecords.com/newprohibition/truestory.shtml>

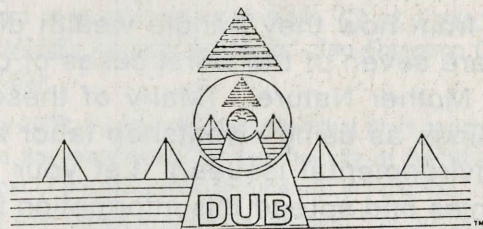
Magick Botanicals

products for people who are chemically sensitive
and allergic to fragrance

www.magickbotanicals.com

hair care, body care, baby products and more!

800-237-0674



President

MIKE ELLIOTT QUALITY

St. Petersburg, FL

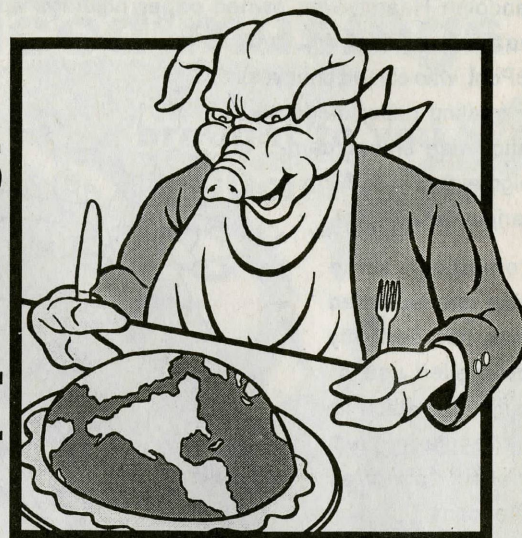
FOR SALE

727-381-1052

Seven Deadly Sinners

CEOs Get Rich as Their Companies Destroy Our Earth

by Craig Mazer
Art by Charley Deppner



IN THESE TIMES OF ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY, there are plenty of guys out there (not many gals) who are chuckling as Joe and Joan American watch their savings vanish. These guys are loaded, raking in millions over the last few years as the top gun of their respective companies. During these troubled financial times, we face another threat, as an August 2002 U.N. report, "Global Challenge, Global Opportunity", made clear, "If we do nothing to change our current indiscriminate patterns of development, we will compromise the long-term security of the Earth and its people."

Our Earth is in danger. At present, 40% of the world's population faces water shortages; global sea levels are rising, a clear indication of the impact of global warming; many plant and animal species are at risk of extinction, including half of the large primates, man's closest animal relatives; 2.4 per cent of the world's forests (an area larger than the size of Venezuela) were destroyed during the 1990s; demand for food is rising as the world population grows, and the capacity of food production to keep pace is diminishing, especially in developing countries; every year more than 3 million people die from the effects of air pollution. ("Global Challenge, Global Opportunity", United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs, August 13, 2002)

All the while, men are getting rich running companies that helped create this perilous problem. As G.W. tells the rest of the world that the Kyoto Treaty is too costly to American businesses, those same businesses are raking in the dough. Worse yet, that money doesn't get passed along to the average employee. Instead, those sitting at the top are getting rich, while America struggles with an economic crisis and our Earth continues a downward spiral at the hands of some of the U.S.'s biggest companies.

As consumers, we have an opportunity to really make a difference in the way business behaves, from how they handle wealth distribution to how they treat our precious environment. Below are seven of the worst cases of corporate self-wealth coupled with a complete disregard for our Mother Nature. (Many of these companies also have other serious issues involving such things as using sweatshop labor and discrimination claims, but this article will deal only with environmental issues.) Let your dollars speak out by boycotting and protesting these companies and spread this information to all your friends and family. Or, find someone with the skills to hack into these companies' accounts and quietly transfer their dirty money to the banks of groups fighting to save our Earth. Just a thought. I don't condone breaking the law—unless of course you don't get caught.

Boise Cascade

Boise Corporate Headquarters

1111 West Jefferson Street
PO Box 50
Boise, ID 83728-0001
208-384-6161; fax: 208-384-7189
www.bc.com, email: bcweb@bc.com

CEO George J. Harad, 58-years-old

Pay in 2002: \$2.3M

Over 5 years: \$10.7M

(*Forbes*, "Big Bosses and Paychecks", 4/25/02)



Brands owned include: Aspen, Cascade, Boise Cascade, Gulfbrite, Lakewood

Boise refuses to heed public sentiment in support of wilderness and old growth forest protection and end the practice of buying and selling products made from endangered forests. It also refuses to join more than 400 companies, including Home Depot, Lowe's and Kinko's, in a pledge to stop selling products made from endangered, old growth forests. Boise faces increasingly intense public criticism for refusing to stop logging and distributing old growth wood from around the world and adopt sustainable forestry principles. The public fury surrounding Boise's lack of environmental standards has become so severe that some of Boise's most prominent customers have recently severed business ties with the timber giant, including Washington Mutual, Levi-Strauss, L.L. Bean, University of Notre Dame and Patagonia. ("*Boise in Trouble for Forest Destruction*", *Rainforest Action Network*, November 8, 2002)

Judge Edward J. Lodge blocks the Clinton administration's forest-protection plan, saying it could cause 'irreparable long-term harm' to local communities; the ruling halts a plan that would have put third of national forests off limits to road building and most logging; judge sides with arguments of State of Idaho and Boise Cascade that restrictions could cause economic harm to state and timber and mining industries. ("*Judge Blocks New Forest Protection Rules*", *The New York Times*, May 11, 2001)

Boise Cascade Corporation was the number one purchaser of taxpayer-subsidized timber in the U.S. from 1994 to 1998. During that period, the company removed more than 4% of the total timber sold from National Forests. Almost half of these cuts were considered "salvage" sales, meaning the company cut into old growth and unprotected roadless areas. US Public Interest Research Group's (PIRG) Report *Public Loss, Private Gain* states, "The company has worked to keep the public in the dark about their ancient forest logging and to roadblock access to public information." (*U.S. PIRG Report, "Public Loss, Private Gain", June 1999*)

Boise Cascade was responsible for releasing more than 5.4 million pounds of toxic substances into the air, water and ground in 1997. More than 550,000 pounds of those chemicals are known to be cancer-causing chemicals. According to the EPA, the company was number nine on the list of total toxic releases and total carcinogenic releases by public timber logging companies. Three

chemical spills between 1997 and 1998 released an additional 31,000 pounds of toxics into the environment. (*U.S. PIRG Report, "Public Loss, Private Gain", June 1999*)

The Boise Cascade site in Anoka County, MN was on the EPA's Superfund National Priority List, which identifies sites with priority needs and places them in the federal Superfund program. High levels of organics were detected, including creosote (a substance produced by distilling tar) and phenols (for example, phenol itself is a white deliquescent solid used as a disinfectant and in the production of drugs, weedkillers, and synthetic resins), in on-site groundwater monitoring wells, sediments, and soils. Groundwater contamination is a major concern, as nearby towns use water drawn from municipal wells located near the site. (*Environmental Protection Agency*)

Royal Dutch/Shell

PO Box 2463
Houston, TX 77252-2463
888-GO-SHELL
www.shell.com; email: tellshell@shell.com

CEO Phil Watts, 58-years-old

Pay in 2002: \$2,450,031 (plus bonus: \$701,109)

("Shell's new chairman takes 82% pay increase", *The Guardian*, April 13, 2002)



In June 2002, Royal Dutch/Shell was fined \$38,963 by a Brazilian state for contaminating the environment with unacceptably high levels of dieldrin, which was found in wells at a former pesticide plant operated by Shell south of Sao Paulo. The plant, which made the pesticides dieldrin, aldrin and endrin, was shut down in the 1990s when Brazil banned the chemicals. They are among the 12 persistent organic pollutants—dubbed the "dirty dozen"—that remain in the environment for over 100 years without breaking down, and accumulate in the food chain. (*Reuters*, June 18, 2002)

In April 2002, a Superior Court jury in California ruled that gasoline with the additive methyl tertiary butyl ether or MTBE is a defective product and that Shell, Lyondell Chemical Co. (formerly Atlantic Richfield Chemical Co.) and Tosco Corp. (now part of Phillips Petroleum) were aware of the chemical's dangers but withheld the information when they put the product on the market. The ruling came as part of a 1998 liability case brought by the South Tahoe Public Utility District over contamination of the district's groundwater. The district initiated the lawsuit after MTBE pollution forced it to close a third of its drinking water wells. ("*2 oil giants deceived public on MTBE's hazards, jury finds*", *San Francisco Chronicle*, Apr. 17, 2002)

In February 2002, an appeals court ruled that Shell and three other companies are responsible for the majority of the \$100 million cleanup cost of the McColl Superfund site in Fullerton, California. The ruling overturned a previous decision that put onus of the clean-up costs on the US government. "The undisputed facts indicate that the oil companies...dumped acid waste both before and after the war, that they dumped acid waste from operations other than Avgas production at the McColl site and that they were not

compelled by the government to dump waste in any particular manner," Judge William A. Fletcher wrote. The companies said that they might ask the court to rehear the case or the U.S. Supreme Court to intervene. (*"Court rules four oil firms liable for \$100 million Fullerton, Calif., waste cleanup"*, Associated Press, February 13, 2002)

In late April 2001, an abandoned and damaged Shell oil well in Nigeria spilled oil in a local village inhabited by 100,000 people. Before being capped, the escaping gas and fumes caused minor illnesses in the surrounding community. Local fishermen complained that the deepening pool of oil ruined their fishing livelihood. The well had been abandoned by Shell in 1993 after it was forced out of the area because of protests by the Ogoni people who said the well was causing local pollution and leaving them impoverished. The company, which sent in a team of specialists to cap the oil flow, said that because it was forced to leave the area so rapidly it only secured two of its 16 wells properly. (*Calgary Herald*, May 6, 2001)

According to Shell's 2000 Annual Report, Shell Petroleum Development Corporation operating in Nigeria emits 1 billion cubic feet of natural gas into the atmosphere each day. In most oil-producing countries, operators re-inject natural gas back into the ground if they are not recapturing it for future sale as fuel. But the Nigerian delta's geography makes re-injection difficult and costly. "Gas flaring in Nigeria is one of the world's largest sources of global warming pollutants," according to Stephen Mills, director of the Sierra Club's International Program. (*"That giant, roaring, gas torch next door"*, *Christian Science Monitor*, May 1, 2001)

General Electric Company

Corporate Headquarters

3135 Easton Turnpike

Fairfield, CT 06431

203-373-2211

www.ge.com, email: gary.sheffer@corporate.ge.com

CEO Jeffrey R Immelt, 46-years-old

Pay in 2002: \$8.5M

(*Forbes*, "Big Bosses and Paychecks", 4/25/02)



Brands owned include: GE, Fuji, First Colony Life Insurance Co., AmeriData Technologies, Inc., CNBC, Colonial Penn Insurance Co., National Broadcasting Co., Inc. (NBC), Nissan Finance Corporation Ltd., Penske Truck Leasing Company LP

General Electric Co. said that it would move forward with plans to clean up the tons of toxic PCBs it dumped into the Hudson River, and could do the actual dredging work itself. Environmentalists, however, complained that the offer fell short, saying it focused on GE's willingness to cooperate on and fund the design stage, estimated to cost about \$30 million, but was vague when it came to the cleanup itself. (*"GE may dredge Hudson PCBs itself"*, *The Journal News*, April 10, 2002)

In December 2001, the Environmental Protection Agency ordered General Electric Co. to spend \$460 million to dredge PCBs it had

dumped into the Hudson River in the past, perhaps the Bush administration's boldest environmental action to date. The decision was bitterly opposed by the company, but hailed by national conservation groups and many prominent and prosperous residents of the picturesque Hudson River Valley. (*"Monsanto Hid Decades Of Pollution"*, *Washington Post*, December 1, 2002)

GE opposes dredging the Hudson River of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), even though the company is responsible for dumping most of the polychlorinated biphenyls into the river. (*The AP State and Local Wire*, October 21, 1999)

In 1999, the U.S. Public Interest Research group ranked General Electric number one on its list of top 25 Superfund polluters. According to the group, General Electric is a "potentially responsible party" at 86 sites on Superfund's National Priority list. (*"Top 25 Superfund Polluters"*, U.S. PIRG, 1999)

In September 1998, GE agreed to pay a \$200 million settlement for allegedly polluting the Housatonic River with chemical releases from its Pittsfield, MA facility. The EPA had been conducting a public campaign to get GE to settle the case after the company refused to admit their PCB emissions posed a health hazard. (*The Multi-national Monitor*, September 1998)

GE is among those companies that have supported "pollution secrecy" legislation, which would provide blanket immunity for environmental crimes, no matter how serious, to companies which self-report violations of environmental laws. Any documents related to the self-reporting become officially secret, cannot be divulged to the public, and cannot be used as evidence in any legal proceedings. (*"State of the States"*, *The Planet*, January 1997)

General Electric's Moreau Superfund site has been placed on the EPA's National Priority List. Also on the list are a General Electric Wiring Devices site in Puerto Rico, General Electric's Shepherd Farm site in North Carolina and General Electric's plant in Spokane County, WA. (*Environmental Protection Agency*)

DOW Chemical/Union Carbide

Company Headquarters

2030 Dow Center

Midland, MI 48642

989-636-1000; fax: 989-636-3518

www.dow.com

CEO Michael D Parker, 55-years-old

Pay in 2002: \$1.1M

(*Forbes*, "Big Bosses and Paychecks", 4/25/02)



Brands owned include: Ambitrol, Calibre, Chill Factor, Citrucel, Cling Strip, Domafoam, Formula 40, Magnum, Pine Magic, Primacor, S'wipe's, Scrubbing Bubble, Styrofoam

In December, Greenpeace published on the Internet and circulated to local reporters in Michigan new worst-case maps and the number of people at risk for three Dow Chemical Co. facilities: one in Michigan – a joint venture with Dow Corning Corp. – with 330,000 at risk; one in Texas with 105,000; and one in West Virginia with 155,000. (*"New Alarms Heat Up Debate On*

Publicizing Chemical Risks", Wall Street Journal, May 30, 2002)

Cargill Dow, a subsidiary of Dow Chemical, has been accused of "greenwashing" after marketing its new line of fabrics, "NatureWorks PLA", as being environmentally friendly. Polylactic acid (PLA) is made from natural sugars in corn, and is being promoted as a "green" alternative to oil-based products. However, the corn used, designed by Cargill (one of Cargill Dow's corporate parents), is genetically engineered. Patagonia, a green outdoor apparel company, abandoned assistance in the development of the project when Cargill Dow would not guarantee non-genetically engineered corn would be used. Cargill Dow also attempted to get endorsement from Greenpeace without disclosing their use of GE corn. In addition, the company announced the opening of a new \$750 million factory that can produce over 300 million pounds of Natureworks PLA per year, using about 40,000 bushels of Cargill corn a day. (*"Fabric from Corn: Greenfleece, or Greenwash?"*, *Corpwatch*, April 22, 2002)

Over 300 survivors of a lethal gas spill in Bhopal, India in 1984 protested at the India headquarters of Dow Chemical in April 2002. Twenty-seven tons of methyl isocyanate (MIC) gas spilled from the Union Carbide factory leaving 20,000 dead from illnesses related to exposure, and about 1.2 million chronically ill. Dow, who has since merged with Union Carbide, has refused to assume liabilities in India, even though the Bhopal population is still exposed to toxic chemicals in groundwater and soil. The National Campaign for Justice in Bhopal (NCJP) wants Dow to accept liabilities for social support, economic rehabilitation, and cleanup of toxic waste. (*"Dow Shall Be Liable"*, *CorpWatch India*, April 8, 2002)

In April 2002, Dow offered \$3 million to settle a lawsuit brought by the San Francisco BayKeeper, an environmental group that alleged the company illegally discharged contaminated water into California's New York Slough, which eventually reached San Francisco Bay. As part of the settlement, which was approved by the Contra Costa County Superior Court, the company will also treat a contaminated groundwater plume under 200 acres of its Sacramento-San Joaquin River property with bioremediation. (*"Dow settles suit over tainted water with cash, cleanup"*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, April 4, 2002)

After using terrorism as an argument to hide potential chemical disasters, the U.S. chemical industry has done little to eliminate the threats posed by chemical facilities. In March 2001, Greenpeace exposed a significant example of this failure by publishing photographic evidence from inside a Dow Chemical plant in Plaquemine, Louisiana. The photos show the internal control panels and operating instructions of an unguarded pump house that releases 550 million gallons of wastewater into the Mississippi River every day. (*"Is the U.S. Chemical Industry Our Weakest Link Against Terrorist Attacks?"* *Greenpeace*, 2002)

Houston Chronicle reporter Jim Morris and PBS reporter Bill Moyers have both reported on a 1959 Dow Chemical memo showing that vinyl chloride exposure at 500 mg "is going to produce rather appreciable injury when inhaled seven hours a day, five days a week for an extended period." The memo goes on to say, "As you can appreciate, this opinion is not ready for dissemination yet and I would appreciate it if you would hold it in confidence but use it as you see fit in your own operations." (*"Corporate Manslaughter?"*

Commondreams.org, March 27, 2001)

In 1999, the U.S. PIRG ranked Dow Chemical 11th on its "List of Top 25 Superfund Polluters." According to PIRG, Dow is a Potentially Responsible Party at 38 sites on Superfund's National Priority List. (U.S. PIRG)

E.I. du Pont de Nemours (aka du Pont)

DuPont Building
1007 Market Street
Wilmington, DE 19898
800-441-7515
www.dupont.com, e-mail: info@dupont.com

CEO Charles O Holliday Jr, 54-years-old

Pay in 2002: \$1.1M

(*Forbes*, *Big Bosses and Paychecks*, 4/25/02)

In 2001: \$15,397,325 in total compensation including stock option grants (*AFL-CIO*, *Executive PayWatch* 2002)



Brands owned include: Assure, Barricade, ChemFirst, Dacron, Duratech, Freon, Kevlar, Lycra, Stainmaster, Teflon, Thermacolor, Tyvek

After 12 days of deliberation, a jury awarded \$380,000 to three women for illnesses it said the DuPont Company had caused by polluting a now-shuttered explosives plant in Pompton Lakes. (*"Three Women Awarded \$380,000 for Illnesses Linked to DuPont Plant"*, *The New York Times*, June 8, 2002)

Greenpeace posted four maps on its web site that depict worst-case toxic disasters in New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore. The maps reflect what would happen in these metropolitan areas if terrorists attacked nearby chemical plants, or if the plants had accidents. The maps are based entirely on reports submitted to the EPA by each company as required by the Clean Air Act. Two of the four are DuPont facilities: Dupont chemical plant in Deepwater, New Jersey; and Dupont chemical plant in Edgemore, Delaware. (*"Greenpeace posts maps of worst-case toxic disasters in New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore"*, *Greenpeace*, June 4, 2002)

A jury in West Virginia has ordered DuPont to pay \$6.4 million to the family of a man who died after being exposed as a child to asbestos fibers in his father's work clothes. The verdict was delivered in March 2002, after a three-week trial before two judges appointed by the state Supreme Court to handle all asbestos-related claims. The case involved Leonard Dale Cox, chief executive of the Bank of Gassaway in Braxton County, who died in 2000 from mesothelioma, a rare and fatal tumor in the lining of the lung. Mr. Cox had never worked with asbestos, but his father, Cecil Cox, had installed asbestos insulation at DuPont's Belle plant from the 1940's until he retired in the 1970's, according to court records. In another case, \$600,000 was awarded to the widow of Roy Lupardis, a laborer and mechanic at DuPont who had worked at the Belle plant for more than 30 years. (*"DuPont ordered to pay survivors of asbestos victims"*, *The New York Times*, March 7, 2002)

In August 2001, a jury awarded \$29.5 million to two Costa Rican farmers who accused DuPont's fungicide Benlate of destroying their crops. The company was found negligent in failing to warn shrimp farmers of the potential danger, but was cleared of negligence in its distribution and testing of Benlate. In 1991, the company took Benlate off the market after it discovered that the high toxic fungicide also killed desirable plants and trees. Originally, DuPont paid \$10 million to Ecuadorian shrimp farmers in a lawsuit settled in January 2001. During the trial, it was revealed that the company had violated Florida's anti-racketeering laws by conducting tests on Benlate in Costa Rica and then destroying evidence as claims began to mount against it. As a result, the settlement will be tripled. (*Mealey's Emerging Toxic Torts*, January 19, 2001 and *Inter Press Service* Aug 17, 2001)

Greenpeace research presented in Italy shows how multinational companies like agrochemical giant DuPont are abusing patent laws for exclusive rights over crop biological diversity. Greenpeace has issued a legal challenge to a DuPont patent with support from other Latin American organizations and the Mexican government. The research, revealed at the opening session of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Conference in Rome, Italy shows how multinational companies are trying to gain worldwide control over seed, food and feed through renewed lobby efforts. The International Undertaking conference is trying to set global rules for conservation of biological diversity in crop plants and access to food production and seeds. One of the most critical issues at stake is the patentability of genes, plants and seeds. (*"Multinationals Must Stop Exploiting Biodiversity and Abusing Patent Laws"*, *Greenpeace*, June 25, 2001)

In 1999, the U.S. PIRG ranked DuPont number two on its list of top 25 Superfund polluters. According to the group, du Pont is a "potentially responsible party" at 81 sites on Superfund's National Priority list. (*U.S. PIRG*)

ExxonMobil

5959 Las Colinas Boulevard
Irving, TX 75039-2298
972-444-1000
www.exxonmobil.com

CEO Lee R Raymond, 63-years-old

Pay in 2001: \$32.6M

Over the last 5 years: \$82.1M

(*Forbes*, *Big Bosses and Paychecks*, 4/25/02)



Brands owned include: Esso, Exxon, Flit, Imperial, Mobil, Speedpass, Ancon Insurance Co., Inc., Duke Energy and Marketing LLC (40%)

In September 2002, ExxonMobil agreed to pay \$4.7 million to settle a lawsuit over a 1991 accident where a pipeline operated by Mobil Oil burst spilling 74,000 gallons of oil in the Santa Clara River in California. (*Ventura County Star*, Sep. 25, 2002)

In early April 2002, the Bush administration moved to oust a top

scientific official targeted by ExxonMobil in a confidential memo to the White House. Bold language in the ExxonMobil papers released April 3, 2002 by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) reflects a brazen, behind-the-scenes effort by the oil company and other energy giants to disrupt the principal international science assessment program on global warming. (*"ExxonMobil Memo Gets Dismissal of Top Global Warming Scientist"*, *CorpWatch*, April 5, 2002)

ExxonMobil was named as one of "*The Ten Worst Corporations of 2001*" by journalists Russell Mokhiber and Robert Weissman for leading the global warming denial campaign, blocking efforts at appropriate remedial action and a host of other reckless activities. It was the largest oil company contributor to George W. Bush's presidential campaign/Republican Party—and has seen its investment pay off in the Bush administration's resolute failure to sign the Kyoto Protocol. ExxonMobil is the lead contractor in the World Bank-backed Chad-Cameroon pipeline, which threatens to replicate the devastating experience of Shell's operations in the Niger Delta, where money flowed to a corrupt, brutal and repressive national government while local communities saw their livelihoods destroyed by pollution. At the same time, ExxonMobil has continued to push for the opening of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling, which would threaten the ecology of the largest designated wilderness area in the U.S. National Wildlife Refuge System. (*"The Ten Worst Corporations of 2001"*, *Multinational Monitor*, December 2001)

In May 2001, a jury determined that ExxonMobil must pay \$1.06 billion to a family whose Louisiana land was contaminated with radioactive waste. The land was leased by the family to an Exxon contractor from the 1950s until 1992 and was used to clean Exxon's pipes. The jury determined that Exxon should have known of the radioactive contamination. Exxon denies that it had prior knowledge of the contamination. Additionally, the company denies that the contamination is as widespread as the plaintiffs claim and that clean-up costs exceed \$46,000. The company said it would appeal. By March 2002, seven other lawsuits were filed by families living near that land. The suits seek compensation for damage to the residents' health and property from Exxon and the owners of the land. (*AP*, May 22, 2001/*Times Picayune*, Mar. 19, 2002)

In 2001, ExxonMobil agreed to pay an environmental fine of \$11.2 million for discharging hazardous waste from a barge-cleaning operation in Staten Island, NY, and then being dishonest about it. The settlement ended a 1996 lawsuit the federal government brought against Mobil over the Staten Island discharge ponds. According to the court case, oil that was emptied into waterways was shown to exceed the legal amount of benzene (a chemical known to cause leukemia when airborne) by more than 20 times. Court documents filed in the case claim that Mobil continued to run its barge-cleaning operation for two years without a permit and tried to save \$3 million by failing to abide by EPA regulations. (*"ExxonMobil to Pay \$11.2 Million for Lying About Poison Waste"*, *New York Times*, December 14, 2001)

A survey done in the summer of 2001 revealed that oil from the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill still lingers in large amounts throughout Alaska's Prince William Sound. According to the survey, which was conducted by a field crew from Auke Bay Laboratory of Ju-

neau, "the oil was quite a bit more persistent and quite a bit more toxic than we thought in 1989." The study further documents problems with wildlife that forage in the areas, such as liver damage in otters and hydrocarbons in harlequin ducks. (*"Experts amazed at oil left in Sound", The Anchorage Daily News, Jan. 23, 2002*)

Monsanto

800 North Lindbergh Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63167
314-694-1000
www.monsanto.com



CEO Hendrick Verfaillie

Pay in 2001 (most current available): \$1.5M
(*Multex Fundamentals' Market Guide 2002*)

Brands owned include: Celebrex, Centrex, Flowtran, Nutrasweet, Posilac, Roundup, Solarflex, Stucco

Two new studies indicate that Monsanto's herbicide, Roundup, is a hormone-disruptor and is associated with birth defects in humans. Farm families that applied pesticides to their crops in Minnesota were studied to see if their elevated exposure to pesticides caused birth defects in their children. The study found that two kinds of pesticides – fungicides and the herbicide Roundup – were linked to statistically significant increases in birth defects. Meanwhile, a recent test tube study reveals that Roundup can severely reduce the ability of mouse cells to produce hormones. (*Rachel's Environment and Health News, issue 751, Sept. 5, 2002*)

An Italian court is investigating the Italian subsidiary of Monsanto for allegedly using maize containing genetic material in violation of Italian law, a judicial official said. The court launched the probe after state seed agency Ense tested samples from seed companies for genetically modified organisms and found some of them to be positive. (*"Italian court probes 10 seed companies over GMOs", Reuters, August 8, 2002*)

Monsanto Co. believes that some of its canola seed might contain genetically modified material that isn't federally approved. Angling to avoid a massive recall of food products, the company is asking regulators to forgive any presence of it. (*"Monsanto Says Crops May Contain Genetically-Modified Canola Seed", Wall Street Journal, April 15, 2002*)

In February 2002, a jury found Monsanto and another company, Solutia, responsible for polluting the town and people of Anniston, Alabama with PCBs. Plaintiffs in the case claimed Monsanto discharged toxic waste into a local creek and "millions of pounds" of PCBs into open-pit landfills for almost 40 years and concealed growing evidence of the toxicity of PCBs from the public. (*"Jury finds Monsanto liable for releasing tons of PCB", Washington Post, Feb. 23, 2002*)

In 1999, the U.S. PIRG ranked Monsanto number 12 on its list of top 25 Superfund polluters. According to the group, Monsanto is a "potentially responsible party" at 38 sites on Superfund's National Priority list. (U.S. PIRG)

In 2001, Monsanto announced that it developed the first line of genetically engineered wheat, which will be available to farmers in two to four years. The wheat is engineered to be resistant to Round-Up, the company's weed-killing herbicide. However, wheat purchasers from Japan, Egypt and Europe have stated that consumers in their countries don't want genetically altered products due to fears associated with human health and the environment. Because of these concerns, Monsanto has agreed to strictly segregate the modified wheat before it is sold to farmers or approved by regulators. (*"Gene-Altered Wheat Stirring Global Fears - Monsanto product years from market", San Francisco Chronicle, March 12, 2001*)

It's time these rich, corporate head honchos are held accountable for their excessive wealth while they are at the helm of a company that is causing priceless damage to our fragile Earth. We do have a chance to make a difference, though. Contact the men named above. Let them know what you think about their corporate practices and insist that they change their track record. Don't spend your hard-earned money on any of these companies or their products. There are almost certainly options that are far more environmentally friendly. Check out the web links below and use them to help guide your consumer decisions. And for all you hackers out there, if you're looking for a big challenge, find a way to transfer the money these guys earn into a bank account for an environmental cause. I'm sure they need the money a lot more than any of the aforementioned money guzzlers. ☛

Make an IMPACT

For detailed info on companies, profiles, criticism, complete listing of brands and more, visit **Responsible Shopper:**
<http://www.responsibleshopper.org>

Forbes CEO Pay

<http://www.forbes.com/2002/04/25/ceos.html>

Environmental Working Group

<http://www.ewg.org>

CorpWatch

• <http://www.corpwatch.org>

Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch

<http://www.citizen.org/trade/>

EcoMall

<http://www.ecomall.com>

Greenpeace

<http://www.greenpeace.org>

Earth Day Network

<http://www.earthday.net>

U.S. PIRG

<http://www.uspirg.org>

Subscribe to IMPACT press

Receive IMPACT in your mailbox for less than \$1.67 per issue. Subscribe for six months and receive three issues for \$5 US (\$8 Canada/Mexico; \$14 elsewhere)! You can also subscribe for one year (six issues) for only \$10 (\$16 Canada/Mexico; \$28 elsewhere). Trust us, we're not making crap on this deal, but we wanna make you happy. So fill out the form below, send it in and we'll hook you up!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Yes or No: Join email list? _____ Want Sticker? _____

Have subscription start with issue # _____

Comments about IMPACT _____

Every subscription gets a free vinyl sticker (while supplies last). Tell us what issue you want the subscription to begin with. Send checks/money order to: IMPACT press c/o Subscriptions, PMB 361, 10151 University Blvd., Orlando, FL 32817



espitler@hotmail.com

ASIAN MAN RECORDS

PO BOX 35585 MONTE SERENO, CALIFORNIA
ZIP CODE 95030-5585 USA

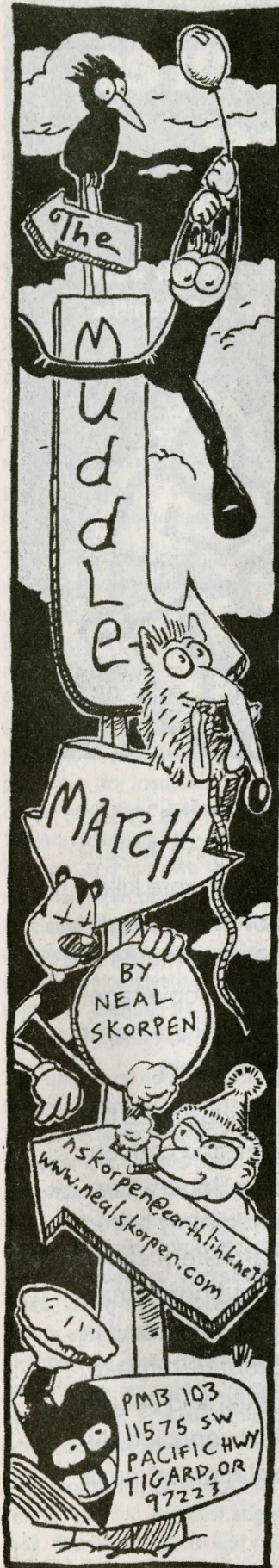
ASIAN MAN IS RUN OUT OF MY PARENTS GARAGE IN SUNNY CALIFORNIA. I HAVE 2 EMPLOYEES & MY MOM HELPS OUT BY PICKING UP MAIL AT THE POST OFFICE. I BEGAN PUTTING OUT RECORDS IN 1991 & STARTED ASIAN MAN IN MAY OF 1996. ASIAN MAN IS A VERY SMALL LABEL! I THINK SOME OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC HAVE THE WRONG IDEA AND BELIEVE WE'RE THIS HUGE RECORD COMPANY WITH TONS OF EMPLOYEES. BUT WE'VE ONLY GOT ONE PHONE LINE WITH NO CALL WAITING, A FAX MACHINE, AND JUST RECENTLY PURCHASED A SECOND COMPUTER. DEPENDING ON HOW YOU LOOK @ THINGS, THIS IS EITHER A GOOD THING OR A BAD THING. FOR ME, THIS IS THE ONLY THING. (OR IN OTHER WORDS: I ENJOY BEING A LITTLE LABEL) THIS IS HOW THE LABEL WILL REMAIN. I DO MY BEST TO DO THE THINGS THAT I BELIEVE IN. I DO THIS BECAUSE I LOVE MUSIC. I ENJOY DOING ALL THE LITTLE THINGS LIKE GOING TO KINKO'S LATE AT NIGHT, MAKING ADS BY HAND, READING MAIL, AND HANGING OUT WITH THE BANDS. I ONLY WORK WITH BANDS THAT ARE ANTI-RACIST, NON-SEXIST, NON-PREJUDICE, AND POSITIVE. ALL OUR RECORDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR \$8 THROUGH MAILORDER. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO MAILORDER, BUT IF YOU DO CHOOSE TO BUY FROM A STORE, PLEASE SUPPORT THE LOCAL MOM & POP INSTEAD OF THE SUPER MEGA CHAIN STORE. I HOPE YOU CAN GRASP WHAT THIS LABEL IS ABOUT. I TRULY LOVE WHAT I DO. IT'S MY PASSION. THAT'S ABOUT IT. PEACE ALWAYS, MIKE PARK ☺

ON DECK: CHRIS MURRAY-RAW DAN POTTHAST- MEATS&SWEETS
DECEMBER 2002 LITTLE JEANS-S/T JANUARY 2003 COLOSSAL: BRAVE THE ELEMENTS
FEBRUARY 2003 TEEN IDOLS/SQUIRTGUN SPLIT EP + MORE

....LOOK FOR NEW RELEASES FROM MIKE PARK, BIG D AND THE KIDS TABLE, DVD/VIDEO COMPILATION, UNSIGNED BAND COMPILATION, AND MORE IN 2003



THIS AD WAS MADE BY HAND. NO COMPUTERS INVOLVED. IT TOOK ME TWO HOURS TO MAKE AND THAT'S KIND OF A LONG TIME! BUT I REALLY HATE COMPUTERS!! ANYWAYS, GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT [HTTP://WWW.ASIANMANRECORDS.COM](http://www.asianmanrecords.com) AND CHECK THINGS OUT. WE ARE DISTRIBUTED BY MORDAM RECORDS, THEY ARE THE BEST!! PLEA FOR PEACE NO WAR!!



MUDDLEMATCH

BY NEAL SKORPEN

PMB 103 11575 SW PACIFIC HWY TIGARD, OR 97223



the MUDDLEMATCH

BY NEAL SKORPEN

PMB 103 11575 SW PACIFIC HWY TIGARD, OR 97223





Common Natures, Shared Fates:

Toward an Interspecies Alliance Politics

by Dr. Steven Best

art by Eric Spittler

THE EYES OF THE WORLD WERE TRANSFIXED on the fiery ruins of the World Trade Center collapsing into rubble, as thousands of people were dead or dying. Meanwhile, in an average slaughterhouse, far more pigs, chickens, turkeys, or cattle were killed that same moment in other terrorist acts. One act of terrorism was extraordinary, illegal, and immoral while the other was routine, legal, and perfectly acceptable to the minds of most people. 9-11 was a tragedy of the first order, and received nonstop media coverage, but every second is a 9-11 attack on the animals, an assault that transpires under the cover of indifference and unfolds in a far more prolonged, torturous, and barbaric manner.

Dare one make a comparison between human and animal suffering? Few things raise the hackles of some people more than drawing analogies between factory farms and concentration camps. In a letter to *Vegan Voice*, Karen Davis, President of United Poultry Concerns, compared the human and animal holocausts of 9-11. She was immediately tarred and feathered, and her infamy even earned her an interview on the Howard Stern show. With Karen Davis and others, I am who dares to say suffering of human and nonhuman species is comparable in terms of the attention and response it should merit. We stand in good company for, as documented in Charles Patterson's powerful book, *Eternal Treblinka: Our Treatment of Animals and the Holocaust*, many survivors of the holocaust and people of Jewish descent see common roots in the mass killing of animals and Nazi genocide. As Theodor Adorno says, "Auschwitz begins wherever someone looks at a slaughterhouse and thinks: they're only animals."

A Multiperspectival Theory of Power

It is important to grasp the similarities and differences among various modes of oppression for both theoretical and political reasons. This understanding is the basis of a multiperspectival theory of power and a politics of alliance. A diverse and comprehensive theory of power is necessary for a politics of liberation, for alliances cannot be formed without understanding how different modes of power overlap and converge, affecting and implicating more than one group. Power systems often invoke multiple ideologies to oppress any one group, as capitalism has used racism and sexism as tools to divide and conquer the working class. Indeed, an abstract term like "the working class" masks the heterogeneity of people that comprise it and the various modes of power they suffer and resist. Consequently, domination and injustice need to be resisted from numerous angles simultaneously. Power is diverse, complex, and interlocking, and it cannot be adequately illuminated from the standpoint of any one group or concern. Similarly, no single group can achieve liberation on its own or, certainly, emancipate other oppressed communities.

The mindset and institutions of power, violence, exploitation, domination, and discrimination spring from numerous phenomena such as the emergence and elaboration of hierarchical systems, the bureaucratic needs of the state, aversion to difference and otherness (the basis of racism and xenophobia), and the wanton sacrifice of all living beings to the altar of profit. Power and domination are not only political and economic phenomena, since they also have an important psychological component. A distinct human pathology, for instance, is contempt for nature (what Jim Mason coins "misothery" in his superb book, *An Unnatural Order: Why We Are Destroying the Planet and Each Other*), including the earth, animals, and our own bodies, the object of much fear and loathing. Moreover, power systems require legitimating ideologies, as capitalism thrives on the belief that human beings are inherently competitive. Similarly, current carnivorous practices are sustained by the mythologies that human beings are flesh-eaters by nature, that God intended us to eat animals, and that all life forms quite naturally kill other life forms.

The origins of domination and oppression are shrouded in prehistory, but many theorists have attempted to bring them to light. This is certainly a risky, speculative, and controversial enterprise. For example, did the domination of nature lead to the domination of human beings, as many Marxists argue, or did the domination of human beings lead to the domination of nature, as claimed by social ecologist Murray Bookchin? Some theorists attempt to reduce all modes of oppression to one, such as gender, race, or class, which they privilege as the font of power from which all others spring. Most notoriously, classical Marxists subsumed all struggles to class. Other social concerns such as patriarchy and racism were reduced to "questions," dismissed as divisive, and to be postponed to post-revolutionary society where allegedly they would be moot anyway.

The resurfacing of bureaucracies, nationalism, sexism, and racism in "existing socialist societies" refuted this Procrustean outlook. Marxist feminists and race theorists, for instance, observed

that the hierarchical class logic of capitalism only needs an empty space to exploit laborers, but that the logic of patriarchy and racism dictates who will fill the lowest slots. But some feminists and race theorists privilege their mode of oppression as primordial. Radical feminists claim that patriarchy is the fundamental hierarchy in history, and some ecofeminists invert the patriarchal hierarchy to champion women by nature as superior to men.

I think the best approach is to advance a multiperspectival approach that sees both what is similar among various modes of oppression and what is specific to each. There are a plurality of modes and mechanisms of power that have evolved throughout history, and different accounts provide different insights into the workings of power and domination. According to feminist standpoint theory, each oppressed group has an important perspective or insight into the nature of society. People of color, for instance, can illuminate colonialism and the pathology of racism, while women can reveal the logic of patriarchy that has buttressed so many different modes of social power throughout history. While animals cannot speak about their sufferings, it is only from the standpoint of animal exploitation that we can grasp the nature of speciesism, glean key facets of the pathology of human violence, and illuminate important aspects of misothery and the social and environmental crisis society now faces.

Understanding the intimate relationship between human and animal oppression blocks the tired objection voiced to those who express concern for animals, "But what about human suffering?" Whether they realize it or not, activists who promote veganism and animal rights are ipso facto engaging a vast complex of problems in the human world. For when human beings are violent to animals, they are violent toward one another; when they instrumentalize animals as mere resources for their own consumption, they stunt their own psychological growth and capacities for compassion; when they destroy the habitat of animals, they impair the ecological systems they too require; and when they slaughter animals for food, they exacerbate the problem of world hunger, they compound the environmental crisis in a myriad of ways, and they devastate their own health and drain human resource budgets.

In her compelling book *The Dreaded Comparison: Human and Animal Slavery*, Marjorie Spiegel shows that the exploitation of animals provided a model, metaphors, and technologies and practices for the dehumanization and enslavement of blacks. From castration and chaining to branding and ear cropping, whites drew on a long history of subjugating animals to oppress blacks. Once perceived as beasts, blacks were treated accordingly. In addition, by denigrating people of color as "beasts of burden," an animal metaphor and exploitative tradition facilitated and legitimated the institution of slavery. The denigration of any people as a type of animal is a prelude to violence and genocide. Many anthropologists believe that the cruel forms of domesticating animals at the dawn of agricultural society ten thousand years ago created the conceptual model for hierarchy, statism, and the exploitation treatment of other human beings, as they implanted violence into the heart of human culture. From this perspective, slavery and the

sexual subjugation of women is but the extension of animal domestication to humans. Patterson, Mason, and numerous other writers concur that the exploitation of animals is central to understanding the cause and solution to the crisis haunting the human community and its troubled relationship to the natural world.

The Logic of Discrimination and Moral Evolution

When we compare speciesism to classism, racism, sexism, homophobia, and other modes of discrimination, we see they share a similar logic. In each case, there is a rigid dualism established between different groups (e.g., whites vs. people of color, men vs. women, humans vs. animals) that denies their commonality. But these dualisms are not innocent, and the distinctions are arranged in a hierarchy that privileges one group as superior and denigrates the other as inferior. As every power system has a justification, dualistic hierarchies are the theory for the practice of the domination and exploitation of marginalized groups. Every power system involves the category of the Other to posit violations to the norms that are privileged and protected. But, in every case of oppression, the alibi of power is arbitrary and rooted in bias and prejudice rather than a defensible rational standpoint.

In classism, racism, sexism, homophobia, and speciesism, we therefore find the same ploys of power involving the logic and structures of exclusion. No matter what group it targets, prejudice is prejudice and needs to be extirpated by an enlightened society. Just as no democracy worth its name can work only for the economic elite, whites, men, or heterosexuals, it is equally true that the great "world house" envisioned by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. cannot consistently contain speciesism and the vast industries of killing animals for food, sport, experimentation, or entertainment.

The great moral learning process of human evolution involves ever more people understanding that while differences between humans and among species certainly exist, the similarities are more morally significant. Factual differences, in other words, have no moral relevance in assigning which group has rights and which group does not. Alleged human traits of intellectual and linguistic superiority over animals are no more relevant than appeals to gender, skin color, or sexual preference within the human community.

The commonalities of oppression help us to narrate the history of human moral consciousness, and to map the emergence of moral progress in our culture. This trajectory can be traced through the gradual universalization of rights. By grasping the similarities of experience and oppression, we gain insight into the nature of power, we discern the expansive boundaries of the moral community, and we acquire a new vision of progress and civilization, one based upon ecological and non-speciesist principles and universal justice.

Rethinking Community

Enlightened thinkers such as Dr. Albert Schweitzer and ecologist Aldo Leopold have worked to broaden the notion of community to include animals and the land. If we consider the meaning of "community," we see that it entails mutual interdependence of living

beings in a context of shared norms and expectations, held together by values of reciprocity and respect. Schweitzer and Leopold expand the definition of community to encompass animals, and some deep ecologists include the earth in all its aspects, such that it becomes evident our true community is not our town, our city, our state, our nation, or even the globe, but rather the entire planet. Our real community, in a word, is the biocommunity, the community of all living beings and the nonliving things that sustain life.

One may wonder how animals and the earth itself—every rock, river, tree, and grain of sand—can count as a valid definitional aspect of "community." One need not resort to mysticism to grasp this vast systemic interdependence, as the answer lies squarely within the domain of the science of ecology. No one truly is independent; rather we are all dependent on one another for the benefits we enjoy in society. Not only are we dependent on fellow human beings for our lives, we are also, quite obviously, dependent on the earth as it provides the air, water, sunshine, and food that sustain us.

In his theory of Gaia (the Greek word for "earth"), NASA scientist James Lovelock described the planet as a self-regulating and self-organizing superorganism in which every element exists in a vast feedback loop of interaction with everything else. Animals, insects, and microorganisms too are an essential aspect of Gaia, as the earthworms vitalize the soil; the birds, bees, and other pollinators spread the seeds of life; insects maintain the ground and growth of the rainforests; and animals help sustain the habitats in which they live.

If our true community is the biocommunity, the question is begging to be asked: are we good citizens in this community? Clearly not: we are colonizers, plunderers, murderers, and thieves who steal from other life forms and from future generations of human beings. Although dependent on everything else on the earth, we fancy ourselves supremely aloof and independent in our floating technological castles.

The Hypocrisy of the Political Left

From the perspective of ecology and animal rights, Marxists and other social "radicals" have been extremely reactionary forces. It is taxing to sit at a table full of critical theorists, feminists, postcolonialists, and other social justice advocates, all excoriating capitalist exploitation while they devour bloody steaks and smear pig ribs and chicken grease across their overfed faces. In works such as his *1844 Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts*, Karl Marx advanced a naturalistic theory of human life, but like the dominant Western tradition he posited a sharp dualism between human and nonhuman animals, arguing that only human beings have consciousness and a complex social world. Nonhuman animals, he claims, are mere creatures of instinct and exist as part of the natural world for human beings to "humanize," as humanity evolves in and through its technological transformation of the natural world. While there is lively debate over whether or not Marx had an environmental consciousness, there is no question he was a speciesist and the product of an obsolete paradigm that continues to mar progressive social theory.



From castration and chaining to branding and ear cropping, whites drew on a long history of subjugating animals to oppress blacks.

Consider the case of Michael Albert, a prolific author and co-founder of *Z Magazine* and *Z Net*, noted Left publishing forums. In a recent interview with the animal rights and environmental magazine *Satya*, he states: "when I talk about social movements to make the world better, animal rights does not come into my mind. I honestly don't see animal rights in anything like the way I see women's movements, Latino movements, youth movements, and so on ... a large-scale discussion of animal rights and ensuing action is probably more than needed ... but it just honestly doesn't strike me as being remotely as urgent as preventing war in Iraq or winning a 30-hour work week."

While I do not expect a blatant anthropocentrist like Albert to see animal and human suffering as even roughly comparable, I cannot fathom privileging a work reduction for humans who live relatively comfortable lives to ameliorating the obscene suffering of tens of billion of animals who are confined, tortured, and killed each year. Moreover, Albert lacks the holistic vision to grasp the profound connections between animal abuse and human suffering.

The problem with such myopic Leftism stems not only from Karl Marx himself, but the traditions that spawned him—modern humanism and the Enlightenment. To be sure, the move from a God-centered to a human-centered world, from the crusades of a blood-thirsty Christianity to the critical thinking and autonomy ethos of the Enlightenment, were massive historical gains, and animal rights builds on them. But modern social theory and science perpetuated one of worst aspects of Christianity (in the standard interpretation that understands dominion as domination), namely the view that animals are mere resources for human use. Indeed, the situation for animals worsened considerably under the impact of modern sciences and technologies that brought us vivisection, genetic engineering, cloning, factory farms, and slaughterhouses.

In short, the modern "radical" tradition stands in continuity with the

entire Western heritage of anthropocentrism, and in no way can be seen as a liberating philosophy from the standpoint of the environment and other species on this planet. A truly revolutionary social theory and movement must incorporate a new ethics of nature, as it maintains a commitment to Enlightenment norms, human justice, and anti-capitalism.

In the last two decades in Europe and the U.S., Green parties have emphasized progressive social concerns in conjunction with environmental values. But Greens typically have not endorsed animal rights and vegetarianism, and often they are as speciesist as any Leftist or politically progressive group. The Green Party USA upholds ten key values that promote respect, solidarity, justice, non-violence, and sustainability, but they fail to say a word about the holocaust of animal destruction and its impact on peoples and the earth. In section III K 12 of their Platform 2000, however, entitled Biological Diversity, we read this promising note: Finally, as Greens, we must add that the mark of a humane and civilized society truly lies in how we treat the least protected among us. To extend rights to other sentient, living beings is our responsibility and a mark of our place among all of creation. We find cruelty to animals to be repugnant and criminal. We call for an intelligent, compassionate approach to the treatment of animals. This is a leap in awareness for a human rights/environmental Party, and holds some promise that strong alliances among the vegan, animal rights, Green, and social justice communities can be forged.

Interspecies Solidarity

The need for justice is universal. In his "Letter From Birmingham Jail," Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly." Racism and sexism, for instance, have divided the working community and prevented them from

achieving the power of a united front against corporate exploiters. Human beings must see that this "inescapable network of mutuality" includes nonhuman animals and that their plight is our plight, even if one cares only about human problems. In so many ways, what we do to the animals, we do to ourselves. Any form of hierarchical consciousness can feed into and reinforce another; and thus we must continually attack dualistic, discriminatory, and hierarchical frameworks until the hydra-headed monster of prejudice and oppression is slayed entirely.

The exploitation of farmed animals provides a vivid illustration of the centrality of animal concerns to human issues and the vast interconnected effects of exploiting any single group. After World War II, as animals became ever more intensively produced as food commodities, family farms were increasingly replaced by factory farms. This monumental shift meant not only that animals would be raised indoors within intensive conditions of confinement, creating unprecedented levels of suffering, but also that huge corporations were gaining control of small scale farms and driving out families who cared for their land for generations. To work inside the filthy and dangerous factory farms and slaughterhouses, corporations exploited immigrant labor and other destitute and desperate workers. To control diseases and maximize growth, agribusiness pumped massive doses of antibiotics into the animals, helping to create widespread resistance to important drugs. To make animals grow as large and fast as possible, they injected them with growth hormones and eventually began to genetically engineer and clone them. Besides high doses of saturated fat, cholesterol and protein, the public was consuming a plethora of dangerous chemicals. Factory farms also generate huge amounts of chemicals and waste which foul the air, poison waterways, and destroy communities.

Thus, because of its far-reaching consequences, injury to farmed animals brought immense harm to farmers, workers, consumers, and the environment. Far from being irrelevant to social movements, animal rights can form the basis for a broad coalition of social groups and drive changes that strike at the heart of capitalist exploitation of animals, people, and the earth. One stellar example of a great social activist who grasped the whole picture was Cesar Chavez, noted not only for being a vegetarian but also for opposing spectacles of animal cruelty such as the rodeo.

There are limits to what animal rights activists can support, however, as they would never endorse better wages for underpaid poultry workers. Instead, they would advance the abolition of animal food industries and reemployment of workers in humane and ethically acceptable occupations. Similarly, the animal rights community cannot join consumer groups to advocate organic meat or embrace the slow foods movement that, although a critique of fast food culture and the corporate takeover of agriculture, nonetheless endorses meat consumption in organic and free-range form. Invariably, when one reads about the plight of workers in slaughterhouses and meatpacking plants in Left publications like *In These Times* or *The Nation*, moral and critical attention focuses solely on

the workers, and the voice of outrage says nothing about the animals as if the rivers of blood flowing out of these houses of horror would be acceptable given higher wages for the workers.

But if radical social movements have ignored animal concerns and missed the big picture, the animal rights movement has paid insufficient attention to other social struggles and the logic of capitalism. Largely apolitical or single-issue in scope, many animal rights advocates fail to grasp how the animal abuses they decry result from the profit imperative, and are part and parcel of a social system that needs to be challenged and transformed in radical ways. To the extent that animal rights activists grasp the systemic nature of animal exploitation, they should also realize that animal liberation demands that they work in conjunction with other radical social movements. Animal activists need to realize that progressive social movements traditionally have viewed them with suspicion, as bearers of race and class privileges who ignore issues of social oppression, and thus they need to begin to build bridges in the progressive community (as, for example, people of color are a rare sight at animal rights protests and conferences).

The need for alliances, and the great difficulty in achieving them, is evident in the attempts to build bridges between the feminist and animal rights communities. As spelled out by Carol Adams and other ecofeminists, the patriarchal ideologies of Western society reduce women to a subhuman status. Men have depicted women as closer to animals than to humans, as humans have rational capacities that are allegedly lacking in women and animals. Throughout our social landscape, one finds advertising images that link women's bodies to animal bodies, equating both as meat to be consumed by men. Women and animals both are targets of male violence. Meat eating and hunting are bound up with ancient patriarchal values and institutions, and Adams argues that feminists who wish to be consistently anti-patriarchal should adopt a vegetarian lifestyle. Ecofeminists advance an ethics of care that promotes holism, connectedness, and respect for animals and the earth.

Thus, there appears to be a natural affinity between core concerns of feminism and animal rights, as both have a common enemy in patriarchy. But the reality of forging alliances has often proved difficult. Feminists have complained, rightly, that while a disproportionate number of people in the animal rights community are women, the leaders overwhelmingly are men. For many feminists, the existence of sexist norms within the animal rights community is most obvious in the case of PETA, the world's largest animal rights organization that is infamous for featuring naked or scantily clad women in their demonstrations and advertisements, thereby reproducing society's dominant images of women as sex objects rather than human subjects. PETA unapologetically defends this tactic as necessary to gain media attention for their education campaigns that otherwise would be ignored, but many feminists feel that PETA is sending out a mixed message that denounces one form of exploitation while endorsing another.

Beyond Identity Politics

Some of these feminists respond by leaving the animal rights movement altogether and many animal rights activists wish them fond farewell for what they view to be divisive concerns. This truly is unfortunate. For the last few decades, social movements have taken the form of identity politics that are highly Balkanized, with each group pursuing its own agenda relating to its specific form of identity (black, brown, female, environmental, gay, and so on). This development perhaps was necessary for various cultures and groups to find their own histories and voices, but the fragmentary politics of identity now needs to be replaced with a politics of alliance where each group not only recognizes its own particular mode of oppression and champions its distinct identities and interests, but also grasps its theoretical and political relations to other groups and works in a strategic unity against common forces of oppression such as capitalism.

There are signs that such a movement is emerging. Many commentators characterize the 1999 Battle of Seattle as a turning point in that a rich diversity of groups came together to challenge a common enemy—global capitalism and the World Trade Organization. Dozens of coalitions worked harmoniously in a united front of justice for all, as diverse groups such as teamsters (labor) and turtles (environmental and animal groups) stood together. On numerous occasions since then, activists have gathered around the world in similar coalitions contesting the injustices of global capitalism. As capitalism globalizes and unites various countries in new trade treaties such as the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) which subsumes 34 countries of North and South America into a “free-trade” zone, activists are uniting into alliances not only within their own countries, but also creating new global blocs of resistance across national boundaries. Other hopeful recent signs of alliance include the Harvard Living Wage Campaign—created by students in solidarity with janitors, dining service, and other underpaid workers at the university—and the student anti-sweatshop movement. One of the most moving demonstrations of solidar-

ity I have witnessed occurred at the 1996 national animal rights conference in Washington, D.C., where gay activists from ACT-UP denounced animal experimentation, rejected any medical advance for AIDS that was dependent upon causing pain to other beings, and embraced interspecies solidarity.

The challenge will be not only to come together on occasion for dramatic protests against global capitalism, but to sustain alliances in a multifaceted attack on injustice. For this to work, progressive social movements will have to include animal rights and veganism within their agendas and, indeed, their lives—just as animal rights activists need to extirpate elitism, sexism, racism, homophobia, and other forms of prejudice from their community. Activists will need to forge a shared vision and set of values be-

yond protest and critique, knowing both what they want “freedom from” and “freedom to,” the kind of society they can no longer tolerate and the nature of community they want to build.

To change the conditions for animals, we have to change the social institutions, and that demands alliances with other progressive groups. The animal welfare/rights movement is showing increasing strength and sophistication in its ability to pass city, state, and national legislation for ani-

mal protection, but it remains a single issue movement devoid of roots in communities of workers, women, people of color, and church groups (who for better or worse are a key part of the grass roots). But as they hopefully mature as a social movement, animal advocates are a powerful reminder that “social justice” is a limited political concept and that no species is free until all species are free. The slogan of the future must not be “We are all one race, the human race,” but rather, “We are one community, the community of living subjects.” ¶

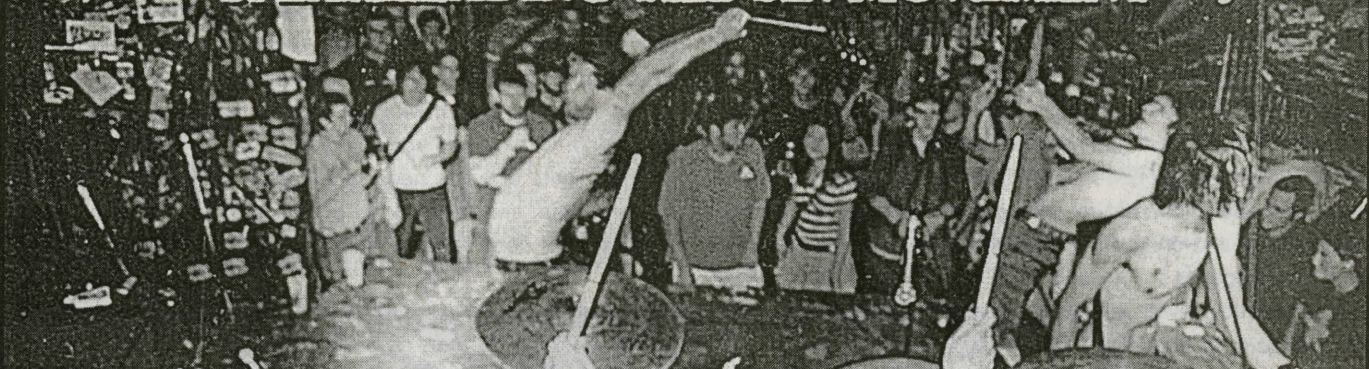
Dr. Steven Best is Associate Professor and Chair of Philosophy at the University of Texas, El Paso. He has published numerous books and articles on the topics of social theory, cultural studies, science and technology, and postmodernism. His next book will be *Moral Progress and Animal Rights: The Struggle For Human Evolution*. Some of his writings are posted at <http://utminers.utep.edu/best/>



The fragmentary politics of identity now needs to be replaced with a politics of alliance where each group grasps its theoretical and political relations to other groups and works in a strategic unity against common forces of oppression such as capitalism.

PLANES MISTAKEN FOR STARS

SPEARHEADING THE SIN MOVEMENT



PLANES MISTAKEN FOR STARS "Spearheading the Sin Movement" 7" / CDep & "Fuck with Fire" LP / CD
 TRAPDOOR FUCKING EXIT "Devil's Egg" 7" / CDep • THE BACKTOP CADENCE "Chemistry for Changing Times" LP / CD
 GUNMOLL / FIFTH HOUR HERO split LP / CD • USUALS "On the Lover's Circuit" CD • CLAIEMEL "A Letter to Friends" CD
 AGAINST ME! "The Disco Before the Breakdown" 7" / CDep & "Reinventing Axl Rose" LP / CD • ASTRID OTO "Singles" CD
 RADON "We Bare All" CD • HOT WATER MUSIC "Never Ender" 2xLP / 2xCD & "Fuel for the Hate Game" LP / CD

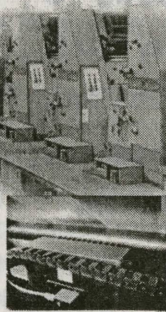
THESE PRICES ARE POSTPAID IN THE USA: LP / CD \$8 • 7" \$3.50 • CDep \$5 • 2xLP / 2xCD \$12

Please see our website for overseas postage rates and a huge catalog of over 4,000 CD's, records, shirts, & other fun stuff!

NO IDEA! po box 14636 gainesville, fl 32604 noidearecords.com

**If you need printing
check our website for
special offers now!**

BOOKS
MAGAZINES
JOURNALS
COMICS
ZINES
NEWSLETTERS
CATALOGS
MANUALS
DIRECTORIES
HANDBOOKS
TEXT BOOKS
WORK BOOKS
SCHOOL BOOKS
SOFTWARE MANUALS



Hot & Full Size Web Printing

COLD &
HEATSET
WEB
PRINTING
LARGE
SHEET
FEED
PERFECTING

Multicolor Perfecting

4-6 color Process Printing

Full Mailinghouse
Service

All Major Credit Cards



1-800-940-6566 727-942-2218 Fx 727-937-4758

720 Wesley Ave Tarpon Springs FL 34689

print@marrak.com www.marrak.com

Serving the small press community since 1976



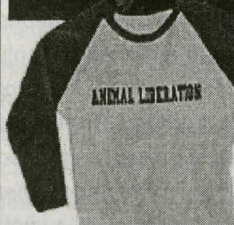
Check out

VeganMercantile.com

for the

LARGEST SELECTION

of AR message shirts,
and you too can be a walking billboard...



Support your community—BUY VEGAN!

Help Support IMPACT

IMPACT press is a not-for-profit magazine with a mostly-volunteer staff. Advertising dollars are used to pay for printing, shipping and general business expenses. But we could always use extra support.

If you are capable and feel so inspired to help support IMPACT press financially, please don't hesitate to do so. We can accept cash, checks and money orders made out to "IMPACT press" and they should be sent to the address below. Your donations will go to help purchase new computer equipment that is desperately needed, pay for the web site, help cover office expenses and much more.

We greatly appreciate your support and will continue to bring you the best in alternative news media at a price you definitely can't argue with.

IMPACT press, c/o Donation, PMB 361, 10151 University Blvd., Orlando, FL 32817



◆ EARRINGS ◆ BRACELETS ◆

SIMULATED PEARLS

GEMSTONES

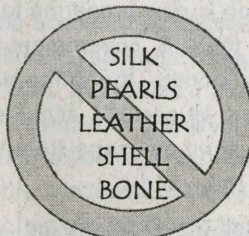
EYEGLOSS CHAINS

◆ NECKLACES ◆ 14K GOLD ◆

Snooty

J E W E L R Y

Promoting compassion for
animals, people, and the
environment



Toll-free 877-884-4367

www.snootyjewelry.com

All major credit cards
accepted

Vegan owned and operated



RECYCLED - ART PINS

STERLING SILVER

FAUX SILK

moo\shoes

alternatives to leather



We Carry products by:

Vegan Wares, Birkenstock, Vans,
Ecolution Hemp Shoes, TUK Shoes,
Vegetarian Shoes and Jackets,
Rinaldi Designs, English Retreads,
Herbivore Clothing Co., Ethical Wares,
Vegan Leather belts, AnimalRightstuff t-shirts,
+ bags, wallets, buttons, treats, stickers,
and other fun stuff. Go Vegan.

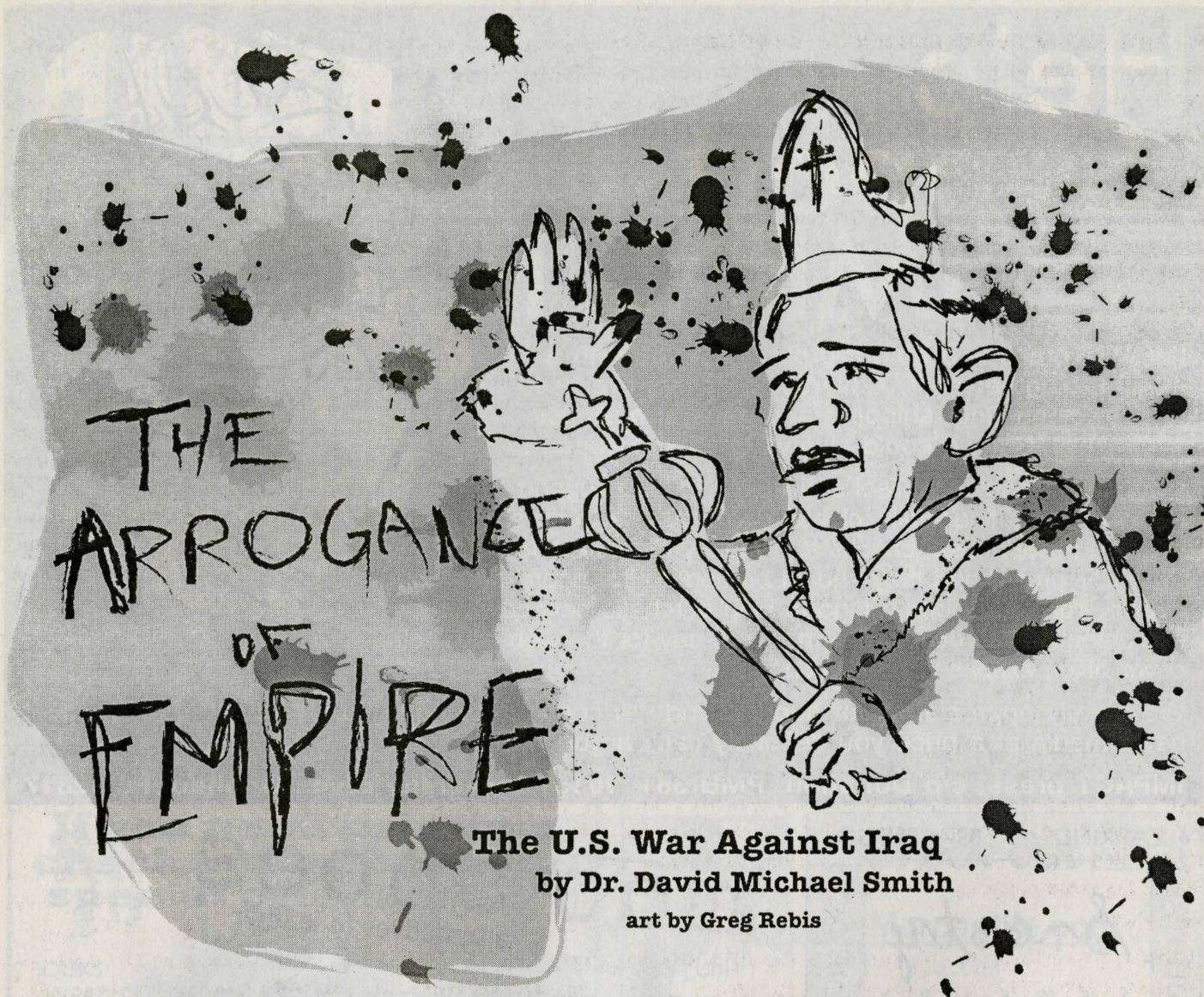


CHECK OUT OUR ONLINE STORE!

WWW.MOOSHOOES.COM

207 E. 26th St.

NY, NY | 10010 | 212.481.5792



THE ARROGANCE OF EMPIRE

The U.S. War Against Iraq
by Dr. David Michael Smith

art by Greg Rebis

ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2002, Americans from all walks of life marked the first anniversary of the terrible tragedy we have come to know as "9-11." All over the country, people remembered that three thousand individuals died as the result of a horrific terrorist action. Unfortunately, the Bush Administration is now preparing to launch a much larger, much deadlier act of state terrorism against Iraq. Since last summer, the U.S. government has been moving steadily toward the invasion of one of the oldest countries in the world. For months, the White House and the Congressional leadership have been telling the American people that Saddam Hussein is acquiring weapons of mass destruction and preparing to use them against us. The increasingly shrill message from Washington is that "regime change" in Iraq may be the only way to protect our nation and the world.

As journalist Thalif Deen has observed, intense U.S. pressure and economic enticements eventually moved the United Nations Security Council member states to adopt Resolution 1441 on November 8, 2002 ("U.S. Dollars Yielded Unanimous U.N. Vote Against Iraq," *Inter Press Service*, November 11, 2002). This measure demands that Iraq readmit U.N. arms inspectors and reveal any weapons of mass destruction or progress made toward acquiring such weapons. Although ambassadors from Russia, China, and France have emphasized that this resolution does not authorize a military attack on Iraq in case of compliance problems, the Bush Administration may not be constrained by such details. With a growing number of planes, ships, and troops in the region, a U.S. invasion appears increasingly likely—regardless of whether the Iraqi regime cooperates with weapons inspectors, and regardless of whether it actually has weapons of mass destruction.

AS ANTI-WAR ACTIVISTS AND PROGRESSIVE SCHOLARS

have been pointing out for months, the prospective U.S. attack on Iraq should be steadfastly opposed by all democratic-minded people. It is true that Saddam Hussein is a brutal dictator who has executed political opponents, massacred Kurds, and waged a horrendous war against Iran. But it is also true that the U.S. government gave him money, military aid, and even deadly chemical agents while he was engaged in these atrocities (Sean Gonsalves, "Bush Fails to Make Case for War," *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, September 17, 2002). The real motive for the prospective invasion of Iraq today has nothing to do with genuine U.S. national security. The actual interest underlying U.S. policy is the desire to gain control of Iraqi oil and promote the economic and political interests of the American Empire.

"A decade ago, when escalating tensions between Iraq and Kuwait erupted into war, the United States government eschewed any serious effort toward a peaceful resolution of the conflict. Instead, as Phyllis Bennis of the Institute for Policy Study has pointed out, U.S. policymakers bribed, threatened, and pressured other governments into providing U.N. approval for an essentially American war against Iraq ("Calling the Shots: How Washington Dominates Today's U.N.," Institute for Policy Study, 1996). U.S. military forces killed more than 150,000 Iraqis, many of whom were soldiers fleeing the battlefield or civilians not involved in combat (Ramsey Clark et al., *War Crimes: A Report on U.S. War Crimes Against Iraq*, 1992). After Saddam surrendered, the U.S. announced that Iraqi aircraft would be prohibited from flying over vast stretches of their own country. At the same time, the U.S. began intermittently bombing selected Iraqi targets and enforcing economic sanctions against the entire population. Thus, the war against Iraq never really ended.

As Edward Said of Columbia University has observed, these sanctions have "destroyed Iraq as a modern state, decimated its people, and ruined its agriculture, educational and health care systems, as well as its entire infrastructure" (*Iraq Under Siege: The Deadly Impact of Sanctions and War*, Edited by Anthony Arrove, 1996). According to U.N. statistics, more than 500,000 children died as a result of the economic sanctions between 1991 and 1998 ("Iraq Surveys Show Humanitarian Emergency," UNICEF Newline, August 12, 1999). Dehydration, malnutrition, cholera, tuberculosis, and other preventable diseases have ravaged the adult population, as well. The total number of Iraqi deaths caused by the sanctions and the continued bombing is well over one million today. U.S. policy toward Iraq during the last decade has been nothing less than genocidal (George Bisharat, "Sanctions Against Iraq Are Genocide," *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, May 3, 2002). Between 1998 and 2000, U.N. humanitarian officials Denis Halliday, Hans von Sponeck, and Jutta Burghardt resigned their positions to protest the sanctions' catastrophic impact on Iraq.

Notwithstanding the unconscionable devastation already visited on that country, in recent months the Bush Administration has been trying to sell the American people on the outright conquest of Iraq. Unable to persuasively link Iraq to any kind of terrorist threat, Bush

and his advisors have claimed that Saddam is developing nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons which might be used "on any given day." But as former C.I.A. official Vincent Cannistraro recently told British reporters, "Basically, cooked information is working its way into high-level pronouncements" (Julian Borger, "White House 'Exaggerating Iraqi Threat'," *Guardian*, October 8, 2002). And, as former U.N. weapons inspector Scott Ritter has emphasized, the White House is cynically using the "rhetoric of fear and ignorance" in the post-September 11 era to marshal support for an attack on Iraq (Frank James, "Ex-Marine Wages Loud Fight Against War," *Chicago Tribune*, September 23, 2002).

In September, Bush claimed that an International Atomic Energy Agency report revealed the Iraqis could have a nuclear weapon within six months. An I.A.E.A. spokesperson quickly told reporters, "There's never been a report like that issued from this agency" (Joseph Curl, "Agency Disavows Report on Iraq Arms," *Washington Times*, September 30, 2002). In October, Bush told the nation that Iraq had forced weapons inspectors from the I.A.E.A. and the U.N. Special Commission to leave the country in 1998. In fact, those agencies withdrew their inspectors because the Clinton Administration was preparing to bomb Iraq, and the inspectors' safety could not be guaranteed ("Detailed Analysis of October 7 Speech by Bush on Iraq," Institute for Public Accuracy, *Common Dreams News Center*, October 9, 2002). Bush also warned in October that Iraq has a fleet of aircraft that could be used to target the U.S. But as Dana Milbank has reported, "Further information revealed that the aircraft lack the range to reach the U.S." ("For Bush, Facts Are Malleable," *Washington Post*, October 22, 2002).

In fact, a closer look at Washington's attempt to depict Iraq as a dangerous threat is quite revealing. The last I.A.E.A. report on Iraq "found no indications that Iraq has retained the physical capability—in terms of hardware and facilities—to produce weapon-usable nuclear material. Nor are there any indications of Iraq having achieved its program goal of producing nuclear weapons" ("I.A.E.A. Presents Interim Status Report on Nuclear Inspections in Iraq," International Atomic Energy Agency, July 28, 1998). As Mark Gwozdecky of the I.A.E.A. explained in October 2002, "When we left [Iraq] in December 1998, we had concluded that we had neutralized their nuclear weapons program. We had confiscated their fissile material. We had destroyed all their key buildings and equipment" (Joseph Curl, "Agency Disavows Report on Iraq Arms," *Washington Times*, September 30, 2002). Indeed, the C.I.A. report released in October 2002 concludes that Iraq probably does not have nuclear weapons or fissile material (*Iraq's Weapons of Mass Destruction Programs*, Central Intelligence Agency, October 2002).

Furthermore, as politics professor Stephen Zunes has explained, "In the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf War and the subsequent inspections regimen, virtually all Iraq's stockpile of weapons of mass destruction, delivery systems, and capability of producing such weapons were destroyed." Scott Ritter has estimated that ninety to ninety-five percent of Iraq's chemical and biological weapons were eliminated by U.N. inspectors between 1991 and 1998. Although the recent C.I.A. report suggests that Iraq maintains the capacity to

produce chemical and biological weapons, the report offers no evidence of the actual production of such weapons. But even if it is true that the Iraqi government has actually produced some new chemical and biological weapons since 1998, it does not necessarily follow that the Iraqi government plans to use them. C.I.A. Director George Tenet told the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee on October 9 that Iraq is unlikely to use such weapons unless it is attacked (Neil Mackay, "Why the C.I.A. Thinks Bush is Wrong," *The Sunday Herald* [Scotland], October 13, 2002). As Zunes has reminded us, Saddam understands "that any effort to use weapons of mass destruction would inevitably lead to his own destruction."

As historian Howard Zinn has emphasized, even if Iraq possesses or is developing weapons of mass destruction, this cannot be taken as sufficient justification for an unprovoked, pre-emptive U.S. attack. After all, Zinn points out, "Israel has nuclear weapons. Pakistan and India have nuclear weapons and have come close to using them" ("The Case Against War on Iraq," *Boston Globe*, August 19, 2002). And perhaps two dozen other countries possess or are developing the capacity to produce weapons of mass destruction ("States Possessing, Pursuing, or Capable of Acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction," Federation of American Scientists, http://www.fas.org/irp/threat/wmd_state.htm). The desirability of ridding the world of such weapons is not in doubt. But, as Zinn persuasively observes, "Surely the possession of such weapons, if not used, does not constitute a clear and present danger justifying war." In this context, it is worth noting that several American allies in the region—including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt, Jordan, and Turkey—have stated that they do not feel threatened by Iraq and that they do not support a U.S. attack on Iraq.

The real motives for the prospective U.S. invasion and conquest of Iraq are not difficult to ascertain. As an official letter from the Iraqi government to the United Nations stated on September 9, "The U.S. Administration wants to destroy Iraq in order to control the Middle East Oil, and consequently control the politics as well as the oil and economic policies of the whole world" (Robert Collier, "Oil Firms Wait as Iraq Crisis Unfolds," *San Francisco Chronicle*, September 29, 2002). Confirmation of the nature of U.S. motives comes from some unlikely sources. A decade ago, Assistant Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz wrote a draft of a Defense Planning Guidance document declaring that the "overall objective" of the U.S. in the Persian Gulf "is to remain the predominant outside power in the region, and preserve U.S. and Western access to the region's oil" (Robert Collier, "At Navy School in Monterey, Voices of Skepticism About Iraq War," *San Francisco Chronicle*, November 10, 2002). On Veterans Day 2002, former U.N. weapons inspector Scott Ritter told students at the University of Maryland that the Bush Administration's war drive is rooted in the desire to control Middle East oil (Courtland Milloy, "A Call to Arms by An Enemy of War Against Iraq," *Washington Post*, November 13, 2002).

U.S. Representative Jim McDermott of Washington has reached the same conclusion, saying that the White House "wants a regime change because they want control of the oil fields." Representative McDermott told his colleagues in the U.S. House of Rep-

resentatives in October that he could not support a war undertaken "in pursuit of oil or the blandishments of empire" ("Congressman Jim McDermott Remarks on House Joint Resolution 114, To Authorize the Use of United States Armed Forces Against Iraq," October 10, 2002). As the well-respected journalist Sheryl McCarthy has written, "This war is being presented as a war against evil, but the real motives are to protect oil and to protect Israel." In McCarthy's view, Bush's drive toward war "bears the unmistakable scent of imperialism" ("Bush Should Just Be Honest About This War," *Newsday*, September 26, 2002). As reporters for the British *Observer* have concluded, "Washington's predatory interest in Iraqi oil is clear, whatever its political protestations about its motives for war" (Ed Vulliamy, Paul Webster, and Nick Paton Walsh, "Scramble to Carve Up Iraqi Oil Reserves Lies Behind U.S. Diplomacy," *Observer*, October 6, 2002).

As John W. Schoen recently reported on MSNBC, "Iraq is sitting on an estimated 112 billion barrels of crude, a pool of oil second in size only to Saudi Arabia's 264 billion barrels" ("Iraqi Oil, American Bonanza? In a Post-War Iraq, U.S. Companies Could Be Major Players," MSNBC.com, November 11, 2002). These vast oil reserves remain, as Schoen observes, "a powerful prize for global oil companies." Moreover, as Robert Collier has reported, "The U.S. Energy Department estimates that Iraq has as much as 220 billion barrels in undiscovered reserves, bringing the Iraqi total to the equivalent of 98 years of current annual oil imports" ("Oil Firms Wait as Iraq Crisis Unfolds," *San Francisco Chronicle*, September 29, 2002). However, the economic sanctions have greatly reduced the flow of Iraqi oil to world markets for the last decade, and Iraq's significantly limited role in meeting global energy needs has become increasingly unacceptable to the U.S. government.

The White House has compelling reasons for wanting to gain control of Iraqi oil. In the first place, U.S. reliance on oil imported from foreign countries is rapidly increasing. The U.S. presently obtains about half of its oil from other countries, and by 2020, imports will account for two-thirds of U.S. consumption. As a result, "energy security" must be "a priority of our trade and foreign policy" (U.S. Department of Energy, *Report of the National Energy Policy Development Group*, May, 2001). In addition, Bush's chief economic adviser Lawrence Lindsey has insisted that the costs of a war against Iraq would be limited and suggested that the end results would be beneficial to the U.S. economy. As Lindsey has explained, "A regime change in Iraq would facilitate an increase in world oil" and tend to lower oil prices (Donald Lambro, "Economic Effect of War Seen as Small," *Washington Times*, November 16, 2002). Moreover, control of Iraqi oil would also enable the U.S. to "break Saudi Arabia's hold on the oil-pricing cartel O.P.E.C., and dictate prices for the next century" (Ed Vulliamy, Paul Webster, and Nick Paton Walsh, "Scramble to Carve Up Iraqi Oil Reserves Lies Behind U.S. Diplomacy," *Observer*, October 6, 2002).

Signally, control of Iraqi oil would be especially important for U.S. "energy security" in the event that Wahhabi fundamentalists overthrow the House of Saud and shut off the flow of Saudi Arabian oil to the West within the next few years. As British journalist John Pilger has emphasized, "An American conquest of the world's

second biggest source of oil will give Washington greater control of the Middle East at a time when the loyalty of its principal protectorate, Saudi Arabia, is in doubt" ("March for Democracy," *Sunday Mirror*, September 29, 2002). Moreover, as a paper published by the Pentagon's National Defense University in September pointed out, if Saddam is removed from the scene, the U.S. could gradually reduce its military presence in the region—and minimize the risk of aggravating "anti-American Islamic extremism" ("Beyond Containment: Defending U.S. Interests in the Persian Gulf," Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University, September 2002).

As Robert Collier has concluded, "The world's biggest oil bonanza in recent memory may be just around the corner, giving U.S. oil companies huge profits...courtesy of a war with Iraq" ("Oil Firms Wait as Iraq Crisis Unfolds," *San Francisco Chronicle*, September 29, 2002). Dan Morgan and David B. Ottaway have reported that "American and foreign oil companies have already begun maneuvering for a stake in the country's huge proven reserves" ("In Iraqi War Scenario, Oil is Key Issue," *Washington Post*, September 15, 2002). Ahmed Chalabi, the leader of the Iraqi opposition forces in London, told the *Washington Post* that "American companies will have a big shot at Iraqi oil" after Saddam is driven from power. And Chalabi has already met with representatives of three giant U.S. oil companies to discuss the privatization of Iraq's state-owned petroleum industry and "to negotiate the carve-up of Iraq's massive oil reserves" (Peter Beaumont and Faisal Islam, "Carve-Up of Oil Riches Begins," *Observer*, November 3, 2002). As several analysts have noted, the acquiescence of Russia, France, and China in the passage of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1441 may be explained in large part by these governments' desires to protect their existing economic interests in Iraqi oil.

Of course, the conquest of Iraq would do more than just produce "the world's biggest oil bonanza in recent memory." It would provide a powerful warning to the rest of the world that the White House takes the new "U.S. National Security Strategy" very seriously. The so-called "Bush Doctrine" brazenly declares that the U.S. government will feel free to unleash unprovoked, "pre-emptive" military attacks against peoples or nations who may some day, somehow threaten U.S. "interests and values." Paul Wolfowitz's 1992 Defense Planning Guidance draft urged permanent U.S. domination of as much of Eurasia as possible and envisioned anticipatory strikes on other nations. Today, U.S. foreign policy "looks and sounds remarkably like the D.P.G. draft leaked nearly ten years ago" (Jim Lobe, "The Anniversary of a Neo-Imperial Mo-

ment," *AlterNet*, September 12, 2002).

G. John Ikenberry of Georgetown University has argued that this "neoimperial grand strategy" will be widely seen as illegitimate and provoke a backlash by other countries ("America's Imperial Ambition," *Foreign Affairs*, September-October 2002). James Petras of the State University of New York has warned that the Bush Doctrine legitimizes "unrestrained empire-building" and could lead to

wars against popular Left movements in Latin America or even conflict with Russia or China ("The Bush Doctrine: Unrestrained Empire Building," *Rebellion*, September 28, 2002). As British journalist John Pilger has written, "The true danger is not Iraq, or Iran, or North Korea, or China. It is the United States, and the cabal of fanatics now in charge" ("March for Democracy," *Sunday Mirror*, September 29, 2002).

A U.S. invasion of Iraq could kill scores of thousands of innocent people and destabilize the entire Middle East. Indeed, as Nelson Mandela has said, an American attack on Iraq would be "a threat to world peace" ("US threatens world peace, says Mandela," *BBC News*, September 9, 2002). It could also fan the flames of global anti-Americanism for generations to come. Thankfully, during the last few months millions of people across the world have taken to the streets to oppose a U.S. war on Iraq. On September 28, 2002, about 400,000 people protested against Bush's war plans in London ("Protesters Stage Anti-War Rally," *BBC News*, September 28, 2002). On October 5, over 1.5 million people participated in

anti-war marches in several Italian cities (Eric Lyman, "Anti-War Rallies Change Italy on Iraq?" *United Press International*, October 6, 2002).

On October 26, more than 100,000 people protested against Bush's war plans in Washington, D.C. (Monte Reel and Manny Fernandez, "Anti-War Protest Largest Since '60s," *Washington Post*, October 27, 2002). As the Pew Research Center reported on October 30, "A growing number of Americans oppose military action in Iraq" ("Support for Potential Military Action Slips to 55%," Pew Charitable Trusts, October 30, 2002). But Congress' craven support for Bush makes clear that Americans opposed to war will have to do more than write our elected officials. We will have to stop this war the same way we stopped the war in Vietnam—with millions of people in the streets and a steadfast commitment to disrupting "business as usual." ❧

Dr. David Michael Smith is a Professor of Government at College of the Mainland in Texas City, Texas.



"The world's biggest oil bonanza in recent memory may be just around the corner, giving U.S. oil companies huge profits. . . courtesy of a war with Iraq."

VANS
WARPED TOUR
PRESENTS

featuring live performances by

NOFX **Bad Religion**
Rancid **Deftones** **H2O** **ALL**
U.S. Bombs **No Use For A Name**
Unwritten Law **Ozomatli**
& more...

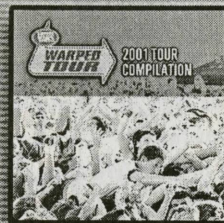
PUNK ROCK
summer camp

In stores Feb. 4th on DVD!!!!

The proceeds will benefit
Boarding for Breast
Cancer, Camp Pacific
Heartland, LIFEbeat and
Surfrider Foundation.

Also from
SideOneDummy:

The Vans Warped Tour
2002 Tour Compilation!
In Stores Now!



The Vans Warped Tour
2001 Tour Compilation!
In Stores Now!

SIDEONE DUMMY
RECORDS

P.O. Box 2350 | Los Angeles, CA 90078 www.sideonedummy.com

fueling the flames of revolution

Anti-Flag
"Mobilize"

The Code
"Alert Aware Involved"

The Methadones
"Ill At Ease"

Justin Sane
"Life, Love, and the Pursuit of Justice"

Modey Lemon
self titled

Pipedown
"Enemies of Progress"

Virus Nine
"What Are You Afraid Of?"

Thought Riot
"Shattered Mirror Syndrome"

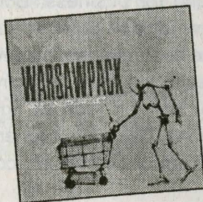
FREE PATCH WITH CD PURCHASE

Purchase any A-F Records CD online or at your local independent music store between October 25th and January 1st and receive a free A-F Records patch of the above design.

A-F Records P.O. Box 71266 Pittsburgh, PA 15213 www.a-frecords.com

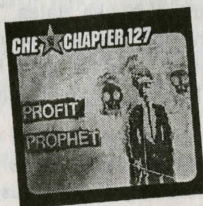
A-F RECORDS

New threats to Homeland Security.



WARSAWPACK - Gross Domestic Product
Warsawpack brings jazz artists and hip-hop practitioners to a smokey basement to talk U.S. foreign policy and jam on a groove-driven rhythm section. This shit is absolutely unreal. It's rock, hip-hop, dub, jazz and funk in it's most scathingly revolutionary incarnation.

HIRESUKAN - Invasive/Exotic
All totalled, this amounts to fucking great, over-the-top, emotionally-driven, lyrically arresting, melodic political hardcore. From Brooklyn no less. "Graft Antisocialism's 'Still Life' to your favorite *Born Against* LP and you'll be getting close. This disc rules."
--Uptown Magazine



CHE: CHAPTER 127 - Profit Prophet
Citing refused, sparkmarker and boysetsfire as points of musical origin, and unapologetic, revolutionary political activism as their central source of inspiration and purpose, Che: Chapter 127 are loud and heavy in every which way. Special 100% recycled packaging.

GREG MACPHERSON BAND - Good Times Coming Back Again
No, it's not punk, hardcore, or emo. It's a fucking great rock record, with some aggressive folk tendencies layered with insightful socio-political commentary. And it blows everything else out of the water. "Much like the Clash, MacPherson captures the political as personal, working class aesthetic..." -- Exclaim!



OTHER RECENT STUFF:



Bakunin's Bum
Fight To Win
Benefit for the
Ontario Coalition
Against Poverty



Ward Churchill
Doing Time:
The Politics of
Imprisonment
(Spoken Word)



Malefaction
Crush the Dream

CDs are \$12 ppd. Write to **G7 Welcoming Committee Records** | P.O. Box 27006, C - 360 Main Street | Winnipeg, MB | R3C 4T3 | Canada
Full catalogue of radical music and spoken word and secure online ordering at <http://www.g7welcomingcommittee.com>



THE CREATION OF A BIRD SANCTUARY

by Jill Bielawski

ARE BIRDS BEING POISONED IN YOUR CITY?

Probably, unless you live in Boulder, Colorado; New York City; San Francisco; Great Britain or anywhere activists have successfully lobbied to protect birds.

When property owners spot bird droppings on their property, too often they hire "pest control experts" to solve the problem. These "experts" invariably poison the birds, causing great suffering to the birds and creating health risks for other wildlife as well as humans. Property owners are misled when exterminators assure them that the birds are merely experiencing a trip similar to one induced by LSD. Not only do the birds die painfully, it's all for naught because bird poisons are ineffective in controlling bird populations.

In October 2002, Boulder City Council members responded to considerable public pressure by voting unanimously to declare the city a bird sanctuary. The law prohibits bird poisoning and makes it illegal for anyone to knowingly shoot at, wound, kill, capture, ensnare, net, trap or injure any wild bird, or their eggs or young.

While migratory songbirds are federally protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, a municipal ordinance such as Boulder's will protect birds left off the federal list, such as pigeons, English house sparrows, certain kinds of starlings, cowbirds, blackbirds, grackles and geese.

The Poison: Avitrol

Avitrol, the most commonly used bird poison, is not merely "LSD for birds," as the mainstream media tends to carelessly report. It is a toxic chemical that attacks and impairs birds' nervous systems. After birds ingest treated grain or kernels, they suffer from seizures and a slow shutdown of bodily functions for up to 60 hours before dying.

On its web site, Avitrol Corp. describes its product as "highly toxic to all forms of vertebrate life tested" and states that it "causes loss of motor control, uncoordination, anxiety, tremors, and involuntary convulsions, followed by death." Avitrol is toxic to birds, mammals, fish and people.

Poisoned pigeons die painfully from intense seizures. Convulsions cause them to shake furiously and pant and breathe very rapidly. People witnessing the suffering of the birds sometimes call animal control officers for help or take the birds for emergency care. If the birds are treated within a short time after exposure to poison, wildlife rehabilitators and veterinarians can save about half of them by administering Valium and a charcoal-based antidotal drug.

Poison-laced corn or grain is customarily spread on parking lots, buildings and rooftops, and its victims often wind up on the ground, where they can be picked up by children and others. Humans can die or become ill from accidental ingestion of, or skin exposure to, small amounts of Avitrol. An accident occurred in Las Vegas this year after a little boy brought home a pigeon he'd found. The bird was dying of Avitrol poisoning. Not long after, the family began to show poisoning symptoms and the boy became very ill. His parents are taking legal action.

Non-target birds feeding on the poisoned bait are killed, and raptors, foxes, cats and dogs are also at risk of secondary poisonings from feeding on the dead or dying birds. Avitrol was responsible for the deaths of non-target species in New York City, including red-tailed hawks, which feed on pigeons. Many cities are home to several endangered and threatened species that prey upon pigeons, and it is against federal law to harm these or any migratory bird.

Birds and Human Health

Many people fear that bird droppings will cause human health problems, but concerns are generally inflated as a result of misinformation distributed by "pest control" companies looking for business. Boulder's ordinance states that an exemption to allow for bird poisoning can only be granted when a genuine threat to human health arises; however, the vast majority of the public is at little or no health risk from wild bird droppings and probably has a greater chance of being struck by lightning than contracting a serious disease from pigeons. Salmonellosis and toxoplasmosis are more commonly contracted from undercooked, contaminated meat, not from living among birds.

According to the Humane Society of the United States, there have been no documented cases of disease in people caused by wild or free-ranging pigeons. The National Institute of Health states, "One could not justify an eradication of pigeons for the sole purpose of protecting people from cryptococcosis and histoplasmosis." Further, there is no evidence that a person can contract the West Nile virus from handling live or dead infected birds.

According to New York State's Avitrol ban, which affects New York City, "Avitrol is too deadly and too blunt an instrument to be used in an urban setting. While it may be disputed that pigeons may be a nuisance, it is indisputable that having poison and dead poisoned pigeons on the ground in public parks and sidewalks presents an even greater health hazard."

Bird Killing: An Ineffective Form of Control

The National Pest Control Association, Avian and Wildlife Biologists and other animal experts agree that extermination and other removal schemes are, at best, temporary and wasteful solutions to bird control. New birds from the surrounding area claim the space vacated by the poisoned birds, and the property owner's problem remains.

Populations respond to poisoning with increased birth and survival rates and decreased emigration. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, killing birds can actually create favorable grounds for breeding and can result in an increase in bird populations. If food, water and shelter remain, the space vacated by the dead pigeons will be taken up by others within six months to two years. Species such as pigeons have a strong homing instinct and are not candidates for relocation. So the bird killers get invited back over and over again, forever, to kill for profit, at our risk and expense.

Humane Solutions

Boulder's bird sanctuary ordinance mandates that citizens use exclusion devices and non-injurious bird repellents when dealing with perceived bird problems. The only long-term solutions to bird-human conflicts are humane techniques, such as modification of the bird habitat we created. It's a win-win solution for birds and people.

Companies such as Bird Barriers and Bird-X offer products to scare off or exclude birds from any area. All products are touted as humane, although there have been reports that the sharp Nixolite spikes have injured birds and should be avoided.

Many do-it-yourself solutions exist, such as scare devices, wire netting, wire coils and spikes, or "porcupine wire." Birds can be deterred from roosting on railing and pipes by installing Mylar tape streamers or a single strand wire barrier two inches above the center of the surface.

Steel, wood or stone angled on building ledges prevents pigeons from nesting in holes, and open areas can be sealed to prevent pigeons from nesting. Pigeons can be discouraged from roosting on flat surfaces such as ledges and light fixtures by using boards or sheet metal to create a slope. Ropel, a foul-tasting deterrent, can also be sprayed on an area.

To evict a flock of starlings or other birds roosting in trees above homes, use floodlights, bird distress calls and rotating sprinklers. Attach sprinklers to the trees and turn on the water for very short intervals over a few days while the birds are roosting. The water doesn't even need to hit the birds for them to decide to move on to drier trees.

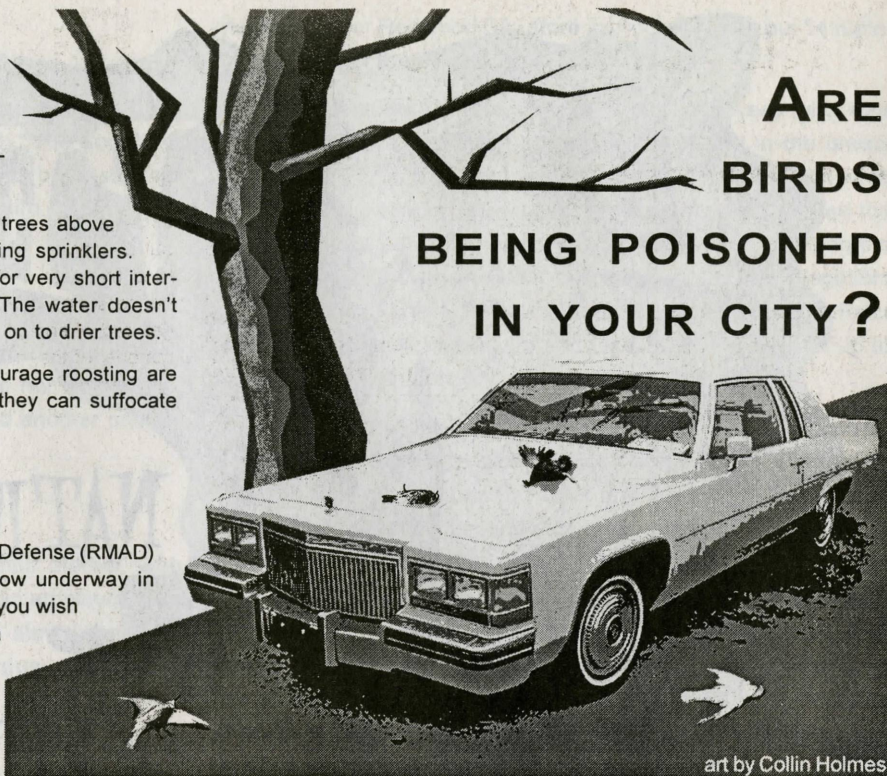
Sticky chemical repellents applied to ledges to discourage roosting are touted as humane but should not be used because they can suffocate birds and may be harmful to smaller species.

So You Want to Live in a Bird Sanctuary?

Boulder's campaign was led by Rocky Mountain Animal Defense (RMAD) and supported by many other groups. Efforts are now underway in several other cities to protect birds from poisoning. If you wish to start a campaign in your city or to simply persuade a property owner not to poison, there are many resources at your disposal. Animal rights groups such as RMAD, PETA and the Humane Society of the United States will provide packets of information and assistance. They also may be able to help you find activists in your area.

Here are some tips to end bird poisoning in your city:

- Form a group of interested volunteers. Try to find a wildlife rehabilitator who has experience with poisoned birds, at least one person who has found a poisoned bird, a lawyer (preferably pro-bono), anti-pesticide activists, animal rights activists, compassionate non-activists and those involved with your local animal shelter. (Notably, the Audubon Society and other speciesist birders showed no interest in the Boulder campaign.)
- Estimate the number of poisoned birds being found in your area by inquiring at your local humane society and with wildlife rehabilitators and city offices. Remind your city council that this number represents only a fraction of the actual number of birds poisoned, because many birds are never found, never reported, or are eaten by hapless predators.
- Present other cities' bird protection laws to your local government, such as Boulder's. (To view Boulder's law, visit <http://www.ci.boulder.co.us/clerk/agenda/2002/100102/0-3c.pdf>)
- Get to know your city council members and where they stand on animal issues. Set up meetings with them and find out what they think about your proposal. Provide sources to debunk the myths about pigeons and pigeon poisoning. Ask whether they would support a ban on bird poisoning or creating a bird sanctuary such as Boulder's.
- Address your city council members during public participation at a council meeting and ask that the issue be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. Members of your team should follow and attend every meeting at which the issue is on the agenda.
- Create a petition and gather signatures. In Boulder, volunteers gathered 788 signatures and presented the petition at a city council meeting with a request that the city ban bird poisoning. The council then acted quickly. They later went further and asked for an all-out ban on bird killing and any intentional harming of any wild bird. It cost nothing but time; the effort took only six months.
- Seek favorable media coverage. Keep in touch with local reporters and



art by Collin Holmes

ARE BIRDS BEING POISONED IN YOUR CITY?

write letters to the editor of the local papers and letters to city council. Point out that killing birds as a form of control is cruel, environmentally harmful, unpopular with the community and always unnecessary. Politely correct reporters who say otherwise.

- Some will accuse you of caring more about birds than people. Quash health fears and remind them that a ban on poisoning would protect the safety of all residents, including humans. Encourage the use of non-lethal methods as cost-effective, long-term remedies to discourage pigeons from roosting in public areas.
- Ensure that the ordinance you propose is consistent with Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) regulations and any state legislation or Pesticide Applicators' Act in your state. States generally prohibit municipalities from regulating pesticides. While these absurd regulations exist, municipalities may not be able to prosecute pesticide applicators, but they can go after those who hire them. ❧

Jill Bielawski is a free-lance writer, editor and volunteer at Rocky Mountain Animal Defense, a nonprofit whose mission is to help eliminate the human-imposed suffering of animals in the Rocky Mountain region. She can be reached at jillb@rmad.org.

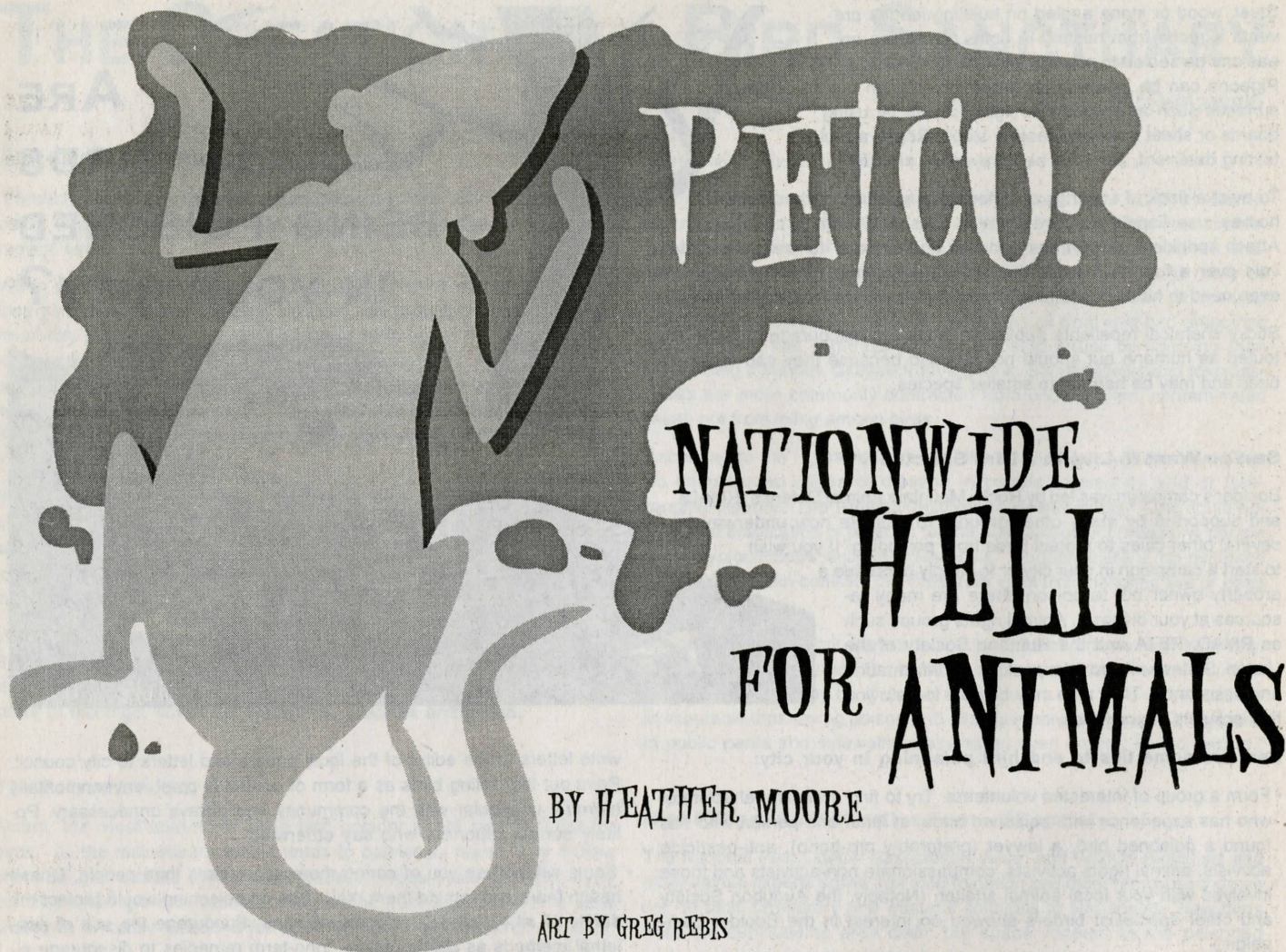
Make an IMPACT

Rocky Mountain Animal Defense
<http://www.rmadv.org>

The Urban Wildlife Society
<http://www.urbanwildlifesociety.org>

National Audubon Society
<http://www.audubon.org>

The Humane Society of the United States
<http://www.hsus.org>



Petco, the largest pet store chain in the country, puts on an animal-friendly facade by not selling dogs and cats because so many of them are killed in shelters each year. But don't be fooled by Petco's public relations whitewash. The company is in business to make money, not for love of animals. Every week, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) receives calls, letters, and e-mails from Petco customers and employees who are concerned about sick and neglected birds, reptiles, and other small animals at Petco. Here are just a few of the incidents that have been reported:

Needham, Massachusetts

A Senegal parrot was badly injured by another bird. Upper management did not seek any veterinary care for the bird and instructed employees to get rid of her. She was bleeding profusely and employees tried to stop the bleeding by applying Kwik Stop all over her body, which burned her.

Battle Creek, Michigan

Petco customers have repeatedly found live rats and mice lying next to dead ones in feces-covered cages, and dead geckos,

snakes, and other reptiles infested with mites, as well as animals with no food or water for days.

Eatontown, New Jersey

PETA staff members saw rats bleeding from their nostrils and writhing in pain. When they approached an employee about the animals, they were told, "There's nothing [the store] can do. We sell pets. We're not an animal hospital."

Elk Grove, California

Petco visitors found nine parakeets in one cage without food or water. Witnesses say that the birds were eating their own feces through the grate.

Des Moines, Iowa

A hamster with a severe ear infection and blood dripping from her nose was not given any veterinary care. A Petco employee simply put a sign on her cage that said, "Dying, just leave her alone."

Round Rock, Texas

An unweaned baby caique parrot was seen crying and begging for food, unable to reach the feeder. An employee admitted that she had not been taught how to hand-feed the bird. She and other store employees reportedly refused help offered by customers and, after several days of ceaseless crying, the bird died.

Washington, D.C.

Customers reportedly returned a parakeet after they cut off her toes and clipped her wings and tail too close to her body. Even though they had maimed the bird, they were sold another one.

Tualatin, Oregon

Newborn hamsters were seen in a tank with their mother, who was being pestered by another hamster. When an employee was notified, she scooped the tiny animals out and stated that they would either be flushed or frozen to death "because breeding in captivity is illegal for pet stores."

San Francisco vs. Petco

Conditions are so bad at Bay Area stores that the City of San Francisco has filed a lawsuit to bar Petco from selling animals in the city. San Francisco Animal Care and Control found dying and dead birds, a dead turtle molding and left to rot, dehydrated and lethargic iguanas, and a toad "cooked to death" at two area stores. Dennis Herrera, the city attorney of San Francisco, feels that "Petco has proven that it is not capable of caring for the animals it sells in a humane manner. If they can't treat living things with care and consideration, they sure shouldn't be in the business of selling pets."

In September 2002, a producer and photographer with KPIX Channel 5 in San Francisco visited three South Bay Petco stores and one on the Peninsula at least three times over a period of several weeks, armed with hidden cameras. Time after time, on visit after visit, they found animals that were sick or living in conditions that can make them sick. The hidden cameras showed cages filled with feces, birdseed left on cage bottoms so long the seeds had sprouted, and frogs crowded in soiled water.

After seeing KPIX's undercover footage, Sally Stork, the Vice President of Operations on the West Coast, said that she was "surprised by some of the problems...I plan to take action immediately...These shots are not typical of Petco...These are not things I see on my store visitations..." Yet, veterinarian Pat Latas, who specializes in birds and reptiles, told KPIX that she has been aware of problems at Petco stores in the South Bay since the mid-1990s.

KPIX aired a follow-up report featuring Chandra Case, a former bay area Petco employee who also revealed that, in 2000, the

manager of her Redwood City store instructed her "to put 14 turtles into the freezer to kill them."

Written statements by other former Petco employees who were also allegedly told to freeze animals are included in the lawsuit filed by The City of San Francisco and Latas claims that she wrote Petco headquarters in 1997, upset because she had learned that their corporate policy for euthanizing animals was "refrigeration then freezing." However, Stork maintains that these allegations were never brought to Petco's attention and if they were, Petco "would immediately investigate and take appropriate action up to, and including, termination."

In the wake of the lawsuit, PETA filed a 13-page complaint with the Securities and Exchange Commission citing Petco's failure to disclose statistics or discuss the risks and liabilities relating to the company's sale and husbandry of small animals in Petco's Prospectus and 10-K Annual Report. PETA, a Petco shareholder, claims that the company has not disclosed systemic problems in its operations, including untrained and poorly qualified staff, inadequate veterinary care, contracts with animal breeding mills, the use of inhumane methods of euthanasia, and the implementation of an inventory "auto-replenishment" system which treats animals as stock without regard to overcrowding or inhumane living conditions.

More Petco Legal Problems

That's hardly the end of Petco's legal problems. The company is also being sued by a district attorney in Las Vegas, Nevada, who feels that Petco knowingly sells sick animals and should be held accountable for consumer fraud.

Utah resident Daina Pitts is suing Petco for damages in excess of \$20,000 for negligence and loss of companionship because her dog, Tawney, was hanged to death from a leash at a Petco store after employees left the dog unattended and she attempted to jump out of a grooming tub.

Petco's attorneys argue that damages, if any, should be limited to Tawney's "fair market value," a position that Pitts feels contrasts poorly with a statement on Petco's Web site: "We understand that our customers are pet lovers, not just pet owners. They view their pets as members of the family and believe they deserve the same level of care and comfort."

Petco Employees Sound Off

Of course, some Petco employees insist that their store takes good care of animals. On November 8, 2002, PETA received an e-mail from a "Team Leader" at an undisclosed Petco location. The team leader disputed a former Petco employee's claim that Petco will not pay more than the cost of the animal for veterinary bills. She went on to say that "a lot of times if an animal appears sick, it isn't our fault. We may have just received it in off a shipment. We have

a back room for the sick animals so they are taken off the sales floor as soon as an employee sees it. We have an in-store vet come in frequently to check out our animals and dispose of the 'deads' in the freezer. I have never heard of putting dead animals in the freezer either. I was actually shocked when I read that. If an animal is dead or on the brink of it in our store, we are supposed to put them in a holding tank until they do die... The only time we really ever get sick animals is if they are shipped that way or if a customer returns them..."

On the contrary, an employee at store #469 in Houston, Texas revealed that because employees are not trained how to hand feed birds, "many are injured or die because they are not fed enough or the temperature of the food is too hot and they die from crop burns." The employee also contended that "No store employees are allowed to take any animal to the vet unless they get permission from the Companion Animal Coordinator (CAC). Our CAC handled over 70 stores...It would normally take one to two days for her to get back to you. By that time the animal usually died."

The employee stated that animals are given a 15-day guarantee, and "if they come back sick, they are usually put in the back room until they die or appear to recover...then placed back on the sales floor."

On April 2, 2002, another former Petco employee told PETA that, "Everything you wrote about Petco is true. Ferrets were always coming in dehydrated, with diarrhea, and they didn't know how to eat hard food, way too young to be away from their mothers. Rats and mice came in suffering from upper respiratory infections, and since they were 'cheap' animals, we weren't allowed to take them to the vet; it was either sell them as is, or send them back to be destroyed. Birds constantly came in with growths on their legs or deformed beaks as a result of bad factory breeding."

Say No To Petco

Although every Petco store may not be responsible for such gross neglect and abuse, all Petco stores contribute to animal suffering. Exotic animals have very special needs, and if these needs are not met, the animals pay the price. Too often, birds, who are meant to fly free, are stuck in small cages where they go mad from loneliness and boredom. Non-native lizards are frequently placed in small cages that aren't properly heated and fed diets that are completely foreign to them. Exotic animals often wind up in climates they are not suited for and are tossed aside when a new fad arises.



In a Des Moines, Iowa Petco story, a hamster with a severe ear infection and blood dripping from her nose was not given any veterinary care. A Petco employee simply put a sign on her cage that said, "Dying, just leave her alone."

Animal shelters and bird and reptile rescue groups are overrun with animals in need of good homes. Anyone seeking a companion should adopt a homeless animal instead of purchasing one from a pet store. Many supply stores simply sell "pet" food, toys, and other supplies, but not animals. While the best scenario is for Petco to stop selling animals altogether, at the very least, Petco needs to properly train employees, provide adequate veterinary care, and screen prospective buyers. Until then, consumers need to say no to Petco. ❧

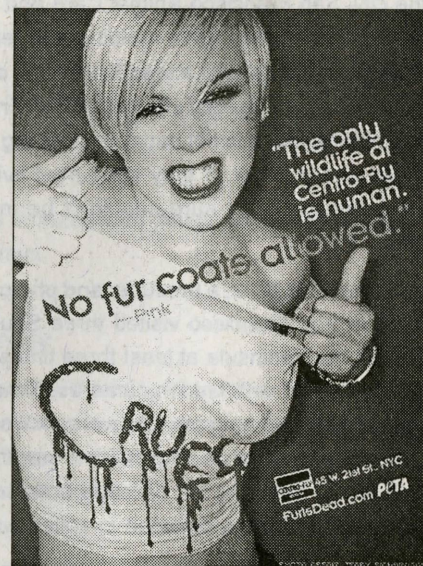
For more information on the campaign against Petco, visit www.PetcoSucks.com

Heather Moore is a staff writer for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and a longtime contributor to IMPACT press.

Petco Makes P!nk See Red

Pop star and PETA supporter P!nk wrote to Petco Chair and CEO Brian K. Devine to inform him that, "As it is clear that Petco has no regard for the well-being of the animals it peddles, I join PETA's plea for

Petco to stop selling live animals altogether." P!nk also told Petco that she "will be posting a link to PETA.org from my own Web site, PinksPage.com, so that my fans know why they should boycott Petco—unless, of course, you have the courtesy to act on this disgraceful situation."



THE K CHRONICLES

Pure Kommie
BU^uSH**!!

BY
KEITH
KNIGHT

Dear World,
Sorry about all this.
We really are.

© K. KNIGHT '02



Most of us didn't
vote for him.. BUT
even The folks
That did are
beginning To
regret IT....

A lot of us knew it
was going to be a
rough four years--

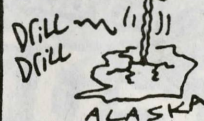


--But Nobody in their
wildest dreams thought
that after a year and
a half, we'd be in the
mess that we're in...



It may appear from the
outside that we support
all the stuff
that he's
doing.

BUT
WE DON'T.



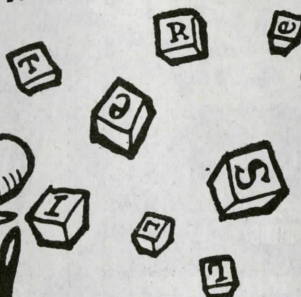
Many of
us
fear
being
called
"unpatriotic."

The fact is,
most of us
think he's
full of crap...

C
U
V
I
L

L
I
B
E
R
T
I
E
S
& that he
should be
running a
small
community
college
instead of
leading
the "free"
world...

Now we're just hoping to
get through this all in
one piece...



..although it's getting
harder to do every day.

He is starting to feel the
heat so expect a weapon
of mass
distraction
quite soon...



Again, apologies... Keef

keeflix@hotmail.com

Does Everyone Stare (records) is proud to present:



Manifesto Junkies "Desire" CD/LP

If you are tuning with rage over the corporate world of the music you love so much, then please allow me to recommend this record to you. The rage, the passion, the hopefulness of this band will bring your faith back. LP edition is a picture disc limited to 250 copies!



Sylvie "I wish I was driving" CD

Like an excellent hybrid of Jawbox and Tool in that they fuse passionate and modern-prog. Honest heartfelt stuff from one of the prairie most beloved bands.



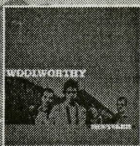
Mico "standing inside a shadow" CD

Now signed to GJ Welcoming Committee, it's time for you to catch up with their debut full length. Featuring three guitar players, Mico falls somewhere inbetween Swervedriver, Dag Nasty and Superchunk.



Does Everyone Stare sampler CD

23 track/14 band sampler featuring music by every band on the DES roster. Includes several rare or unreleased songs as well. A great introduction to our many releases. Did I mention it was cheap?



Woolworthy "Recycler" CD

A collection of songs from their first three (now out of print) records plus three new songs. In the same vein as the Replacements and Husker Du. Kerrang says "If you missed them first time around, then ensure you don't make the same mistake again. 4 out of 5 stars"



Mico/Milwaukee split 7"

Calgary vs. Jersey. The Devils vs. The Flames. The Battle between borders. Regardless of how you want to dub this historic matchup, this record smokes. The Milwaukee offer a brand new song that only hints at the great things to come, while Mico showcase a new song along with a cover of the Smiths "There is a light that never goes out". Limited to 500 copies. Get it!

Check our website for complete catalog, tour dates and a list of other great titles we distribute!!

Prices (ppd)

CD...\$9 US • LP picture disc...\$10 US • \$7...\$4 US

CD Sampler...\$3 US or \$1 US when ordering other stuff

PO Box 1006 / Edison, NJ / 08818 / USA

www.doeseveryoneastare.com

please make all cheques/money orders payable to Glenn Innes



Co-op America

is your one-stop shop for green purchasing and investing resources and ideas

Our mission is to harness economic power — the strength of consumers, businesses and the marketplace — to create a socially just and environmentally sustainable society.

Join Co-op America today for \$20 and get the National Green Pages™ directory for free — and more green living resources!



Join Co-op America online at www.coopamerica.org or call 1-800-58-GREEN

www.coopamerica.org

Use your consumer and investor power for social change with free tools and information.

Punk, Emo, Hardcore, Indie, Oi, Ska

INTERPUNK

The Ultimate Punk Music Store

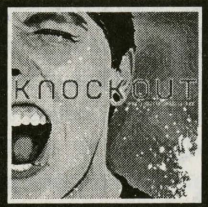
OVER 30,000 ITEMS

CD's/ RECORDS/ T-SHIRTS/ WRISTBANDS/ LEATHER/ KEY CHAINS/ SWEATSHIRTS/ VIDEOS- DVD's/ HAIR DYE/ BEANIES/ CAPS/ BUTTONS/ PATCHES/ STICKERS/ POSTERS/ ZINES/ BOOKS/ BABYDOLL SHIRTS/ WALLET CHAINS/ CHOKERS/ AND MORE...

CHECK OUT OUR LOCAL SECTION. WE'LL EVEN SELL YOUR BAND'S MUSIC FREE MP3'S, TOUR DATES, BAND NEWS, AND RECORD LABEL NEWS.

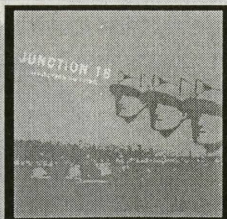
GO TO

WWW.INTERPUNK.COM



KNOCKOUT

SEARCHING FOR SOLID GROUND
CD F061



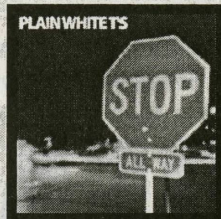
JUNCTION 18

HEROES FROM THE FUTURE
CD F060



BRAZIL

DASEIN
CD F059



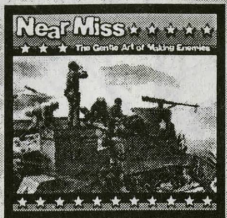
PLAIN WHITE T'S

STOP
CD F058



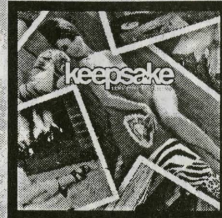
GLASSEATER

SELF-TITLED
CD F066



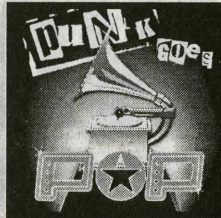
NEAR MISS

THE GENTLE ART OF MAKING ENEMIES
CD F055



KEEPSAKE

BLACKDRESS IN A B MOVIE
CD F054



PUNK GOES POP

VARIOUS ARTISTS
CD F053

> ALL TITLES AVAILABLE NOW FROM

FEARLESS RECORDS

2002



For a free catalog write to Fearless Records 13772 Goldenwest St. #545 Westminster, CA 92683

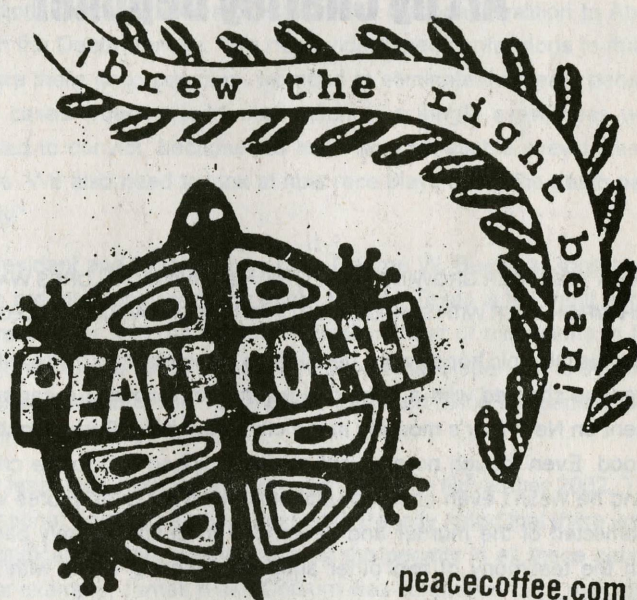
SMALL BROWN BIKE and



THE CASKET LOTTERY

Almost two-and-a-half years in its creation, the Small Brown Bike & The Casket Lottery EP isn't another split release of throwaway songs, but a collaborative effort in the truest sense. This EP is a unique rarity, as it not only succeeds as a distinct and excellent musical collaboration, but retains each band's formative identity while establishing a brilliant new one in the process.

AVAILABLE ON 10 INCH VINYL AND COMPACT DISC
DISTRIBUTED BY MORDAM RECORDS. WWW.MORDAMRECORDS.COM WWW.SECONDNATURERECORDINGS.COM



peacecoffee.com

TOLL FREE 1-888-324-7872

SHADE GROWN

FRESH ROASTED

100% FAIR TRADE

CERTIFIED ORGANIC

DEAD MAN WALKING

*U.S. Struggles
With
The Death Penalty*

by

Kari Lydersen
Art by Charley Deppner



AS A TEENAGER GROWING UP IN CHICAGO, MARIO FLORES WAS A CHAMPION DIVER WITH SCHOLARSHIP OFFERS FROM VARIOUS COLLEGES.

But his Olympic hopes were derailed on November 10, 1984, when he was charged with a gang-related murder following a car accident on New Year's morning in the city's Humboldt Park neighborhood. Even though no physical evidence linked him to the crime and he wasn't even charged until almost a year later, Flores was convicted of the murder and sentenced to death—largely based on the testimony of two other suspects who cut deals with the prosecutor.

Flores is one of over 3,700 people on Death Row in the U.S.

As in Flores' case, opponents of the death penalty around the country charge that death sentences are meted out even when there is a lack of physical evidence, testimony from people with conflicts of interest and other arbitrary and inconsistent factors in the cases.

The death penalty has come under national scrutiny in the past few years, as questions have been raised about its constitutionality, the racism and classism inherent in the criminal justice system, prosecutorial and police misconduct, and the growing number of innocent people released from Death Row.

Both Illinois and Maryland imposed moratoriums on the death penalty in the past two years. Illinois Gov. George Ryan called the death penalty "badly broken and deeply flawed" when he imposed the moratorium on Jan. 29, 2000. At that time, he appointed a commission that released a report in April of that year suggesting 85 reforms that could be described as progressive but not sweeping. Ryan mandated that all Death Row inmates would get a clemency hearing before he left office at the end of 2002, constituting what *The Washington Post* called "the most comprehensive review of the death penalty by any state."

Meanwhile in May 2002, Maryland Gov. Parris Glendening called

for a moratorium and also commissioned a study released in the fall of 2002. However, Governor-elect Robert Ehrlich has promised to end the moratorium once he takes office, leaving as many as seven people vulnerable to execution during his first year in office. At least 73 municipalities have also passed resolutions against the death penalty, most recently New York City.

The U.S. Supreme Court, which had declared the death penalty constitutional in 1976 after a nationwide moratorium, began a serious reconsideration of the penalty last year. In June 2002, it ruled against the execution of the mentally retarded.

The Supreme Court also ruled that juries—not judges—decide whether an inmate gets the death penalty. While this decision was lauded by some death penalty opponents, the fact remains that, as required by law, only jurors in favor of the death penalty can be chosen for a possible capital trial.

Growing Skepticism

Twice this year, federal district judges also ruled the death penalty unconstitutional. In July, U.S. District Judge Jed Rakoff in New York declared the 1994 Death Penalty Act unconstitutional; in September, U.S. District Judge William Sessions in Vermont ruled that the penalty violates the Sixth Amendment's right to a fair trial. While these rulings do not stop the death penalty from being used, they are seen as significant messages to state and federal government.

Polls have shown growing opposition to the death penalty nationally, with some opposing it based on the fact that many innocent people are likely on Death Row, and others opposing it even for the clearly guilty on moral and religious grounds.

"There is a growing public skepticism toward the death penalty," says Jane Bohman, executive director of the Illinois Coalition Against the Death Penalty. "The coalition has been around 25 years. At first we were just a few people holding vigils outside executions. Now it's exciting to learn that we're not alone. We've come a tremendous distance from when the death penalty could be used to torpedo a politician's candidacy if they opposed it, to where politicians are supporting the moratorium."

Opposition to the penalty even includes family members of murder victims, such as the group Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation. In one example, the father of murdered Houston police officer James Boswell spoke out against the scheduled November 19, 2002 execution of his father's killer, Craig N. Ogan, stating another death wouldn't do his family any good.

But support for the death penalty has also continued. In October, the anti-death penalty movement received a setback when the U.S. Supreme Court was split over whether to allow the execution of 16- and 17-year-olds. Currently 22 states execute minors and 83 people are on Death Row for crimes they committed as minors (age 16 or 17). In 1988, the Supreme Court ruled that it is uncon-

stitutional to execute people who are 15 or younger at the time they commit their crimes. The Death Penalty Information Center notes that two in three children sentenced to die are people of color and that only a few other countries in the world—Congo, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia—allow the execution of minors. Pakistan and Yemen recently outlawed the practice.

Racism and Innocence

Lynching has almost disappeared, with the exception of horrific crimes like the dragging murder of James Byrd in Texas on June 7, 1998 when three men beat Byrd, chained him by the ankles and dragged him behind a pickup truck before decapitating him. However, critics say, the death penalty has emerged as a form of "legal lynching."

In general, blacks and Latinos are executed at a much higher rate than whites, relative to the population, and people who murder whites are much more likely to get the death penalty. (*"Executing Minorities — An American Tradition"*, *The National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty*) In Maryland, for example, blacks account for about 80 percent of murder victims, yet 92 percent of people on Death Row are there for killing a white person. (*Maryland's Racist Death Machine*, *The New Abolitionist*, May 2002) And the vast majority of Death Row inmates—black or white—are indigent or low-income.

"It's often said that the death penalty isn't reserved for the worst crimes, but for the people with the worst lawyers," says David Elliott, communications director of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. "We need videotaped confessions to make sure there is no coercion, we need to eliminate the death penalty in cases where a jailhouse snitch or a single eyewitness was used to convict, because we know how unreliable eyewitnesses are. We also need to look at how race plays out in the death penalty."

President and former Texas Gov. George W. Bush has long been an ardent supporter of the death penalty. Texas is the most eager executioner with, by far, the highest number of executions in the country. Since 1976, at least 285 people have been put to death in Texas. Eleven of the 19 juveniles executed since the penalty was reinstated were in Texas.

At least four Texans had execution dates in November 2002. The National Coalition Against the Death Penalty noted that there were significant factors arguing against the penalty in all these cases. For example, James Blake Colburn was scheduled to be executed November 6, until the U.S. Supreme Court gave him a temporary reprieve in the final hours. Colburn, convicted of stabbing and strangling a 55-year-old woman, had been a diagnosed and periodically institutionalized paranoid schizophrenic since age 17 and had long been suffering post-traumatic stress effects from a violent homosexual rape. The U.S. Supreme Court delayed the execution to debate whether Colburn had been competent to stand

trial when he was convicted. He was so heavily sedated at the time that he slept through much of the proceedings.

Virginia is second in the number of executions with 86, Missouri third with 58 and Florida and Oklahoma fourth and fifth with 53 and 52 respectively.

In Florida, where Bush's brother Jeb is governor, the state Supreme Court upheld the death penalty in an October 24, 2002 ruling on a lawsuit brought by two inmates challenging the penalty's constitutionality. Florida currently has 369 inmates on Death Row, with many of their warrants signed by Bush. Florida also leads the country in the number of innocents let off death row—22 since 1973.

Illinois is second in that category, with 13 innocent people released while only 12 people were executed between 1977 and 1999. One of them, Anthony Porter, had come within two days of execution before Northwestern University journalism professor David Protess and his students helped prove his innocence.

In April 2002, the 100th innocent person in the country was released from Death Row, when Ray Krone walked out of prison in Arizona after DNA testing cleared him of the 1991 murder and sexual assault of a cocktail waitress. DNA testing has made it much easier to prove a person's innocence, but the existence of the technology does not necessarily mean a Death Row inmate will have access to this tool or that the system will work to correct itself. In Texas, Jesse Joe Patrick got an execution date before the results were back from his DNA testing. In Texas as in other states, laws have been passed mandating state-paid DNA tests if the inmate can prove it is likely to exonerate him. But in Patrick's case and others like him, if the inmate doesn't convince a judge of the strong possibility of his exoneration then he is left to pay for his own tests.

In declaring the moratorium, Illinois Gov. Ryan noted that in the bulk of the cases of innocents on Death Row, it was not the judicial process, but rather crusading lawyers and journalists like Protess who obtained the release of innocent people.

"Since capital punishment was reinstated in 1977 in Illinois, the state has nearly executed 13 inmates who were later found innocent and wrongfully convicted," says Governor Ryan. "Executing the wrong inmates, as we have done in Illinois almost 13 times, would only compound the tragedy."

Innocence Claims Falling on Deaf Ears

Flores and his family and supporters maintain he is innocent. A group called the *Comite Exigimos Justicia* (Committee Seeking Justice) claims he is among many Latino victims of a group of corrupt cops in the Area Five police district of Chicago who they say frame innocent men for crimes they did not commit.

While on Death Row at the Pontiac Correctional Center, Flores became a talented self-taught painter and, with the help of supporters on the outside, launched exhibits in Chicago and Spain.

Other inmates and journalists often remark about his seemingly irrepressible positive attitude and gentle demeanor, and the Mexican consulate has repeatedly demanded that, as a Mexican citizen, Flores should not be given the death penalty.

"I feel outraged at the fact that I have had to remain in here for so many years of my life without being taken seriously about my claims of innocence," he wrote in a letter. "But I feel fortunate and blessed for being able to endure and transcend beyond this longstanding misfortune and oppression"

On October 15, 2002, the first day of the clemency hearings, Flores' family and supporters went before the state of Illinois' Prison Review Board asking them to spare his life. His lawyers asked that he be given a 40-year sentence rather than the death penalty; his family said this tactical move was a hard decision since they are certain he is innocent.

Flores was among 142 Illinois Death Row inmates who made pleas for clemency—essentially, for their very lives—between October 15 and 27.

There were tears and expressions of pain and despair throughout the courtroom during these wrenching hearings. Family members of the inmates dealt with the anguish of having loved ones sentenced to die, in many cases despite evidence of innocence. And murder victims' family members relived the awful details of the killings.

Death penalty opponents worried that the hearings may actually have been counterproductive, since they brought out the gruesome and sensational nature of many murders and shifted the focus away from problems with the penalty.

"We've been hit hard over the past week by the state's parading of family members of violent crime victims," says Joan Parkin of the Campaign to End the Death Penalty. "Our hearts go out to them, but let's talk about the other victims, the Death Row Ten who were tortured by [former Chicago police commander] Jon Burge, the people who were convicted based on a single eyewitness or a jailhouse snitch."

In the House of Death

The Illinois Prison Review Board will make individual recommendations to Gov. Ryan regarding each inmate's case. The recommendations are non-binding; while Ryan originally was considering blanket commutations for everyone on Death Row, he has now virtually ruled that possibility out and has committed to review them on a case-by-case basis.

The Illinois moratorium, commission report and clemency hearings were lauded by death penalty opponents as a step in the right direction. "This is a piece in the pie," said Elliott. "We're hopeful of many, many commutations."

But many death penalty abolitionists see the events of the past two years in Illinois as only a drop in the bucket, creeping reforms in a

Polls have shown growing opposition to the death penalty nationally, with some opposing it based on the fact that many innocent people are likely on Death Row, and others even opposing it for the clearly guilty based on moral and religious grounds.

system that has surely already murdered innocent people.

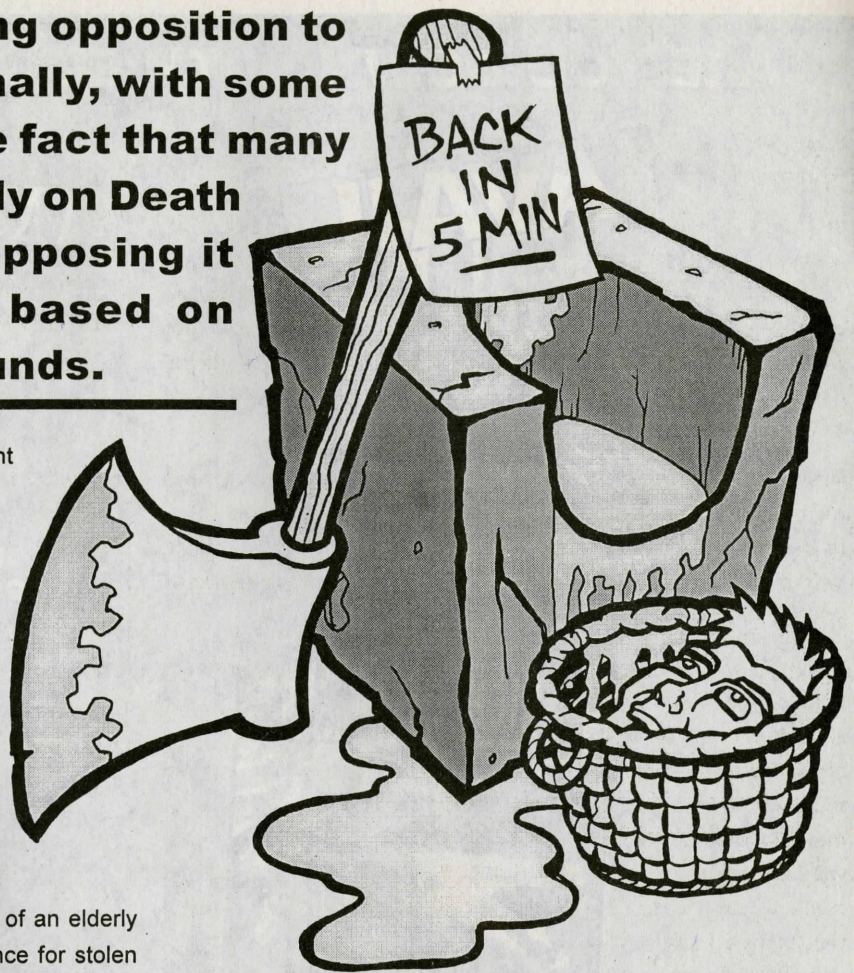
When the moratorium was instituted, for example, some inmates noted that life in prison would be only slightly less tolerable than the death penalty for a crime they didn't commit. Aaron Patterson, convicted for a 1986 double stabbing murder he swears he didn't commit, wrote in letters that he will take nothing less than freedom. He turned down a deal from State's Attorney Dick Devine last year that would have set him free in several years if he admitted guilt in the murders.

No physical evidence links Patterson to the murder of an elderly South Side Chicago couple who allegedly ran a fence for stolen goods. He was convicted largely based on the testimony of a then 15-year-old girl whose cousin was also a suspect in the case as well as an unsigned confession that he says was coerced under torture. He is one of a group known as the "Death Row Ten," who allege they were tortured into making confessions by former Chicago Area Two Commander Jon Burge and his underlings. Burge was dismissed from the force in 1993 after an internal investigation found he had indeed tortured over 40 black men, using techniques like suffocation with typewriter covers, electric shock and Russian roulette.

"They're wagging a key in front of my face," said Patterson last fall by phone from Pontiac Correctional Center, where he was in solitary confinement. "But I never even gave it a second thought. I'd rather spend 15 more years in prison than admit to something I didn't do."

At a conference sponsored by the Governor's office last spring, many of the wrongfully convicted men spoke up about their experiences on Death Row. One of these was Darby Tillis, who has become a minister and outspoken activist since his release.

"When you get the death penalty, most of us try to stand up and take it like a man," said Tillis. "Then you get to Death Row. You're hit by the stench of Pinesol, feces, urine, body odor, sick odor. You are in the Death House. You are treated like a contaminated piece of meat to be disposed of." ❧



Make an IMPACT

The National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty as well as countless state and local religious groups and organizations opposing the death penalty publish action alerts whenever inmates' execution dates are set. These groups ask that concerned citizens contact their elected officials regarding these individual cases and the death penalty in general. It is especially important to contact governors since they are capable of offering clemency to Death Row inmates. Protests and vigils are held outside prisons during many executions. Visit these web sites for more information on the fight to abolish the death penalty:

Illinois Coalition Against the Death Penalty
<http://www.icadp.org>

Campaign to End the Death Penalty
<http://www.nodeathpenalty.org>

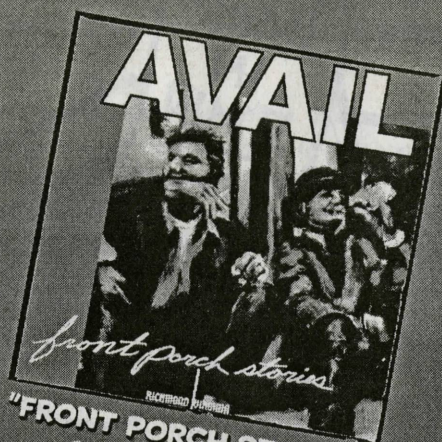
Death Penalty Information Center
<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org>

Against the Death Penalty
<http://www.againstdp.org>

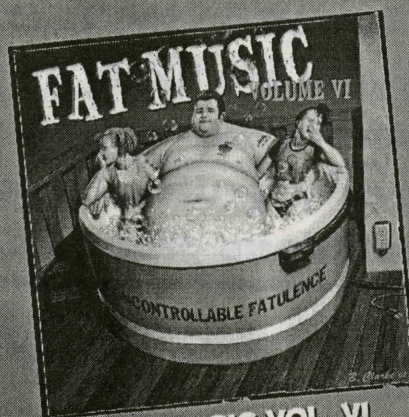
National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty
<http://www.ncadp.org>

Amnesty International
<http://www.amnesty-usa.org/abolish>

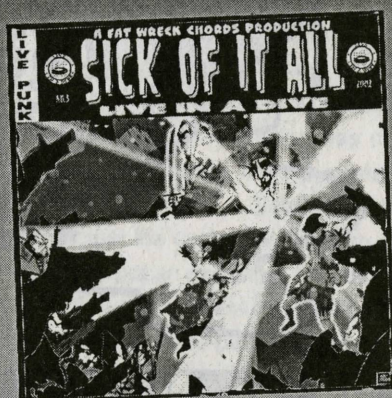
ARE YOU DOWN WITH EL GORDO HOLMES?



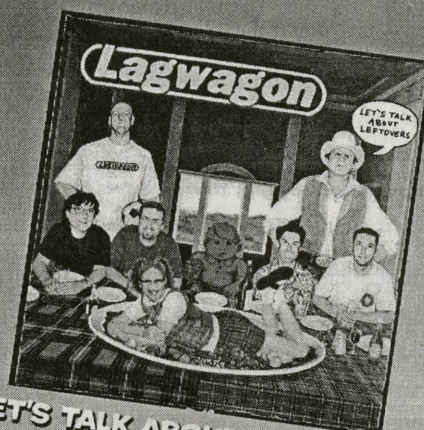
"FRONT PORCH STORIES"
OUT NOW ON LP/CD



FAT MUSIC VOL. VI
"UNCONTROLLABLE FATULENCE"
OUT NOW ON LP/CD



"LIVE IN A DIVE"
OUT NOW ON LP/CD



"LET'S TALK ABOUT LEFTOVERS"
OUT NOW ON CD ONLY



FAT WRECK CHORDS • P.O. BOX 193690 • SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94119 • WWW.FATWRECK.COM

Who Is The Real Enemy?

by Peggy Butler

There is one fact that, whether for apathy or detriment, is of utmost importance in the social dominion of African-Americans at the present moment. This fact is the seemingly unawareness of Black-on-Black violence.

Perhaps the best example of this enigma can be found in the recent case of 16 boys charged in the death of a Milwaukee man, who was beaten with rakes, shovels and broomsticks. According to reports, the deadly altercation began when a 10-year-old boy hit Charlie Young Jr. with an egg. In retaliation, Young, 32, starting chasing the boy, but a 14-year-old boy came between the two of them. Young punched the boy, knocking out a tooth and drawing blood. Subsequently, Young was pummeled by the youthful mob; they beat him so severely he later died as a result. Sadly, the victim and alleged perpetrators were all African-American.

So where is the outcry from Black leaders denouncing this heinous crime? Where is the anger and outrage of the African-American community? Where is the furor from civil rights organizations that foster humane tactics? Not surprisingly, their voices have been eerily quiet. And why is that? Why do we as Blacks become angry when we are killed by members of other races, but remain unaffected when we kill each other? Have we become so predisposed to violence in our community, that we simply don't care?

Black leaders eagerly address racism, reparations and police brutality, but how many times have they had a candid discussion of Black-on-Black violence? Moreover, can you recall the last time this issue appeared on a race relations forum?

To further emphasize this problem, we became upset upon hearing about the White cops in Los Angeles who were videotaped beating a 16-year-old Black teen earlier this year. Similarly, we screamed bloody murder when James Byrd Jr., a 49-year-old Black Texan, was chained to a pickup truck and dragged to his death by three White men. But where was that scream when we heard



"If there is no enemy within, the enemy outside cannot hurt you." – African Proverb

about the 16 African-American youths who beat a Black man to death? There was barely a whisper.

Do you know who is responsible for the high homicide rate among Blacks? Take a guess. If you say Caucasians, you'd better guess again. The #1 group largely responsible for killing Blacks is Blacks. According to a 1999 FBI report, Black males ages 15 to 19 are the leading victims of murder by firearms at the hands of other Blacks. Similarly, a 1995 FBI report revealed that approximately 49 percent of U.S. murder victims that year were Black. That is a staggering figure. More puzzling is the fact that more than 95 percent of those murders were committed by other Blacks.

Other statistics worth noting:

Between 1976 and 1999, 94% of African-American murders were committed by African-Americans. Among Blacks aged 12 to 24 who were victims of violence, 82% of the offenders were African-American. (FBI, *Supplementary Homicide Reports*, 1976-99)

These figures plainly indicate that instead of trying to live peacefully, we are shooting, stabbing and beating each other to death. Yet, we continually ask why everyone else treats us differently? The reason is, I believe, because people of other races assume that if you have difficulty loving and respecting others of your own race, then you cannot possibly care about people of different ethnic groups.

Do we ever stop and think how we might appear to others when we disregard each other so? Unintentionally, we've made jokes of ourselves in the eyes of other races. We cry out for respect, yet deliberately withhold it from each other. And, as I observe the current state of Black America, I am deeply saddened by what I see.

In assessing this issue, it's difficult to acknowledge who is the real enemy? Is it the White Establishment that held our foreparents in captivity for hundreds of years? Or is my enemy the Black person

(RACE, continued on page 60)

TOP PICKS

Below represents the "best of" music that was reviewed for this issue as determined by IMPACT press music reviewers.



Bad Astronaut • Houston: We Have a Drinking Problem • Honest Don's • Go on with that! Take some remnants of your favorite punk rock bands such as Lagwagon, Nerf Herder, and Swingin' Utters, and throw them into a friggin' huge band (7 people!), give them all drum machines, computers, sequencers, as well as analog synths, piano, electric guitars, and traditional percussion. You've got yourself an incredible "space/rock/pop" band with your favorite punk rock people doing unprecedented studio-heavy work. It's fun and hooky at times, but it's also dark and mature, and right on. (DP)

Contender • Away With Words • Negative Progression • Let me start with the bad: this album is only 29 minutes. Ok, now that we got that out of the way, the good: Contender is an immensely creative and intense band, fusing the best elements of power punk with hardcore aggression. They use a perfect blend of screaming and singing to emphasize the emotional ferocity while capitalizing on ever-changing musical arrangements, utilizing big tempo changes and breakdowns that are captivating. You could file Contender with Lawrence Arms, Grade, Strike Anywhere and Thrive, but in the end, Contender stands out alone, creating a style that is distinguished and powerful. (CM)

Copywrite • The High Exhaulted • Eastern Conference Records • Copy brings the full arsenal of rhyme delivery with trickiness and twisted wordplay on this release. Everything about this is high energy, ravaging and ruthless. His flows are effortless and speak with authority about pussy, fights and insanity. The battle rhymes on this disc are intense as this Ohio emcee spits with arrogance and easily distinguishes him from any other emcee trying to compete inside the same realm. The whole disc is slamin' and the production helps with a sharp, tight spiral-like sound where turntable techniques and a thumping snare carry the load over various horns. The guest appearances by label mates are overlooked because Copy makes this all his own on tracks like "Nobody," "Bada Bing," "Seven Light Years" and "June" – the jabs he takes at every target in minds reach provides plenty of entertainment to anyone looking for something refreshing and hostile. (JC)

Counterfit • Super Amusement Machine for Your Exciting Heart • Negative Progression Records • With harmonies, catchy vocal melodies and a perfect mixture of clean and distorted guitar, this indie pop rock band from Cali purely rocked. I loved the entire album. It started with a Hey Mercedes feel on "Souvenir", but at times the vocals had some Further Seems Forever similarities while the harmonies reminded me of Hot Rod Circuit, especially on songs like "This Dance." The instrumental song, "Mile Marker," is technical at all the right moments and doesn't slow down the album a bit, powerfully riding you into the final track, "Better Late than Never." Excellent. (MP)

Funki Porcini • Fast Asleep • Ninja Tune Records • The title of this album is highly appropriate, since *Fast Asleep* feels like a dream. Not sure if he makes ambient or downtempo, Funki Porcini combines both, creating this lush, atmospheric and sometimes eerie recording. Intended to be enjoyed in the comfort of your home, *Fast Asleep* is packaged with a second disc, which is a DVD with eight short films, including six tracks from the album. The visuals are as captivating and entrancing as the songs. Without any menus or interactivity of any kind,

the DVD has to be played in order and straight through, much like a dream. (AL)

Jason Webley • Counterpoint • Springman Records • Imagine Shane McGown from the Poughs and Tom Waits with more whiskey in his throat and a little more eerie and haunting. That kinda gives you a minor insight to the music genius of Webley. Another comparison could be a Fiddler On the Roof kind of character that listened to too many punk records. There is a street feeling to this music, something that feels like you should be digging change out of your pocket to throw into a hat as you listen. (KM)

Manitoba • Start Breaking My Heart • Domino Recording Company, Ltd. • It sometimes is hard to categorize a certain sound. Such is the case with Manitoba, which can at least be called electronica. After that, let's just say it's Aphex-Twin circa *Selected Ambient Works 85-92* meets Plaid meets Boards of Canada meets Plone meets two step, jazz, hip-hop, cute vocal samples, and many other noises. (AL)

My Spacecoaster • EP2 • Lujo Records • This five-song EP rocks, in simplest terms. The instrumental "Virgin" is solid with stops and even an organ. The guitars reminded me of Get Up Kid's *Four Minute Mile*. "Surprise" takes a turn for an acoustic track but "Everything Is As Though It Never Was" brings the emo-rock back around and even give us a hint of pop. I'm glad something other than George W. can come out of Texas. (MP)

Nicola Conte • Jet Sounds Revisited • Eighteenth Street Lounge Music • Nicola Conte's debut album for ESL Music, *Bossa Per Due*, incorporated 60's jazz, bossa nova and other Brazilian themes. For *Jet Sounds Revisited*, he enlisted some of the most sought after producers to rework the songs and give them new life. Contributors include Thievery Corporation, Kyoto Jazz Massive, and Koop among others. Also included are three brand new tracks by Conte. (AL)

Ruins • Tzomborha • Ipecac Recordings • Originally I was impressed by the Fantômas meets the Boredoms vibe that Ruins has going for them, but I was doubly impressed when I found out that this frenzied wall of sound was coming from only two people! How one drummer and one bassist can create such complicated music is beyond me. Anyway, this is pretty avant garde stuff, with plenty of time changes, stops and starts, and mockingly lyric-free vocals. The funniest moment comes at the end, with a two-minute medley of Black Sabbath songs. (AL)

Sector 7 • self-titled • Sonic Unyon • "What is Punk Rock?" you ask. Well the answer to that question is Sector 7. At first I couldn't think of what they sounded like, but as I pondered the fact in my mind I realized they are a cross between everyone, which makes it better in the first place. Mix the driving guitars of Pennywise and The Deviates mixed with the knowledge and emotions of No Use For A Name (old school) and AFI, top it off with a little bit of hardcore and you make Sector 7's self-titled album. I can tell by the potential and energy of this band that Sector 7 is soon to be a household name to fans of good music in the years to come. (CMax)

Sixteen Horsepower • Folklore • Jetset Records • This release is being called their most intense to date, inspired by the Old Testament, these tales of sin and redemption will resonate inside the deepest soul of anyone willing to

pay attention. The unique song writing approach begins with haunting vocals that add mystery but overall feel more like a cleansing of sorts. Using instruments such as banjos, stand up bass, bandoneon and accordions; the music is refreshing and comfortable. David Eugene Edwards is the backbone to this project and uses the influences of Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen, Johnny Cash and others to deliver this collection of love, death, religion and the climax involved with them all. This is much more than your average bluesy/folk album; it's a feeling of redemption in a time of despair. (JC)

Sole • Selling Live Water • Anticon • Wake up hip-hop heads! This is a mind-bending album, with numerous styles all held together by the mesmerizing lyrical flow of Sole (a member of Live Poets, deep puddle dynamics and So Called Artists). There's a taste of drum and bass, straight up thumping beats, droning noise, eerie/goth style loops and plenty more to keep you guessing. There are no limits to what Sole flows over, dropping insane poetic verses track after track (over 54 minutes worth). It reminds me of Aesop Rock, but less rugged. However, comparisons aside, Sole brings his own style, his own sound and his own rhymes, spittin' his mind through stereo speakers straight to your ears. This is a surefire underground hip-hop hit, so don't sleep on it. (CM)

The Hope Conspiracy • Endnote • Equal Vision Records • This hardcore release from Boston's The Hope Conspiracy has generated a healthy level of excitement among many people, and it's on the tongues of most of my friends with acute musical taste. And it's for good reason. This is straight up hardcore that pushes the limits of intensity and remains creative, artistic, and perhaps even daring. It's a fine line to walk when you combine melody with hardcore, but HC do it with grace. This one keeps the faith. (KM)

The Opus • First Contact • Ozone Music • Chicago instrumentalists Mr. Echoes and The Isle of Weight push out a thumping, futuristic round of beats on their debut album. A sonic sound is spaced out with an eerie vibe hitting drum kicks, turntable techniques, and lyrical treats by the likes of Aesop Rock, Slug, Murs (Living Legends), I Self Divine (Micranots), Earatik and Thawfor. Although tracks like "Take Me To The Basement" and "River" by Aesop and Slug respectively are a must hear, the two beatmakers who put this together stand tall enough on their own ones and twos. About half the tracks are instrumentals and the intensity level fluctuates. The sound here turns trippin' at times, which provides this disc with much mood and substance while bleeding from song to song. Take a break from life sometime and check this one out. (JC)

theBIRDCircuit • no swingouts, Rockaway • Anabel Records • The vocals struck me right away. Where do I know that voice from? Then it hit me, Muler! They were one hell of an indie rock band from New York. Could it be the same guy? Indeed, it is, David Baumgartner. Man, I love his voice. So, I was sold. But could the music hold up? Absolutely. While it's not as punky as the Muler stuff, but it's equally good. There are more slowed down tunes, but there are also a few uptempo, catchy indie pop gems (don't miss "Did Anybody Ask the Kids?" and "Suburban Sun"). David's vocals are so captivating and sincere that I don't even notice that the many of the songs are more stripped down, acoustic style tunes. Fans of bands like Tugboat Annie, Luna and Crumb will find great reward in this 12-track debut. (CM)

☆ quickies...a little bit on a lot of records ☆

CD releases

1905 • Voice • Exotic Fever Records • I cannot think of a better name for this disc. The vocals are roughly split male/female and vary from lulling harmonies to the most horrid shrieks of agony. The music also varies wildly, though is fairly destructive, in the whole. This disc took me a while to appreciate, but about half way through, I really started to enjoy it in all its varied forms. This is good. (MK)

2.2 Kid Life • The Escape Artist • Ionik Records • Composed and performed entirely by Frank Longano, this is at times jangly but mostly moody and melodic overall. The freelance guitar work and added effects give this a lo-fi, sonic pop sound with ease. Mesmerizing through tracks like "The Pros And Cons Of Avoiding Adulthood" and "Able to Do Complex Math" make way for the refreshing tracks like "It Is November, But The Suntan Has Not Faded" and "The Day I Lost Sugarbear-One." With sincerity and despair, this disc reaches a conclusion heavy on emotions. (JC)

3rd Degree • Radio 7 • Trashbox Records • What do you get when you have too many promo glamour shots of each band member combined with a techno looking cover? 3rd Degree. I thought from the harmonic poppy beginning, this was another boy band. But no, these boys play their own instruments. At moments, I could hear a tinge of Our Lady Peace in the vocals, but I wouldn't compare them musically or lyrically. I'm not sure where they got the title from, but it fits oh so well. I could imagine hearing some of these power pop tracks on the radio, or even their "pretty boy trying to be tough" image on MTV. I can also add that I would change the station. (MP)

5¢ Deposit • We Have Your Daughter! • Radical Records • If you like NOFX, old Green Day or Screeching Weasel, you will probably like 5¢ Deposit. Their music is fast and melodic, with plenty of harmonies and thick guitars. The songs are about, what else, drinking, drug use, and overall rebellion, sure to please teenagers all over. (AL)

A Planet For Texas • Sprechen Sie Rock? • Diaphragm Records • This is what you'd expect from this label and the sophomore release from these Ohio rockers. Heavy punk rock full of that driving sound that comes from speedy guitar riffs and rambling fuzzy vocals. Everything you would want from chaos is here, attitude and aggression in a Lemmy kind of way. (JC)

A Trillion Barnacle Lapse • The Elemental Gearbot • Level Plane Records • A Trillion Barnacle Lapse's debut album is chock-full of time changes and indie rock guitar riffs. However, it also has plenty of key-boards to keep things fresh. Plenty of bands try out this formula, but many fail. ATBL is not one of those bands. The keyboards don't get in the way of the guitars, and vice versa. This is a rock band, no doubt. (AL)

Abilene • Two Guns, Twin Arrows • 54°40' or Fight! • Unlike their debut, Two Guns, Twin Arrows ups the intensity while maintaining some of the atmospheric sound. The lonesome trumpet inspires nothing but sorrow, while the singing is much more emotional. Sometimes they get stuck in a loop, only to jar you out of it. (AL)

Against Tomorrow's Sky • Jump The Hedges First • Universal Warning Records • It could be that this band is an indie band with hardcore traits, or a poppy hardcore band. I can't tell which way it comes from but they toe each line with beauty. I think the one thing I hear more in the music than anything else is a kind of hopeful sound. There is nothing sad or melancholy about this band, even in the "emo" parts. This is also a very mature sounding disc for a debut release, which is pretty impressive in itself. There are some really good tracks on this one. (KM)

Aina • Bipartite • Superbad Records • Cool cover. The music is not so bad either. There is definitely a rock radio feel throughout the disc, but I am also getting some cool AC/DC vibes from it. It is closer to pop-rock than hard rock, but the very fact that it is hard to define is a point in its favor. This is a good disc and is certainly worth checking out. (MK)

Alexander Cockburn • Beating the Devil • AK Press • Journalist Cockburn brings to the political spoken word genre something not always seen, entertainment. With a deep knowledge and understanding combined with a sharp wit, Cockburn talks about popular political flashpoints presidents new and old, the protests in Seattle, the events of September 11th, and the drug war. More than any other speaker in the AK press library, I find Cockburn one of the easiest and most interesting to listen to. (KM)

Ancient Greeks • The Song Is You • Flameshovel Records • The best description for Ancient Greeks' sound is Math-pop. The complicated and repetitive structure of Math rock is blended with whimsical and catchy vocals, a bit of jazziness and a touch of congas here and there. This band is the American alternative to Mexico's Café Tacuba, another excellent and quirky band. (AL)

Articles of Faith • Complete Vol. 1 & 2 • Alternative Tentacles Records • These two separately available discs contain every song Articles of Faith ever put down on vinyl, plus some unreleased tracks. They helped pioneer the hardcore sound, with screaming vocals and walls of guitar

noise filling the air. On the other hand, they also incorporated acoustic folk music and elements of jazz and reggae. (AL)

Avail • Front Porch Stories • Fat Wreck Cords • Do I even have to write a review for a new Avail record? I mean you know it's not gonna suck. The ever-constant Avail has thrown some impressive songs together. While they really don't push the envelope for anything drastically different, they do add another recording to their growing library of straight-up great songs. All the raw emotion, power, and dirt that makes Avail who they are is still here, as it should be. (KM)

Balis Falls • The Crossing Guard • Cogi Records • Crazy tempos, time changes all over the place, elements of rock, pop and even hints of bluegrass are what this four piece from Canada have taken and developed into their own style. There are some very unique parts to this album musically and the band is extremely talented with a knack for technical song structures without losing catchiness. A few tracks, like "dumb, dumb, dumb," reminded me of Pavement through the vocals and melodies. This track title also felt like a perfect way to capture their naming ability. They have some not so captivating titles for the songs as well as the band name in general. With some work in this area, they could have it all. Maybe it's a Canadian thing. (MP)

Band of Felons • Drown My Sorrows, Drink My Dreams • Go For Broke Records • Remember the band Sloppy Seconds? They were great. These guys must have thought so too. It's almost like listening to a cover band of them. This is fast, drinking rock. It's pretty good, as far as it goes. There are only 5 songs and it clocks in at just less than 12 minutes, so you do the math. (MK)

Beyond 7 • Here and Now • Cement Records • A mixture of Train and Eve 6, this is a radio ready pop album. A few harmonies add variety but I was still singing the melody of one song on another later one to follow. The guitars attempt to add some rock to this Matchbox Twenty pop, but there's no way around this inevitable label with conventional structures and catchy choruses that are repeated until you know every word. (MP)

Bitchin' • The Night-Life, The Tight Style • No Idea Records • With this album, the name explains it all. Not only is this album "bitchin'" but that word in general brings back an "old school" vibe that this band brings to the table. Imagine your favorite punk rock couple Tim and Brody Armstrong bringing their bands Rancid and The Distillers together. On top of that, add thrashing female vocals, crushing guitars, smooth solos, and the worst issues of politicians, self-conflict, and life in general thrown at you and you make this "bitchin'" band named Bitchin'. This band is overlooked and should gain some attention in the future. Fans of any band should check this out, since this CD contains everything to please the needs of anyone's music style. (CMX)

Blessing the Hogs • The Poisoning • Goodfellow Recordings • Blessing the Hogs straddles the line between hardcore and metal. Heavy riffs and unexpected time changes are a constant presence, as are throaty, hardcore vocals. You will not be the same after listening to *The Poisoning's* punishing eleven tracks. (AL)

Blow Up Hollywood • self-titled • self-released • The music is very atmospheric with piano and string melodies topped with what sometimes sounds like Elton John and Neil Diamond vocals. It leans towards experimental music with long intros and what seems like an emphasis on Zen Buddhism. Its dark undertones, flowing strings and soft percussion make you wonder if this is a new age soundtrack to a David Lynch movie. (MP)

Bluebird • Hot Blood • Dim Mak Records • With soft vocals at times and intense force behind them at others, emotional tension floats through this album. This is rock n' roll. Forget The Strokes, The White Stripes and whatever new band is the next big so-called rock n' roll thing. They take some of these elements and make the rest theirs to own. This L.A. band is known for improvisation and conveys this feeling throughout the album. I can only imagine their live show backs this up with power and presence. At the same time, it drags at moments and makes me wonder if it would be better live. Either way, there are some incredible arrangements and impressive musicianship. (MP)

Bon Voyage • The Right Amount • Tooth & Nail Records • What started out as a side project for Starflyer 69 member Jason Martin turned into a full-fledged band. Jason's wife Julie sings beautifully, with a soothing voice that complements the music. *The Right Amount* contains the right amount of hummable choruses and sugary sweet melodies, with a touch of New Order guitars and groovy keyboards. (AL)

Bosco & Jorge • All in the Sky • Sixgunlover Records • This mostly instrumental album incorporates elements from country, jazz, and post rock. There are barely any beats, concentrating mostly on string instruments such as the banjo, lap steel and pedal steel guitars, bass and cello. Hard to categorize, their sound will mesmerize you. (AL)

Boston • Corporate America • Artemis • Has anyone heard the song "Corporate America" by Downers Revenge? I hadn't. Nor had I heard the

hype about this unknown band. Well, the cat's out of the bag (and maybe everyone "in the loop" knows this), but the tune that reached #1 on MP3.com called "Corporate America" is by none other than Boston. Yes, that Boston. They're still together and rockin' out. Their music has progressed and the band wanted to reach alternative radio with their new stuff and realized that being Boston prevented them from getting indie radio play (What college kid wants to hear about bunch of ageing classic rockers?). So, they created the name Downers Revenge and released "Corporate America" online. It blew up, and for good reason. It's a pretty rockin' ridicule of corporate America and, as frontman Tom Scholz puts it, "I had to express my feeling about what mega-corporations are doing to our world." The album is pretty diverse, mixing that classic Boston sound with some more alternative rock elements, as well as the addition of a female vocalist on a few tracks. I was surprised by this album, not because it's completely new or different from previous Boston material, but because it has matured and shifted with the times. Plus, it appears Boston is pretty proactive and progressive, giving a list of web resources on the CD liner notes that includes PETA, Vegsource, Sierra Club and Earth Save. That, alone, is worth commending. (CM)

Botch • An Anthology of Dead Ends • Hydra Head Industries • For nearly a decade, Botch terrorized audiences with their fierce noisecore. Creating a style that would be emulated by bands like Converge and Coalesce, Botch exhibited a technical proficiency rivaled only by their intensity. *An Anthology of Dead Ends* is Botch's final recording, leaving behind a shattered hardcore scene. (AL)

Boy Sets Fire • Live For Today EP • Wind-Up • The hard-rocking Delaware quintet is back with their first new material in two years. This EP features three new studio tracks (two of which will be on their new album due out in April 2003), one new song from a live show and two live tracks from their last album, *After the Eulogy* (the title track and "Rockie"). The new songs are pretty strong, extremely aggressive, hardcore rock and roll tunes. There are more metal influences than I've noticed in the past, but that's not necessarily a bad thing. Boy Sets Fire still delivers strong, progressive lyrics with pounding, infectious music to back them up. While this is a good sampling to hold me over for a few months, I look forward to their new album, where we can really see what direction Boy Sets Fire is headed. (CM)

Brando • Instantly Spaceships • Smokeylung • Brando is a sound that lazily strolls, almost half-heard, while simultaneously struggling to get into your ears. The centerpiece vocals are high and haunting; they're recorded in double. Two identical voice tracks sing the same notes almost congruently, occasionally deviating. They are layered over slow, soft guitar in eerie chord progressions. The disc is a double EP featuring old and new recordings. (DP)

Broken Spindles • self-titled • Tiger Style Records • Even though Broken Spindles is The Faint's Joel Petersen, there really is not much of a comparison between the two acts. While The Faint looks back at 80's synth pop and electro for musical inspiration, Broken Spindles looks at the present's more cutting edge electronica (see Warp and Rephlex labels). Petersen's motivation was to create music that was "ethereal with an edge," and that's what he accomplished. Beat heavy tracks flow into atmospheric passages and vice versa with no trouble. (AL)

Canyon • Empty Rooms • Gern Blandsten • Music can create landscapes and that's just what Canyon does. Their Americana-style pop rock tunes dance along, rising and falling with heartfelt emotion. At times this album feels dreary, yet, at other times, a bit more uptempo. Fans of bands like Palace would probably be into this. (CM)

Capital City • Am I Invisible • Near by Music • It takes some alt-country with pop elements on the first track, "This Town Won't Be the Same." Bobbing your head bass lines with acoustic and clean guitars make up the rest. There seem to be '70s influences in the bass lines and this sound crosses over into "The Weak Are Getting Strong" with an organ used in the chorus. Julie Otis lends some female background vocals throughout and even takes the lead on "Receiving/daydreaming." Keyboards, a violin, viola and staccato beats make this complete. (MP)

Chris Butler • The Museum of Me Vol. 1 • Future Fossil Music • It's not very often a release like this comes out. Having spent a great deal of time and imagination on this release, Chris Butler's talent really shines. The recording techniques alone are amazing. Using mostly vintage recording equipment, he has managed to make a groundbreaking album. Often times sounding truly antique, with modern song writing twists, Chris keeps it very interesting. (RP)

Chris Murray • Raw • Asian Man Records • It's an appropriate album title for such a lo-fi album (recorded on a handheld Walkman, giving a genuinely live feel). And it's fitting. This album transports you to a Bahamas beachside lounge/bar where Murray is rockin' the mic with his acoustic island/reggae/ska tunes. It's just him, his guitar, the beach, fantastic margaritas, a dance floor, and you're set. So, get your fancy shoes on and skank the night away. (CM)

☆ quickies...a little bit on a lot of records ☆

Corwin Fox • *Compassionate Relay* • Coqi Records • You've heard not many albums like this one here. Fox meshes a clean folk sound with touches of hip-hop and bass and pulls it off in a refreshing way. Songs of protest, rage and revolution are sung with a fragile voice and a comfortable presence. What he does with this disc is bridge musical elements to fit neatly inside his own all around idea. This fusion of sounds deserves to have their day to shine. There are elements of Elliot Smith and a little Bob Dylan, but this release is all Corwin Fox and best heard from front to back to get the overall vibe of what this guy is about. (JC)

Crimson Sweet • *Live In Strut* • On/On Switch • I am not a religious person, but my music reviewer prayer goes like this, "Please don't sound like the last 15 discs I've had to suffer through..." This disc sounds like itself. This is fast rock and roll. Bar music. The kind of music you want playing in the background when you are driving too fast. It's okay. (MK)

Crows • *Dirty Bunny* • self-released • Distortion, punchy bass, straight forward punk beats and even a harmonica on "Everyday Revisited." This four piece from Gainesville, Florida consists of Hot Water Music and Rumbleseat members. Chris Wollard's gruff vocals, and additional vocals from Chuck of HWM, stay strong through every song with unconventional lyrics. The album is consistent with its hard-hitting punk driven rhythms. "Wrong Again" starts off with the "in the tunnel" vocal effect that is followed by powerful guitars and sounds somewhat different from the rest of the album. The rest will suffice any punk rock need you may have. (MP)

D.F.I. • self-titled • Honey Bear Records • Even though this is D.F.I.'s fourth album, it mostly consists of material from his first two, now out of print albums. His guitar playing is amazing, if a bit melodramatic - he covers "Flight of the Bumble Bee" for Pete's sake. The canned beats that accompany him sound a bit cheesy at times, but they are tolerable. (AL)

Damnation • *The Unholy Sounds Of...* • R.A.F.R. Records • Damnation sound like classic SoCal speeding and spitting punk rock, because that's what they are. Sort of like the Misfits on speed. Damnation have themselves firmly planted in the punk music scene and this release should solidify them even more in that distinction. They remind me a lot of the old skate-core bands of the '80s, but they don't really sound retro, thank god. (Should I be thanking god for this?) (KM)

Darryl Cherney and the Chemobles • *Bush II* • Alternative Tentacles Records • In *Bush II* Darryl Cherney proves himself to be an ultra left-wing version of musical satirist Mark Russell. The title track takes jabs not only at Bush's handling of 9-11 and Enron, but also at his family, including his daughter's and niece's alcohol and drug problems. The other song on this CD, "Send George Bush a Pretzel," really needs no explanation. (AL)

David Singer & the Sweet Science • *Civil Wars* • Deep Elm Records • There's something about a piano playing in a rock band that transforms the sound into something melancholic. David Singer's songs have that quality, as well as a passing resemblance to Elvis Costello in his vocal style. *Civil Wars* is a beautiful, well-crafted pop gem. (AL)

Delphine • *Were Sleeping Better Now* • Wishing Tree Records • Starting out in a kind of epic modern Gregorian style, mellow and subtle, lulling you into a sense of calm. That calm is a misleading sort of reaction; I would almost call these songs angry melancholy songs for rainy days. There is a good mix of passion and restraint. I could see this disk appealing to emo and indie sorts of people just the same. "Heart of Gold" has all the qualities of a classic song. (KM)

Denise Hradecky • *To Jimmy With Love* • Intelligent • 24-year-old self-taught musician Hradecky has excellent acoustic guitar prowess and a "cute girl pop" ethic, offering soft, breathy vocals that speak of personal, intimate things. The works on this 6-song EP are swaying, gently strumming works of gentle beauty that entrance the listener with quiet joy. (DP)

Desert City Soundtrack • *Contents Of Distraction* • Deep Elm Records • An intense release that sounds like one long track, song after song. The distorted "post-hardcore" sound is full of layered guitar and effects that drown out the vocals at times. This is thunderous and chaotic, the energy propels the mood and the grunginess keeps it together. (JC)

Digger • *Keystone* • Hopeless • Pop punk from radio land. This is okay, but I've said it before and I'll say it again. If it's already been done, there is no reason to do it again. At the same time, these guys have been doing it for a while. The songs are fine, but there is nothing to make you say "WOW". Standard-issue song structures, melodies and hooks. (MK)

DJ Vadim • *USSR - The Art Of Listening* • Ninja Tune • This DJ is no stranger worldwide. As a member of The Russian Percussion he has literally 'been around the world' more times than Puffy could ever sing about. On this disc, Vadim brings together emcees from all walks of life to rhyme over his thick drum-kick beats that bounce from smooth to choppy under cleverly placed samples. The list of international artists includes Phi Life Cypher, Yarah Bravo, Slug, TTC, Kela and Uzlula Dudziak. Things start out slow but eventually pick up after "The Harp Song Part 2" and refuse to turn back. (JC)

East Coast Disaster Complex • *These Children Have Nothing But Hope* • Coqi Records • Put down your copy of *Kid A* and pick up this CD. It's

full of ambient landscapes and retro electro tinged beats. Cheap keyboard sounds create a nostalgic feeling for the era when Atari was king, and Casio keyboards were the rage. (AL)

Edward the Bear • *Simple Songs* • Sloth Bear Records • *Simple Songs* collects songs from Edward the Bear's *Modern Day Don Quixote* and *Everyone Gets the Last Laugh (Except You)* EPs, plus a demo and an internet only release. Their music is full of jangly guitars, feel good beats and keyboards that bring to mind 60's pop. (AL)

EE • *For 100 We Try Harder* • Asian Man Records • EE is not the typical band that populates the Asian Man roster. As opposed to ska and punk, EE play methodical, improvisational space-y rock with plenty of instrumentals and atmospheric effects. There are vocals, and they tend to be subdued. (AL)

Ether • *Great Ocean Road* • Ether • Ether has a flowing rock sound, a sound that invokes thoughts of the ocean, which was the intended effect. At times, the music busts into a kind of salsa or island guitar, further invoking dreams of faraway places, as the rhythm softly medicates your mind against stress and anxiety. It is sometimes wistful and melancholy, but strikes the right chord. (DP)

Even In Blackouts • *Myths & Imaginary Magicians* • Hope and Nothings • Unplugged punk? Sure, why not? EIB is the new acoustic band from former Screaming Weasel guitarist Jughead. This is pretty interesting stuff, really finding the roots of the punk and folk traditions and creating a great sound all its own. The vocals are pretty flawless and, in an acoustic setting, that's a blessing for sure. Some interesting covers including a Screaming Weasel and Operation Ivy song round out a pretty interesting effort. (KM)

Extended Famm • *Happy Fuck You Songs* • QNS Music • This disc had all the potential to be great until I put it in and noticed the record company sent an edited version of it, even though it is so proud of all the vulgar language contained within. I can't tell what is supposed to be a scratch and what words are scratched out, or get past the annoying promo voice warning against bootleggers. Anyway, the production is mostly from Tonedeff, with Elite and Deacon The Villain contributing as well. The rest of the Famm is PackFM, Substantial and Session. (JC)

Eyes of Autumn • *Hello • 54°40' or Fight!* • The opening riffs of CD opener "Fire Creates Like Machine," made me think of Don Caballero, and the singing and overall melancholic mood that followed made me think of Death Cab for Cutie. There's plenty of guitar picking and complex drumming patterns on *Hello*, so pay attention and you may catch all the subtleties. (AL)

Fairweather • *Alaska* • Equal Vision Records • Sadly, Fairweather is one of those bands I always find myself wanting to like more than I ever do. This is by far better than anything I've heard from them in the past, but I still only like moments and parts of what's going on here. With all that I do like, I'm almost more disappointed when some of the weaker hooks or vocal moments come along. Still this is some relatively good stuff, and you have to applaud the lads for trying something different. (KM)

Fifth Hour Hero / Gunmoll • *Split CD* • No Idea Records • I picked up this CD cause I love Gunmoll. I threw it in the CD player and quickly started to skip past the Fifth Hour Hero stuff. Wait, this sounds pretty good, I thought and I gave it a listen. I was reminded a little of Samuel (if anybody remembers them). Straight up rock with some good screaming mixed in. Masculine and feminine vocals mixing and splicing and complimenting each other, and great song writing. All that and I hadn't even gotten to the Gunmoll stuff. Gunmoll's songs were, of course, great. They have that sort of Gainesville sound, if I can dare say there is such a thing. This is some of their best stuff to date and a definite progression for them musically. (KM)

Fire Season • *Return* • Reaction Records • Fire Season is a quartet from New Jersey that has been around since 1997. They play post-punk that is full of fire energy and is loaded with creative orchestration. It was engineered by the legendary Don Zientara and that's a fitting relationship. Fire Season is reminiscent of other bands Don has worked with, such as Rites of Spring and Fugazi. At times it also reminds me of Fuel (the early '90s Cali band, not the crap band on the radio), with their use of repeated rhythms and harmonies. This is a very engaging album, full of intensity and feedback - a perfect combination. (CM)

Flunk • *For Sleepheads Only* • Guidance Recordings • Crossing folk music and electronica could have disastrous consequences if not done properly. Fortunately, Flunk got it right. Vocalist Anja Oyen Vister sound very much like Björk, complete with an accent (She's Norwegian). They also incorporate some dub into their sound, creating a chilled out sound. Their cover of New Order's "Blue Monday" is beautiful, but a few years too late. (AL)

Gaggle of Cocks • *American Trash* • self-released • This New York trio cranks out some serious, ass-kicking rock. When first hearing this CD, I wanted to rip the sleeves of my t-shirt, get hammered and hop in my '78 Camaro. The band's major influences are porn, beer, raping, pillaging, growing righteous mulets and Creed. If you are a fan of straight up rock,

check out these cocks. (RP)

Godspeed You! Black Emperor • *Yanqui U.X.O.* • Constellation Records • No, I didn't put the "I" in the wrong place. That's how they spell it now. That's about all that's changed though. Their music still features plenty of drones and repetitive songs that blend into each other. Yanqui U.X.O. starts out slow, then builds tension until a point of release, then takes you down, only to repeat the cycle. Thankfully, they don't rely on a singer to express emotions...they do it all through tier instruments. I know exactly how they feel. (AL)

Good Riddance • *Cover Ups* • Lorelei Records • I love cover songs. Especially when they are of 80's songs. For this reason, I loved this CD. It features Good Riddance adding a punk touch to such classics as Modern English's "I Melt with You," The Kink's "Come Dancing," and The Shangri-La's "Leader of the Pack." Also covered are Kiss, Insted, Chron Gen, Government Issue and Black Flag. (AL)

Har Mar Superstar • *You Can Feel Me* • Record Collection • Sean Tillman's alter ego Har Mar Superstar is a combination of Atom and his Package and Chilly Gonzalez. The beats are bedroom quality, and the vocals are of the "All the ladies want me cause I'm the best..." variety. Is this an ironic take on R&B and hip-hop, or is he serious? Either way, it's pretty funny, and surprisingly enjoyable. (AL)

Henry Fiat's Open Sore • *Adulterer Oriented Rock* • Coldfront Records • This collection of 47 tracks gives you every EP ever put out by Henry Fiat's Open Sore, plus some other hard to find tracks. They were all released between 1997 and 2001, and are balls out rockers, every single one of them. All band members wear suits and black wrestling masks (why not?), and their gritty, sloppy punk rock complements their fashion sense. (AL)

Here Kitty Kitty • *Daddy's Girl* • Lorelei Records • This isn't my kind of music, but I thought I'd give it a listen, since I'll always give girls with guitars the chance to rock. Besides some pretty sounding vocals, the two-minute power chord dominated songs are predictable. This is one for the pop punk enthusiast that likes catchy simplistic songs, but just isn't ready to jump head first into hard-hitting punk so they settle for in between. (MP)

Honky Mofo • self-titled • Sick Pup Records • Thirty-seven minutes and 48 seconds of stupid-ass white cracker trash rap music. I love it. This is what plastic should be used for. Honkies rapping and throwin' out rhymes so fly and sick that you'll feel like shaking your groove thang. If you can resist movin' to track 9, "Franks & Beans", you must be in a coma or just really, really white. This rocks. (MK)

Hopesfall • *The Satellite Years* • Trustkill • This falls someplace between hardcore and post hardcore, and that's a great place to be. It's more creative than most hardcore, but none of the sass and shine of post-hardcore. Hopesfall brings it pounding, like a refreshing tidal wave. They have the epicness of some of the other hardcore bands of late, but have found a style that suits them and doesn't come off as contrived, as others who have bent the genre, and that's applaudable in itself. (KM)

Hypnos 69 • *Timeline Traveller* • R³ Records • Five tracks in 40 minutes. Averaging 8 minutes a track, Hypnos 69 would have to be pretty good to keep your attention. Fortunately, they are. Tipping their hat to 70's rockers Led Zeppelin and The Who, they rely on marksman-like guitar playing with touches of synths for effect. The vocals are minimal, letting you lose yourself in the music. (AL)

I Am Spoonbender • *Shown Actual Size* • Gold Standard Laboratories • *Shown Actual Size* is but a small helping (three tracks) of I Am Spoonbender's retro-futuristic new wave sound. These three tracks display the coldness of digital equipment blended with the organic sound of analog instruments. If you like The Faint or Ladytron, you'll like I Am Spoonbender. (AL)

ISIS • *Oceanic* • Ipecac Recordings • *Oceanic* is ISIS's second full length recording, and the title seems appropriate, since waves of metal riffs wash upon you like heavy sledgehammers, one after the other. Combining atmospheric tendencies with sporadic vocals that remind of Neurosis, ISIS is too heavy to be hypnotic, yet too repetitive not to be. (AL)

J Church • *Palestine* • Honey Bear Records • All fans of J Church must go buy this record. It's a benefit for Lance (the lead guy) after a fire at his apartment complex destroyed pretty much everything he owned, including a 5,000-piece record collection, a ton of guitar equipment, studio equipment and tons more - over \$40,000 in damages. So, to show your appreciation for over 10 years of punky rock and roll, buy this record. This album includes a bunch of lo-fi tunes that never made it to the 24-track studio phase. Many of the recordings were done four or five years ago with some of the vocal tracks done more recently. It's a raw side of J Church that you probably haven't heard before. It's gritty, gripping, catchy and sincere - what more could you ask for? (CM)

J Mascis • *The Fog* • Free So Free • Ultimatum Music • Mascis is back with his third release since *Dinosaur Jr.* and it's another "classic rock for the 21st century" kind of release. Mascis is a guitar wizard, bound to amaze you with each strum while his distinct vocals deliver honest, often

☆ quickies...a little bit on a lot of records ☆

personal, lyrics. His songs find a way to be catchy and cozy while not short-changing you on a powerful, rock and roll energy. This is the perfect blend of rock and Americana to make it the essential camping companion. Mascis' tunes are best enjoyed with a campfire ablaze, veggie hotdogs on the grill and beer in hand. (CM)

J.M.C. • Official • Intelligent Records • Josh Metcalf is 'Just Another M.C.' on this release full of metaphors and freestyle type rhymes about basketball, battling and emotions. The beats carry this disc well with an up tempo treble-thick vibe and the lyrics are delivered with creative wordplay, yet they come off a little simple. The disc is a bit short on tracks but "Playground" is amazing as he rhymes "the concrete, the asphalt, the basketball court, where once upon a time, this rap was a sport." Other notables are the title track and "Da Bizness" but this is best heard straight through. (JC)

Jackpot • Shiny Things • SurfDog • The New York Times says that Jackpot are "one of California's greatest unknown bands." Now, I'll agree that they are unknown. But "greatest"? That might be a stretch. Jackpot is good, just not great. They play music that is easily accessible and radio-ready with vocals up front, overlaying mid-tempo pop rock. It doesn't break any new ground or delve into anything uniquely creative. But, there's a ton of melody and enough hooks to suck in the masses. (CM)

John B • John B Presents Brainstorm • Subtype Music • What starts out as a throwback to the 80's electro sound slowly evolves into a drum & bass fest in this 70 minute mix. With mostly original tracks, John B manages to not only reference electro, but also synthpop, trance, and breakbeat. (AL)

Julius Bragg • Transceiver • Maniac Records • Here is your new pop-rock sensation. This sounds good if you like your local rock radio station. This is definitely music made for commercial success. The songs are structured and produced to sound familiar and comfortable. There is potential in the musicianship – they have talent, but they need to find their own sound. Not everybody needs to sound the same. (MK)

Keith Moore • The Fluorescent Shaded Teddy Bear Murders • self-released • The music on the CD is the score to the screenplay with the same title. Musically, Moore is quite talented. His score combined rock and orchestral music with plenty of moods and atmospheres. The screenplay, on the other hand, was a bit loopy. Here's the plot: An island of billionaire supermodels must confront its vanity when giant, killer teddy bears disrupt their quirky lifestyle. Sounds like somebody has issues with women. Listen and enjoy, but read at your own risk. (AL)

Kicked in the Head • Salita EP • Resurrection A.D. Records • Kicked in the Head play tight melodic punkcore stuff with the intensity of a hardcore band, but have enough melodies to not scare away people. The five songs that make up this EP go by way too fast, so you'll have to listen to it a couple of times to fully appreciate it. The enhanced portion of the CD includes two videos. (AL)

Kill Radio • Empty-V Generation • self-released • "Watch Me!" was a familiar saying heard on airwaves everywhere in the 60's and with this band I'm surprised it hasn't come back yet. Once I popped this CD in, I fell in love with it. Kill Radio from California is a cross between good ole soul, James Brown and thrash punk Rancid. As bad as that may sound, this band is practically capable of everything as they add their love for different genres of music and their knowledge of politics and the world that we live in together to produce a classic demo that I'm surprised hasn't caught the attention of everyone into the underground punk scene, even the old James Brown fans! (CMax)

Kimone • Meres of Twilight • Silverthree • Kimone is a five piece from Boston that creates extremely elegant soundscapes; a richly detailed collection of musical fullness, both vocal and instrumental. Their uniquely complete sound is due to band members trained in sound engineering and computer science, as they apply their skills diligently to the creation of an ethereally fascinating and satisfying record that will long linger in the memory of the listener. (DP)

Krescent 4 • self-titled EP • self-released • This band has been around for over 14 years. You've got to be kidding me! Okay, that's not fair of me, but this is really pretenentious, gothy alt-rock. And I have no patience for it. Their press material says they "evoke the artistry of Soundgarden, The Cult, Nickleback, Helmet, Tool and Mudhoney." I wouldn't argue with the fact that they are in the same genre as those bands, but they certainly don't play as well, nor do they do anything original enough to set them apart. I'm sure their dreams of being on the radio could come true, but has anyone heard how shitty rock music on the radio is? (CM)

La Guardia • self-titled • Minimalist Recordings Company • These guys play an airy blend of indie/folkish rock. Borrowing styles from many different areas, La Guardia has put together a great CD, reminding me of a less annoying Pavement or even a more up beat Built to Spill. After listening to this CD, I was left with an overwhelming feeling of joy. (RP)

Ladytron • Light & Magic • Emperor Norton Records • The 80's are alive and well thanks to Ladytron, whose debut album 604 caused a sensation

among the retro-chic crowd. They keep the same spirit alive by combining elements of electro with vintage dance music and vocals that are almost devoid of emotion. (AL)

LandSpeedRecord! • Good Housekeeping • ambiguous City! Records • As the title suggests, this CD is a way for the band to clean house, and release tracks that were meant to be released earlier but never made it anywhere, or are now out of print. The first six songs were supposed to go on 1999's *The Corporate Secret*. Two others were meant for a compilation, and the last eleven were released on their first three albums, which are now out of print. (AL)

Lost Sounds • Rat's Brains & Microchips • Empty Records • A long menacing cello begins the first track, "Rat's Brains & Microchips," but is quickly joined with a dramatic concoction of synths and drums. This music is hard to hit right on the button as far as genres go. The synths have very catchy lines that could constitute a little pop, but this band is no pop band. I heard some rock n' roll influences here and there with the guitars and vocals, maybe even a little Mick Jagger. There are pure punk rock beats throughout this futuristic rock. Just to say how many synths are used, they list them on the insert. They use them all well though, never sounding the same from song to song. On a few tracks, there's even the raspy, sometimes-screamy girl vocals. Think MileMarker meets Melvins. Worth giving a listen to. (MP)

Luna • Close Cover Before Striking • Jetset Records • This mini album consists of 7 tracks in classic Luna style. Slow pop tunes that flow like a beautiful river, they feature plenty of jangly guitars and a vocalist that sounds a little like Lou Reed. As a bonus, the disc includes videos for "Lovedust" and "1995." (AL)

Lying In States • The Bewildered Herd • Hopeless Records • The herd is bewildered because it is wondering why it plunked down hard-earned cash for this disc. This is a short disc, just six songs, but that is enough. The songs are somewhat slow and they just don't seem to go anywhere. They start off well enough, but they stay where they started. (MK)

Mark Mallman • The Red Bedroom • Guilt Ridden Pop • Bringing his most personal collection to us all, Mallman delves inside the solemn sounds of the 60's and 70's in a post-Beatles, Billy Joel kind of way. A lot of piano pop with desperation that gets spacey like Moby and repetitious like Willie Nelson. Tracks are well written and are full of substance, most of which is about whiskey, prostitutes, love and loneliness. On "Traveling High" he best describes his journey with lines like "ivin' on debts and Jimmy Buffet on cassettes, I try to make friends with the waitress... I try to romance her but I don't get an answer." These tracks sound like unfinished demos, but complete in their own environment, "dreamy and bizarre" as Mark once put it. (JC)

Matt Marka • Repeat Pete Repeat • P.A.W. Records • Marka has been recording music for over 10 years, starting with his band Naked Bob, then Dog Day, then Brittle and now with his third solo album. Matt offers up ten tracks of mostly-acoustic pop rock that is heartfelt and sincere. The tracks vary in tempo, from low to high and melodies are woven throughout. Fans of Elliot Smith and Dashboard Confessional will likely find enjoyment in this release. (CM)

matt pond PA • The Nature Of Maps • Polyvinyl Record Co. • With a driving pop sound fueled by two cellos and a nice string arrangement this disc is a dreamy atmospheric ride. Alongside the heavy cello sound are acoustic and electric guitars, drums, and bass guitar, which provide an effortlessly mesmerizing soundscape for these soft-sung melodic vocals. The fourth album for Matt Pond's band out of PA relies on a basic formula but works quite well. Tracks like "Summer Is Coming" and "A Million Middle Fingers" top off this comforting collective. (JC)

MC Paul Barman • Paillelujah! • Coup d'État • A combination of the silliness of The Bloodhound Gang, the musical talent of the Beastie Boys and the lyrical skills of Eminem culminates in Barman's first full-length album. Sure, he's a Jew from the Jersey suburbs, but who cares?! His rhymes are some of the cleverest you'll ever hear and the orchestration of the album is incredibly varied, from slowed-down jams to uptempo party tunes to jazzy lyrical throwdowns. And if you can't keep up with his rhymes, just read "The Jew Dork Rimes", the newspaper-style lyric sheet that comes with the CD. It features all the lyrics, as well as Barman's own illustrations. This album will make you laugh, make you think and make you scream, "Paillelujah!" And if you get a chance to see him live, he'll make you dance! (CM)

MF Doom • Special Herbs Vol. 1 & 2 • High Times Records • MF Doom, formerly known as Zev Love X, collected 17 tracks for smoking up a storm (it is released on High Times Records, for Pete's sake). The tracks are culled from his previous work with KMD and Monster Island Czars, as well as some of his Operation Doomsday songs. Also included are never before heard tracks, as well as some borrowed tracks from DJ Spinn, DJ Subroc, Jon Doe, and others. This is instrumental hip-hop at its best. (AL)

Million Dollar Marxist • self-titled EP • self-released • This six-song EP is at times a bit boring. Having used the same old recipe as numerous bands before M.D.M. does nothing to inspire or motivate this listener. I

was extremely disappointed in this release. I would recommend this CD to anyone who is into the same old punk rock that has been recycled and handed down through disappointed hands. (RP)

Modern Machines/The Fragments • s/t • New Disorder • This is a split CD featuring a couple of straight up power-pop punk bands from Wisconsin. Despite the choppy, amateurish recording, the music considerably rocks. It possesses that passionate, youthful zeal that is somewhat lost on the more squeakily polished punk we've come to know in recent years. It's got melodic guitar, harmonizing vocals, just six guys feeding your punk rock soul what it needs. (DP)

Mr. Scruff • Trouser Jazz • Ninja Tune Records • I don't know about the trouser part, but the jazz is certainly present on *Trouser Jazz*. Somewhat like old Groove Collective, Mr. Scruff (AKA Andy Carthy) blends the style with hip hop, dance music, live instrumentation, and 70's sensibility. The single "Shrimp" is a quirky trip down funk lane, while "Vibrate" features guest rapper Brantix laying down vocals over a Tribe Called Quest like beat. (AL)

Mustard Plug • Yellow #5 • Hopeless Records • Mustard Plug are back with another dose of feel good ska. They blend traditional ska with occasional punk and pop. The songs have a very catchy and upbeat feel to them. These guys have been around for a while and they haven't slowed down a bit. (AL)

My Dad Is Dead • The Engine Of Commerce • Vital Cog • I don't think I'm saying too much by saying that if Joy Division had survived into this century they might be making some music a little bit like this. MDID is the project of Mark Edwards, who plays everything on this record. This doesn't sound like much of anything out there these days, and that's attributable to Edward's intelligence and vision. (KM)

Nad Navillus • Iron Night • Jagjaguwar • This is what you would expect from this label, eerie and deeply explored ideas and views of insomnia, death, murder, betrayal and the escape from it all. What makes this singer/songwriter set better than the average is the unpredictable dark lyrics that possess enough light to make them blend well with the music. Vocals drag around while the music simply follows making for an acoustically emotional whirlwind of drama and mild suspense. (JC)

Nagisa Nite • On the Love Beach • Jagjaguwar • This is the re-released debut from the duo Shinji Shibayama and Masako Takeda. Think Red House Painters with Japanese vocals. Acoustic guitars set up the same droning melody, yet each song stands alone with harmonicas, whistling, electric guitar, random chords on a piano, slightly catchy harmonies and trumpet. They even give credit to a hand clapper on one song. With too many references to the beach and too many la la's in the choruses, this album starts to drag. Mediocre. (MP)

Nakatomi Plaza • Private Property • Immigrant Sun • Seven of the ten tracks on here were released in late 2001 under the same title. But with NP's recent signing to Immigrant Sun, they've decided to redo the mixing on the tracks and add three additional tunes. In the Oct/Nov 2001 issue of IMPACT press, I named this a "Top Pick." It's still amazing, and having three more songs is a huge bonus, but I have a policy about not giving an already released album that credit a second time. Nothing against NP, they're incredible. Here's the original review, for the most part: Their brand of melodic hardcore combined with super catchy punk is really freakin' good. The mix of male and female vocals is used perfectly, as well as the balance between well-sung and screamed lyrics. All of this would mean little if the band didn't have hugely creative orchestration. They are very talented and that is a rarity. The guitar parts tear and twirl all over the place, adding depth to the driving energy. Factor in that the lyrics have a strong socio-critical bent and this is definitely a brightly shining gem in a very crowded punk rock music scene. (CM)

Neva Dinova • Neva Dinova • Crank! • With three guitarists and a mellow sound, this release focuses on those internal battles of loneliness and rejection. The spaced-out vibe and melodic vocals carry you into the deep and gloomy stories within these lyrics. Tracks like "Jesus' Choir" and "Lucifer's Lament" kind of paint the picture of this journey, accented by occasional vocal outbursts but staying lost in a dreamy state. "Dances Fantastic" is the standout track and overall this disc, a confession delivered in sound, feels really good. (JC)

New School Year • History and Poetry • self-released • Here's some beautiful piano with girl and guy vocals for your listening pleasure. The piano starts constant through "I Love the Nightlife" and works beautifully with the vocals that were reminiscent of Pohog. They use strings and an acoustic guitar mixed with distorted guitars on "Make Your Own Bed." Four songs of pure, mellow, melodic emo. (MP)

Nighthawks • Nighthawks • Eastern Conference Records • Cage and Camu Tao take on the characters of dirty cops in New York fighting drug dealers, hookers, the D.A. and anyone in their way. Inspired by the 1981 movie starring Sylvester Stallone, this comes off a lot like Training Day revisited. With stories as graphic as getting head from a hooker in a squad car, no stone is turned on this reality-like stab at the strong arm of the law. The production comes from Camu and Mighty Mi and stays hype

☆ quickies...a little bit on a lot of records ☆

throughout as rhymes slide nice and easy overtop of them. The unusual nature of this concept album is reason enough to check it out. (JC)

Noise626 • The Art Of Falling Forward • OI Scratch Recordings • Lyrically creative and musically haunting, this concept/rock opera disc will take some time to digest but the taste is what it's all about. The vocals are pure David Bowie-like and the sound is a lot like what Bowie and Nine Inch Nails have been doing the last few years - pure spaced-out gothic noise. The spoken word/vocal arrangements spill poetic pain throughout with confusion about faith, loss, obsession, pain and a distorted sense of what is happening around you. It's like a man running from and around responsibilities within his own life. This moody disc moves between progressive bass guitar, eerie-melodic goth with acoustics and enough originality to make it through the night. (JC)

Onalaska • To Sing for Nights • Dim Mak Records • This little bastard wiggled its way into my CD player and hasn't left in a month. It grows on you and gets sticky so you never get it off. It features members of bands like Minus The Bear, Botch, Kill Sadie, and Sharks Keep Moving, but doesn't really sound like a damn one of them. It's sort of rural country twang with an indie jangly pop feel. The key element of this releases charm is in the almost storytelling quality of Tom Harpel's vocal styles. (KM)

Paul Krassner • Irony Lives! • Artemis Records • Recorded at Genghis Cohen in Los Angeles this spoken word/comedy album is full on satire and counter-culture journalism about politics and our society. The content included makes this worth the listen as Krassner talks about terrorists, God, conspiracy and irony among other things. His voice has a slight slur in it and tracks don't run into one another to give it that feeling of a complete show from beginning to end. Other than that this is an entertaining thought on the things going on around us in our lives. (JC)

Philip Kane • Songs for Swinging Lovers • Corrupt Records • Philip Kane has a really great voice. The thing is, I think my mom might like this one more than me. He croons like a young, witty Tom Jones with soul and passion. Some of the songs have some quite humorous lines and I really cracked a smile. The music, the voice, it just sounds too much like something I would hear in a cruise ship lounge. (KM)

Polara • Jetpack Blues • Susstones Records • Polara's sound is big, incorporating elements from pop and rock, a little bit of blues, plus some electronica. Tracks like the radio-friendly "Is This It?" are augmented with horns and a catchy beat. For fans of Spiritualized, The Wallflowers and Mercury Rev. (AL)

Projections • Between Here and Now • Guidance Recordings, Inc. • For their debut album, LA duo Projections touches on a whole bunch of genres, including funk, soul, broken beat, electro, and Latin rhythms. These are songs to groove to, not dance to. Their use of live instrumentation, especially percussion, adds a certain warmth that is usually missing from electronica albums. (AL)

Purpose • Songs At Ground Zero • Reaction Records • Purpose is no more. This is their last release, seven tracks of aggressive, emotional rock and roll that is big on tempo changes. It's a pretty damn good release, but it's a shame that you can't expect anything more from the band, nor can you see them live (which is a real shame, because they probably has a kick-ass live show based on their style of music). Regardless, this is a rocking collection of songs that are worth checking out. (CM)

Q and Not U • Different Damage • Dischord Records • Q And Not U are not really a punk band, but they feel like they are. They can be as loud as the (International) Noise Conspiracy, as weird as Blonde Redhead, or as sweet as the High Llamas. (AL)

Qwel • The Rubber Ducking Experiment • Galapagos4 • Qwel brings a brain-thumbing lyrical assault to the microphone on his second solo album. Representing Chitown and his crew the Typical Cats, Qwel has no problem going at it alone. His rhyme skills are definitely tight and the creative, experimental music production makes for one hell of a journey. As Qwel puts it, "It's not gospel music, it's revelation music." I'm not sure if I had a revelation, but I sure did have a good time listening. (CM)

Racebannon • Satan's Kickin' yr Dick In • Secretly Canadian • Straddling the line between hardcore and pure noise, Racebannon take no prisoners on *Satan's Kickin' yr Dick In*. Like The Locust, Racebannon creates walls of fucked up sound with vocals that seem to exist on their own, oblivious of the music. Unlike The Locust, their CDs last more than 10 minutes (35 to be exact). If you're up for some sonic destruction, this CD is for you. (AL)

Recover • Ceci n'est pas Recover • Fiddler • Austin, Texas rockers Recover push out an explosive sound, with a surrealist approach on this 5-track E.P. which is titled *This is not Recover* in French. Starting with the track "Bad Timing (All Right)" the music stays raw on energy with a fluent two-guitar, bass and drum swagger that guides these vocal harmonies through aggression and delicacy. This portrays an idea of a great live show by these guys, but remember "an image, be it painted or photographed is just an image" according to them. (JC)

Red Animal War • Black Phantom Crusades • Deep Elm • This immedi-

ately reminded me of Jawbox, and that's a big compliment. Tearing out from the first track, *Red Animal War* takes the listener on a 12-track journey of musical landscapes, defined by their building intensity, driving energy, and sprawling emotional force. The hooks are there to grab you, but it's the diversity and skill of this band that really sucked me in. The guitar parts are intricate and ever changing, the vocals are heartfelt and delivered with conviction while the drums and bass lay a pounding rhythm that is absorbing. An album like this makes for a perfect road trip soundtrack. (CM)

Remy de Laroque • Carol's On My Mind • self-released • The name is a little hard to remember, but his voice isn't. This singer-songwriter originally from Paris isn't doing anything innovative, but it's nice mellow melodic indie pop for the soul. Lyrically he touches on love, friends, his daughter and even witnessing the events of September 11, since he currently resides in New York City. He picks up the tempo on some tracks and shows his vocal range as well. (MP)

Retisonic • Lean Beat • Silverthree Sound Recordings • If this wasn't produced by J. Robbins of Burning Airlines and Jawbox fame, then he has an evil twin running around stealing bands away from him. The crunchy, raw guitars and ever so subtle hooky guitar riffs keep this two-piece out of D.C. rocking through all six songs. The vocals are the only element of the band that leaves something to be desired. The melodies and harmonies are catchy and on, but lead vocalist and guitarist Jason Farrell often slips into the realm of boring with almost monotone flat singing. This album is definitely worth a listen, but then again what has J. Robbins done that you don't like. (MP)

Rob Swift • Sound Event • Tableturns • If you're a fan of hip-hop DJs, you know who Rob Swift is. If you haven't really delved into this realm, prepare yourself. One of the members the X-ecutioners, a pioneering force in DJing, Swift brings over 10 years of experience to the turntables. This Brooklyn-born turntablist has long been recognized as one of the best behind the wheels of steel, winning the 1992 DNC East Coast turntable title and having his hand in over 10 releases (and that's not counting production work). His cuts are precise and rhythmic, his samples revealing and his choice of guest appearances hard to ignore. Joining him on this album are such artists as Supernatural, DJ Radar, J-Live and Gudtyme. What it results in is a complex, creative and captivating hip-hop album full of bumpin' beats, dope scratches and enough rhyme flows to even keep a finicky listener tuned in. (CM)

Ron House • Obsessed • Moses Carryout Records • Apparently, Ron House has been doing music for a while, since 1978 in fact. He sang with Great Plains and Thomas Jefferson Slave Apartments. I know nothing about them. I can tell you that this acoustic solo album doesn't impress me. He's a depressing, "tortured" man who croons along singing like the result of combining Bob Dylan and They Might Be Giants. Maybe the out-of-key singing should be viewed as an enhancement to the depressing songs, but it doesn't work for me. (CM)

Ruck La' Rou • Rocker's Revenge • self-released • Rockers and ballads. Ruck has it all. Seems like more ballads than rockers, though. Some of the songs are a little on the long side. They sound like they would play well on any commercial rock station. There is nothing so bad here, but nothing really stands out, either. (MK)

S.H.Ar.Q. • Cactus in a Fishbowl Blues • S.H.Ar.Q. • The acronym means "Secure Hash Algorithm Quartet," and they are a quirky rock band with stylish lyricism, due no doubt to the credentials of front man and songwriter Daniel Hales, who is a graduate of UMass with a masters degree in poetry. They're difficult to figure out, always keeping you guessing with their strange, new sounds. (DP)

Sara Marlowe • A World To Win • self-released • There are two things pretty evident to the listener upon a first listen to Sara Marlowe's newest release. She has a wonderful voice, and she has quite a lot on her mind. This is a very political album filled with songs about the evils of the WTO and the IMF, songs about rebellion and resistance. The music is folk, not folk inspired, but pure folk tradition. It's good to see people taking artistic action to bring about voice to such issues, and Marlowe's is quite a strong one. (KM)

Shadowyze • World Of Illusions • Back Bone Records/Red Earth Records • Like many African-American rappers, this Native American emcee expresses his concerns with the struggles his people are facing and various other world issues. The positive message deserves credit but the synch bassline beats and one-style vocal sound is under produced. The beats are a mix of west coast and down south funk but are B-rated and low budget. I wish some of the money spent on packaging this release would have been used on the product itself. Songs like "Trixter," "Ozone" and the title track deserve a listen, though. (JC)

Shattered Realm • Broken Ties...Spoken Lies • Eulogy Recordings • Shattered Realm is the latest band to tackle the metalcore genre, and they pull it off with a vengeance. Their riffs could not get any meatier, and their lead singer grows with the intensity of a Death Metal singer. These guys are sure to gain fans with their intense sound. (AL)

Shuggie • What it is and How To Get It • Good Ink Records • I would like

to say that I love this band's name. The first song on the disc saddened me as I thought I was about to get sloshed with radio rock garbage. This is actually a cool disc. Cool rock and roll licks and enough of a retro feel to be fun without seeming like it is trying too hard. A fun going-to-the-beach disc. (MK)

Signal to Trust • Folklore • Modern Radio Record Label • Technical and tempo changing, the music varies from song to song with unconventional structures. The rhythm section stands out in most of the songs and the almost talking vocals seemed off but fit the chaos most of the time. The vocals sound like a cross between David Byrne and Fred Schneider from The B-52's. Dissident guitars and melodic bass lines give this its indie rock flair, but a lot of times this full length seems like one long jam. (MP)

Slidepiece • One Cheap Ass CD • Shat House Records • When first popping this CD in, I liked the "Poopy Oi Punk" style of this band and the "anti-seriousness" attitude the members portrayed. It sounds like a cross between Mustard Plug and The Vandals, which of course, if you think about it, can't go bad. The only thing wrong about this CD is the fact that their words are pretty immature if listening for 10 minutes or longer and their "True Confessions" skit at the end where they, in my opinion, persecute and poke fun at homosexuals is something I take seriously and does not enlighten my senses. A decent CD from a stupid band with bad morals is all I have to say. (CMax)

Sloppy Seconds • Destroyed • Coldfront Records • This pop-punk masterpiece was originally released in 1989, and is still causing people to take notice. Sloppy Seconds still tours and sells records, and now you can get your hands on a remastered version of *Destroyed*. Just as an added incentive, they threw four bonus tracks. (AL)

Slow Gherkin • Run Screaming • Asian Man Records • Having formed ten years ago, Slow Gherkin's sound continues to evolve. Their ska sound is mostly gone, replaced by a more rock-oriented sound. There still are elements of ska on *Run Screaming*, but their sound is not centered around the genre. Unless you are a die-hard ska aficionado who scoffs at other kinds of music, you'll like where these guys are going. (AL)

Smart Brown Handbag • Fast Friends • Stonegarden Records • This took me back to the '80s. Some of the music is modern pop but the vocals are very reminiscent of Morrissey and I even heard a tinge of Elvis Costello here and there. Clean guitars power this album. I think they own distortion pedals, but choose to use them sparingly. Even though they seem to fit better in another decade, they do what they do well. Their sound is impressive for a three piece from L.A., but not impressive enough to have staying power in my CD player. (MP)

Sonny Boy • Urban Misfit • Artform Entertainment • Soulful vocals meet funky R&B in Sonny Boy's *Urban Misfit*. Also present are elements of jazz, hip-hop and even reggae. Play this CD during your next date and you'll surely get laid, without obviously stating your intentions like say, a Barry White CD would. Frontman Shel Riser is truly talented, not only as a songwriter but as a singer. (AL)

Sound The Alarm • Send And Return • Not Without Your Space Helmet Records • So the new thing is this indie emo keyboard stuff right? All the bands are doing it. But they aren't doing it as good as Sound the Alarm. This Florida band has seen quite a number of members come and go and, in this time, they have really discovered their sound and created something original; kind of a Grade meets up with The Anniversary and sees Weezer, who buys them all drinks. Sometimes the vocals aren't as strong as the music, but it's not a glaring weakness. With that in mind, they are a step away from "some next level shit," as they say. (KM)

Speedwell • My Life is a Series of Vacations EP • Ignition Records • The poppy and very catchy first track "Calling on Columbia Pike" got this four-song EP off to a good start. Pretty girl and guy harmonies fit perfectly and weren't overused, along with enchanting keyboard lines. "Two Conquests" takes an acoustic turn with a pleasantly melodic guitar part followed by those harmonies I've come to love so much. I can't wait to see what this band will put out next; I think it can only get better. For now these four indie pop songs will have to hold me over. (MP)

Spitalfield • The Cloak and Dagger Club • Sinister Label • This is one of those CDs that grows on you. Admittedly, I really didn't like it that much when I first put it in my player. After a day of driving around I found myself really enjoying it, singing along with choruses and doing fingerpoints that I am sure made the other people on the road wonder what I was doing. Spitalfield has that great "post-hardcore" sound that combines so much of the good sounds of the late '90s and yet aims to conquer new ground at the same time. (KM)

Stereotyp • My Sound • G-Stone Recordings • Here's yet another artist from Vienna's exploding electronica scene. Stereotyp's influences include nu-jazz, hip-hop, reggae, and dancehall, and all are present in his debut, *My Sound*. Guest vocalists abound, with Tikiman, Collage, Greenwood, Cesar, MC Trigger, and others lending their talents. (AL)

Stereotyp • Same Chords, Same Songs, Same Six Strings • Suburban Home • This Arizona four-piece is back, this time with their

☆ quickies...a little bit on a lot of records ☆

debut full-length record. Featuring 12-songs, Stereotyperider brings a melding of sounds together, fusing elements of punk, emo and hardcore to create a melodic and catchy album that packs one hell of a punch. The thing that sets this band apart is that they are far from one-dimensional and they show it for the entire record. They suck you in with a big, poppy hook and then pummel you with wicked guitar work and a rapid-fire beat. In the end, it's hard to resist and you soon find yourself rocking along – and there's nothing at all wrong with that result. (CM)

subthunk • *Just a Few Notes Before You Go* • Ureeneely Recordings • Combining live instruments with the technological magic provided by an iBook, the fellas at subthunk create organic music that blurs the line between jazz and electronica. Touches of drum n bass and funk liven up this mostly instrumental album. (AL)

Suffering & The Hideous Theives / The Hush Hush • *split 2xCD* • Lujo Records • Suffering & The Hideous Theives have a much scarier name than their music conveys. They play slow, flowing pop rock that, at times, reminds me of Luna meets Billy Bragg. The Hush Hush play five tracks of ethereal pop fronted by emotional, breathy female vocals. It's definitely sleepy-time music. What I don't get is, why didn't the label do this as one CD? It would be much better to have the ten songs on one disc instead of being wasteful and putting two CDs out. (CM)

Tadd Mullinix • *Panes* • Ghostly International • This Mini-LP's title track is a dub-influenced number, with a slurring deep voice singing something unintelligible. It is like something out of a David Lynch movie. The rest of the album flows in a similar yet different way, taking various elements from electronica and mixing them with random noises and keyboards, somewhat like Autechre's more experimental fare. (AL)

Tadd Mullinix • *Winking Makes a Face* • Ghostly International • Not only is Tadd Mullinix interested in the more glitchy elements of electronica, but he is also interested in classical music. His love for both is reflected in this, his now re-released debut album. Aphex-Twin like beats are accented with well-composed strings, keyboards and other instruments. (AL)

Templars • *Return of Jacques De Molay* and *Phase Two* • GMM Records • These two albums showcase the Templars' legendary Oil sound. The albums span 1993-1997, with 12 tracks on *ROJDM* and 15 tracks on *Phase Two*. This is working class, beer drinking, sweat-drenched rock and roll loaded with punk angst and attitude. The guys are from NY and have been together since 1991. Put them in a class with Niblick Henbane and Oxblood. (CM)

The Anchorite Four • *Self-Titled* • self-released • Maybe I had too many expectations going in; I mean a great name, they are from Florida, and the CD has 21 tracks. Yeah, I guess I was let down and never really recovered. Horribly average is about the best I can say. There is some good stuff on here, but really nothing that shakes the ground or moves me. For the most part their sound is a run of the mill indie emo gambit, with predictable parts of intensity. All the elements are there to make this better, but it just isn't happening. (KM)

The Applesseed Cast • *Lost Songs* • Deep Elm Records • The Applesseed Cast is a band of many sounds. They transformed their sound from raw and energetic to a more mellow, atmospheric one. *Lost Songs* unites them both, with four songs from 1999 with some additional instrumentation, plus five new songs. (AL)

The Braves • *That's The Hot Part* • Arms Reach Recordings • Good doesn't always equate to interesting. That's kinda how I might describe the debut by The Braves. It's really great, it has all the elements of a great indie disc, I couldn't fault it if I tried, but I don't really find myself wanting to listen to it much either. There's nothing that draws you in and hooks you, nothing to make your ears take notice. With that in mind, it's not a bad piece of work. (KM)

The DaoSon For • *self-titled* • Country Club Records • The Dao Son For mix it up in their self-titled debut. Indie rock meets mathy guitar and drum patterns, plus sporadic playful keyboards. The vocals have a certain bedroom quality, mostly subdued and emotional, except for a few screamed passages. (AL)

The Dirtmints • *Get On* • Sonic Unyon • *Get On* avoids the curse of the sophomore slump for the Dirtmints. Their debut was well received, as it should have been, and this one should garner equal attention. They have perfected their catchy sound, centered around solid indie rock tunes with (mostly) female vocals. (AL)

The Disaster • *Black and White and Red All Over* • Alone Records • Barely 20 minutes long as a whole, and still 11 tracks. You know from that stat alone, it's gonna be harder and faster than high school love. Classic hardcore hooks with a dark cloud raining all over them are a good image. Another one for you is a guy screaming his life out without whining on for hours. (KM)

The Epidemic • *Now Museum, Now You Don't* • Ohev Records • The Epidemic's sound is somewhat of an anomaly. While Radiohead left behind their rock past when they recorded *Kid A* and *Amnesiac*, The Epidemic embraces both rock and electronica on their second full-length. Skips and glitches feel right at home with violins, emotional vocals and keyboards.

Cross Joan of Arc with Autechre and you got The Epidemic. (AL)

The F* You Ups • *Hope You Appreciate It F****** • Formula 13** • I usually would be nice and make up some really stupid lie and try to add in some good details to make a band look good and get attention and praise they do not deserve. After looking at the name of the band, the CD, the songs on it, and taking a listen, and knowing what I just said you can quite possibly guess my emotions for this band and this CD. The hardcore punk style is always great, but the "F" word every five seconds isn't really funny. If you need to listen to a CD to persuade you that your favorite band is actually talented and is "not as bad as everyone says" then this CD is the one for you. Pop it in and enjoy the feeling of relief. (CMax)

The Fire Next Time • *Sound Of A Threat* • Dim Mak Records • Can I call them a poor mans Refused and not offend? When I say "poor man's", I mean they have a less produced sound, that cultivates a more DIY sounding element, which I think is just beautiful. Political, emotional, powerful, artistic, all the elements are there. At times, it gets a little too artistic, which makes it difficult to make this a disc of sing-along anthems; this one more is a work to behold. (KM)

The Flaming Sideburns • *Save Rock 'N' Roll* • Jetset Records • Sound-ing a lot like the Stooges mixed with the Rolling Stones, these Scandinavian rockers keep things extreme and at a high energy level. Lyrics are sung in both Spanish and English and roll right along with raunchy aggression. Hoping to take the world by storm, this is the bands second full length and first release to be marketed domestically. It is evident that many 60's and 70's rock influences have been instilled within their sound like the Lou Reed sounding "Flowers" which is the mellowest track on the disc. (JC)

The Forgotten • *Control Me* • BYO Records • The Forgotten has a great classic punk sound, something that might remind you of the glory days, but they sure aren't just reflective and historic. They make a noise that is worth a listen and respect all on its own. Some of the best street punk I've heard in a long time. The strong sound is completed with some great lyrics as well. (KM)

The Gravity Index • *self-titled EP* • Modern Radio Record Label • Staccato bass and an ominous bari sax start this album off. By the time the screamy vocals came in, I was hooked. The sax was used in a unique way, working harmoniously with the drummer. Metalish guitar parts on "Nervous Empty Screen" worked well with its follow up "Fiction #1" which starts with a punchy bass line and keeps a more punk feel throughout. I have two complaints: 1) they just recently broke up so we won't be hearing anything else from the band but on a positive note, they do have new projects going so hopefully they can live up to The G.I. 2) I know it's an EP, but the album wasn't long enough. I wanted more. (MP)

The Jim Yoshii Pile-up • *Homemade Drugs* • Absolutely Kosher Records • Beautiful and dreamy vocals with rhythmically hypnotic melodies. Each song becomes more emotionally involved and intense. I did enjoy the majority of this album, but some of it became whiny. Every time this happened, though, they picked me back up with a driving melody. It's a roller coaster album, up and down and up again. "Double Negative" picks up the pace and shows off their elements of pop with a chorus that will stick for days. It's a nice mixture of mellow mood music with some toe tapping tunes. (MP)

The Jumbles • *By the Light of a Blue Moon* • Intelligent • A female-fronted ethereal rock band, The Jumbles immediately reminded me of early Sarah McLachlan stuff with the breathy vocals, but with more wildness and creative instrumentation. There's also a kind of flowing, soft quality to the music reminiscent of The Ocean Blue or The Cure. Their songs build to layered, perfect crescendos that are strikingly tight. It's almost like going to a concert of super-happy, stylish aliens – it's just that kind of otherworldly talent. A wonderful record. (DP)

The June Spirit • *Testing Superstition* • Negative Progression • New Jersey's June Spirit have just a bit of that spirit that is. This CD has a collection of some well-developed songs in the cute boy emo tradition that is so popular these days. The only downfall is just that, it sounds a lot like a lot of other things, as good as it is, there really isn't much that jumps out and grabs you. The artwork is great and the lyrics are pretty straightforward. All and all, it's pretty middle of the pack at the end of the day. (KM)

The Lepers • *The Love From Above* • Caulfield Records • This CD opens with an eight-minute, dramatic instrumental that's followed with another eight-minute slow and sinister song. When the vocals enter, it sounds more like Modest Mouse on tranquilizers, while the music carries metalish undertones. I can't forget to mention there are only two members, a drummer and guitarist. "Beating the Bushes," one of their only tracks under eight minutes, surprised me with some powerful screams, as well as the music gaining momentum and starting to wake me up. Unique melodies combined with an impaled man on the cover make for a dark and menacing treat. (MP)

The Lot Six • *Animals* • Espo Records • Recorded during the same sessions as the Gwylo album, The Lot Six has saved the best for second. At times like Sonic Youth or the Pixies, this album gets grungy and loud with distortion. The vocals of Dave Vicini are aggressive, high pitched,

anguished and emotionally confused at times. Lines like, "It's so nice to know we're all falling apart," and, "My mind is cursed," come off like confessions of guilt. "I Get High" and "All So Nice To Know" stand out, as well as "The Tiniest Tin" which is a carry-over of sorts from the last album. This disc is powerful and the music behind the vocals is a major reason why. (JC)

The Maginot Line • *Paris Burning* • Ambiguous City Records • Hailing from DC and Baltimore, this band definitely has elements of the DC post-punk sound. They fuse punk and indie-rock to create a tight, energetic brand of rock and roll that drives forward at a rapid pace. Much of what they do is quite intricate, yet also feedback heavy and constantly shifting in style. The result is an original sound that will get your blood rushing. (CM)

The Microphones • *Mount Eerie* • K Records • The Microphones are a strange car crash of spooky dub, Tones on Tail, and experimental noise. Once you clear the wreckage, it's actually pretty interesting. Using the word experimental is risky, since it mostly means unlistenable, uninteresting, or inaccessible to even the most open ear. The Microphones create something interesting and, at times, even powerful. Bring your curious ears closer for a listen. (KM)

The Mighty Rime • *The Mighty Rime* • Caulfield Records • When the band Christie Front Drive broke up Kerry McDonald decided to reinvent his musical sound. On this, his reincarnation, McDonald has steered clear of the 'emo' sound and unleashed a solid rock album of tight instrumentation and jam sessions. The disc starts out heavy on acoustics and bleeds into "Loof'n n Shoot" where the indie rock sound begins to take shape. High pitched vocals, pounding percussion, chaotic guitar work and a bit of experimenting are all meshed together by good production and backward sampling. Vocals are lost at times but this disc is tough. "Broke Baroque" and "Aviary Aviator" make this worth checking out. (JC)

The Mishaps • *Get Away Volume 1* • Scissor Records • Why listen to all those other crappy pop punk bands on your "Drive Thru Records Compilations" and "Punk Rock TV Shows" when you have the Mishaps right in front of you? Although lacking a little bit of edge and "fancy recording equipment", this is one solid CD from a band who follows in the steps of "pop-core" bands such as The Movielife and Autopilot Off and a little bit of Triple A. Also, having the privilege of touring with bands such as Whatever It Takes, River City Rebels and others means they must have a live show capable of attracting many. All in all, a descent demo from a good band. (CMax)

The Missing 23rd • *The Powers that Be* • Sessions • The Missing 23rd is clean, tight, hard punk with lots of yelling in your face and that kind of power-guitar skipping beat that slaps you right in the chest. They throw song after song of heavy rock assault at you until you are a whimpering wreck of a human being with all vestiges of adult contemporary music strains eradicated from your mind. Fans of AFI and Minor Threat will not be disappointed. (DP)

The Modifiers • *Secret Frequencies* • Intelligent • The Boston-based indie-rock veterans give us their second full-length CD with their brand of heavy pop rock, laden with intelligent lyrics and great hooks. They are a classic power trio, serving up a fabulous combination of aggressive in-your-face songs and kicking back for some slow introspective tunes with rolling guitars. A great band and a worthy follow-up. (DP)

The Quarterhorse • *I Was on Fire for You* • Radio is Down • While guitar fuzz oozes out of your speakers, shrill vocals pierce your ears. The combination is weird, but works in a weird way. Repetition is the key to their sound, making their sound a bit hypnotic and chaotic at the same time. (AL)

The Rubatos • *Warning Bad Dog* • self-released • "Uncle" Dale Warner slaps his bass and sings with sarcasm over a stripped down garage type bluesy rock sound. The vocals come off more spoken word and the music more experimental like mixing Frank Zappa and early Genesis. This far out idea dips through tempo changes where "I Can't Swim" and "No Mans Land" stand out on this 6-track disc. (JC)

The Rum Diary • *A Key to Slow Time EP* • Springman Records • "The Day Dale Eamhardt Died" opens this EP, and it is an exercise involving math rock guitars and melodic, emotive vocals. Almost all of the remaining tracks feature no vocals, instead opting for repeating layers of reverbed guitars and intricate drumming, somewhat like Physics. (AL)

The Vandals • *Internet Dating Super Studs* • Kung Fu Records • Since 1989, the Vandals have been tearing it up with their brand of fast paced punk rock with a touch of humor. This, their first album for Kung Fu records, is no different. The title of the album refers to a contest they had, where you could go to the website and post a profile, an maybe win a date with a member of the band. In the enhanced portion of the disc, you can see who won, and how the dates went. Pretty funny stuff. (AL)

The Vets • *Self-Titled* • Modern Radio Record Label • The Vets have this great crunchy garage sound, but they kind of play a creative brand of math rock. What a peculiar and wonderful combination. At any moment in a song they could take it in a different direction entirely making this for a wild ride. One minute frantic pounding, the next silent whispers, all

☆ quickies...a little bit on a lot of records ☆

molded with a lo-fi crunch. This one's pretty damn good. (KM)

The Ziggens • self-titled • Cornerstone RAS • This is the Ziggens's seventh album, and not only do you get their mix of surf and punk music, touching country ballads, and some 60's pop, but you also get Jesus. Six out of the 14 tracks contain references to religion, which ain't very punk if you ask me. But hey, who am I to judge, right? (AL)

Triangle Paradise • True False CD and Not Enough For You CD-EP • Vintage Marketing • This reminds me of Journey-style power pop rock mixed with a Tom Petty jangle. It has that '80s meets classic rock sound that I thought was long gone. But it's not. The *True False* album has 15 tracks, seven from one songwriter and eight from another guy in the band. There is a difference with the first seven sounding more Journey and the last eight sounding more Petty. The EP has three tracks. Overall, these releases are nothing new and definitely not something I'm into. It's not horrible, but I wish it would do something different or progress with the times. (CM)

Tusk • Get Ready • HeWhoCorruptsInc • "Craig, this CD looks stupid, why did you put my name on it?" I asked with a confused look on my face. "Shut up and take it, you're gonna love it," he shot back. It's good when your editor knows you so well. It might have the oddest cover artwork, reminding me of something found in a teenage stoners bedroom back in the '70s. But, oh my, does this disc bring the rock and then some?! Hard and heavy screaming, a disasterpiece in the making. This one has had almost constant rotation around my place these past few weeks. (KM)

Twelve Hour Turn • Perfect Progress Perfect Destruction • No Idea Records • I love 12 Hour's sound, its beauty comes from the fact that it's not easily classified. Sometimes I think it sounds a little like a hardcore version of an early '90s Athens, GA or Chapel Hill, NC college rock band. This release is a good showcase for this Florida band's creative emo-hardcore sound. It does seem this one is a little more creative than some of the others, and that's a good thing. (KM)

Unearth • Endless • Eulogy Recordings • Double kick drums and downtuned guitars coexist with hardcore vocals in this EP. With three new tracks, and a demo version of their classic "My Desire," *Endless* is just an appetizer to keep you satisfied until Unearth record anything else. (AL)

Various Artists • Extra Yard • The Bouncement Revolution • Big Dada Recordings • Bass heavy beats and rapid Jamaican-like rhymes are the bulk of this compilation. These cats out of the UK have taken another step towards wrecking havoc on every genre of music they come face to face with. The club ready sound is stretched 17 tracks deep and features Roots Manuva, Wildflowers, Ty, New Flesh, Gamma and is mixed by DJ Excalibah. Although the mixing aspect comes up a bit short from track to track, the hip-hop, reggae, bounce and added technotic touches assure that heads will be bouncing by the end of this one. (JC)

Various Artists • New Prohibition • A Musical History Of Hemp • Viper Records • With a house band of various musicians on every track, many vocalists turned up to pay tribute to the legacy of the hemp plant. This collection is a stoners trip through the politics behind marijuana delivered through folk and pop rock music utilizing horns, samples and percussion. Tracks like "Reefer Aint Nothing New" and "Music's So Much Better" are only a few smokin' jams that not only educate about the laws but highlight the joys of taking a drag out of life. (JC)

Various Artists • Smash Hits and Licks • Dim Mak Records • Two tracks from Kill Sadie and others from Pretty Girls Make Graves, Bluebird, Onalaska and Cross My Heart give this compilation a perfect mixture of indie rock and hardcore. The screaming is kept to a minimum but you're given just enough to suffice. The most powerful track contributed is from No Knife. Other artists included are Nine Days Wonder, Planes Mistaken For Stars, Envy and Radar. (MP)

Various Artists • Soul Obsession • Good Looking Records • This latest release from Good Looking Records' Cookin' Records branch is ripe with funky tunes. Downtempo-meets-organic drum 'n bass-meets techno. Artists include Nookie, Vincent, Bun, Stylin', Sian and Aaron Jerome. Forward thinking music for forward thinking people who like anything on the Compost, JCR, or Ubiquity labels. (AL)

Various Artists • Soul Sessions 2 • Giant Step Records • Soul music has a new face these days, with downtempo and electronica artists adding their style and creativity to the genre. In this second volume in the Soul Sessions series, Giant Step Records assembled tracks from Jazzanova, Donnie, Zero 7, Carl Hancock Rux, Seek and others who experiment with catchy hooks, beautiful vocals and sweet melodies. (AL)

Various Artists • Stayin' at Mike's • King Bee Records • The Fairlanes, The Gamits, Contender and The Blamed are some of the bands to make up this comp. Mostly, the songs are punk with some indie, pop and even a little hardcore. Counterfit, The June Spirit and Hope are the only tracks to stand out on this CD. (MP)

Various Artists • The High & Mighty Present: Eastern Conference All Stars III • Eastern Conference Records • For anyone not familiar with this label, this disc is a perfect introduction. Hyper beats stay bouncing and

are laid down by the likes of Mighty Mi, RJD2, Reef, Domingo, Dart La and J Zone. Dropping with Rawkus in 1997 this label has kept it dirty in the underground ever since the High and Mighty helped kick things off. This collection also features Copywrite, Cage, Smut Peddlers, R.A. The Ruggedman, Tame One and a few more surprises, most notably the High and Mighty/Eminem collaboration "Last Hit" which ends the disc. There is enough variety from each artist on this release as well as two posse cuts to get a good idea of what this label has to offer. (JC)

Various Artists • The Philadelphia • Chunksaah Records • Maybe this explains why all my friends keep moving to Philly. A compilation of four Philly bands, The Curse, Paint it Black, Knives Out, and Go! For the Throat that leaves your head ringing. Trying to even find one band better than the other is nearly impossible because all of them are so damn good. Paint It Black, of course, is ex- Lifetime, Kid Dynamite, and Good Ridance so that gives them the early lead, but the rest of the bands on this comp are just as good. Straight up hardcore that doesn't have an emo whine in sight, and isn't recycling the sounds of the '80s and '90s over and over again. It's refreshing! (KM)

Various Artists • Third Strike • Springman Records • First off, I love the cover of this one, the "protest" of corporate punk gets an amen from me. This comp is full of some great stuff from The Gamits, The Fairlanes, As You Wish, Groovie Ghoulies, Short Round, Audio Crush, and a great Desaparecidos song. (KM)

Various Artists • Trance Planet Vol. 6 • Triloka Records • A collection of truly international artists, *Trance Planet Vol. 6* assembles music from Africa, Europe, South America, the Middle East, Asia, and the Indian Subcontinent. While some tracks feature electronica as their backbone, the listener should not assume by the title of this compilation that it is the predominant genre. This is world music, all in its original form, not remixed. (AL)

Various Artists • U.S. of Oil Volume 2 • GMM Records • This album was previously out of print but is now back in all its Oil glory. This is a classic example of the genre, delivering to the listener nineteen tracks from numerous bands, some still around, some long broken up. So grab your pals, lace up your Docs, shave your head clean and get to stompin'. This compilation of working class anthems features such greats as Pist and Broke, Oxblood, The Wretched Ones, and Niblick Henbane. (CM)

Varistor • 07.28.02 • Hey Frankie Recordings • There is a sort of slow moving indie dirge thing happening here I think. Lots of backbeat and droning and that sort of thing, making it sound like a record on the wrong speed. It's a CD, so my guess is that it's on purpose. Their sound comes off as the slower moments of a Nirvana record, or a less interesting Sunny Day Real Estate. (KM)

Venusian Skyline • Twilight Songs • Undecided Records • Musically, I am pretty into this South Florida band's first release. The vocals trouble me, not for their lack of skill but more for their lack of junction with the music. For a moment, one could think they were perhaps recorded for another record and switched in the studio by accident. Off-key with the rest of the music, and almost like a whole different vibe entirely, sadly it muddies what is pretty good musically. This features ex-members of Dragbody and was produced by Mr. J Robbins. (KM)

Victim of Modern Age • self-titled EP • Universal Warning Records • Dissident guitars and a flowing melodic bass line on the first track, "Instruct to Destroy" reminded me of Cursive. Staccato stops followed to make this an indie treat. The clean guitar consequently followed by the invasion of distortion creates the perfect emo-rock combination. The bass, oh how I loved the bass. I could go on forever about it. It was complex when it needed to be and simple at all the right moments, but the tone had just enough punch to drive the songs. I can't wait to hear more from this four piece out of Louisiana. Four songs definitely weren't enough. (MP)

Voyager One • Monster Zero • Loveless Records • Aptly titled Voyager One, this Seattle band takes you on a journey through space rock experimentation. It is essential you listen to this with headphones on, preferably with your eyes closed, laying down in a dark room. Psychedelia and droning layers of guitar are the norm, while vocals make sporadic attempts to humanize the listener's experience. (AL)

Wanted Dead • Repercussions • Chunksaah Records • I like hardcore. Don't get me wrong. I really like hardcore. I am not thrilled with this however. There is nothing here that hasn't been done before. Lots of screaming and arrangements reminiscent of Blood for Blood. It isn't bad, it isn't good, it just isn't. (MK)

Written in the Sand • 47 Ursae Majoris • Johann's Face • It's time to take a journey, led by fast moving keyboards, catchy melodies and aptly-delivered vocals. It's a sometimes uptempo trip, sometimes more meandering and midtempo. Regardless, it's infectious and I'm hooked. This Chicago six-piece uses the standard guitar/drum/bass set up but adds numerous keyboard options to create a space-pop sound that, at times, reminds me of Mates of State and instrumental band Infantic. The keyboards they utilize include the Casio CZ-101, Roland MC-202, JX-10, and a few others. It all comes together damn effectively on this 10-track debut

album that is bound to get you bobbing your head along to the beat and swaying to the keyboard movement. (CM)

Xiu Xiu • Chapel of the Chimes • Absolutely Kosh Records • The opening track begins with a muted beat that sounds like a heart beating too fast, then Jamie Stewart starts singing with a voice full of sorrow, a bit reminiscent of Julio Iglesias in his younger times. Before you can get settled, what seems like a thousand different instruments start to fill the void. The other three original tracks follow very little structure as well. They close out the CD with an off-kilter version of Joy Division's "Ceremony." (AL)

Vinyl releases

Azectwostep • self-titled 7" • Immigrant Sun • This Swedish four-piece offers up 11 tracks on this slab, so you can imagine they're quick songs. These guys blaze your ears with an aural assault of extremely fast trashcore, including the fastest version I've ever heard of Minor Threat's "Out of Step." The clear red vinyl is an added bonus. (CM)

B-Movie Rats • Rock'n'Roll Queen 10" • R3 Records • From Cali comes the B-Movie Rats, a classic rock influenced rock band that fuses their punk rock roots with the guitar-happy aspects of such classic rockers as the Rolling Stones and Zeppelin. The band decided to record this five-track 10" record on the Belgium-based R3 label to help support their European tour. After more than six years of tearing it up, the B-Movie Rats are still delivering sweat-drenched rock that doesn't disappoint. (CM)

Melt-Banana • 666 6" • Level Plane • It's a 6" record, that's not a typo. Melt-Banana has been around for eight years, tossing out their own hyper brand of thrashy, noisy, indefinable music. Track one is a fast-paced, punk-thrash tune that is over before it starts. On the flip side are two more tracks. The first of the two combines a punchy, punk attitude with an electronic new wave element. That's followed by a pounding, beat-happy tune that is definitely the catchiest of the three (and I use the word "catchy" rather lightly). This is definitely a unique record, both for the extremely original music style and the unusual 6" vinyl. (CM)

Reagan National Crash Diet / Decibators • White Man / Burning Under The Sun 7" • RoosterCow / Decires • RNCD comes tearing out with one tune favoring heavy bass, plenty of guitar and a straight-ahead drum pattern. It's rock and roll without any fancy additives, just plenty of energy and attitude. On the flip side, the Decibators offer up one track of guitar feedback-heavy rock and roll. It's raw rock that brings to mind elements of Led Zeppelin fused with punk angst. (CM)

The Frenetics / Nakatomi Plaza • split 7" • Fans of Bad Productions Records • The Frenetics are a Canadian trio I'd never heard of before. But now I want more. Their track on this split vinyl release is extremely catchy, uptempo pop punk that is downright irresistible. Flip over the clear red vinyl and NP is ready to rock your ass off. I love this NY four-piece. Their track combines elements of hardcore and indie rock to create an aggressive, intense, musically-diverse bit of rock and roll. You'll fall in love, I assure you. (CM)

Various Artists • Strategic Infiltration 12" • Insomniac • This opens with a bumpin' track from Jace, the perfect hip-hop tune to set a party off or to get you amped for a night out at a club. It's followed by a very simple but completely funky instrumental track from DJ Inc., perfect for spitting your own rhymes over. Next up on the A-side is "Dissect the Style," a track from Wizeone and Kool Keith (with badass drum and bass production by Ming & FS). This is definitely the highlight of the record because the flows are dope, the beats are out of control and the bassline is downright sick. On the flip side are two more solid cuts, one featuring Cold Shoulder and the other featuring Knotz, both strong hip-hop offerings, but nothing compared to "Dissect the Style." For a 12" hip-hop EP, this is off the hook. (CM)

Zoli Band • Live at the M.O.D. 12" • R3 Records • This live album features 10 tracks, all recorded live during two separate sessions, one in December 2000 and one in May 2001. The band is made up of members of Ignite (plus a couple other guys) and it showcases their abilities outside of that group. The five members create fairly soothing rock that could find its place on the radio. At the same time, it's vastly more creative and diverse than most radio rock, utilizing Zoltan Teglas' amazing vocals and such additions to the standard guitar-bass-drum lineup as violin and cello. The result is a deeper texturing of sounds, using many layers to create an impressive final result. (CM)

Video releases

The Vandals • Sweetin' to the Oldies • Kung Fu Records • Whether you are an old school fan or a recent convert to The Vandals, you'll wanna get this 2-DVD set. The first disc is a 60 minute documentary/live performance originally released in 1993, featuring a commentary track with the whole band. The second disc is full of goodies from the band, including a gig in Holland and an interview with Björk. (AL)

☆ quickies...a little bit on a lot of records ☆

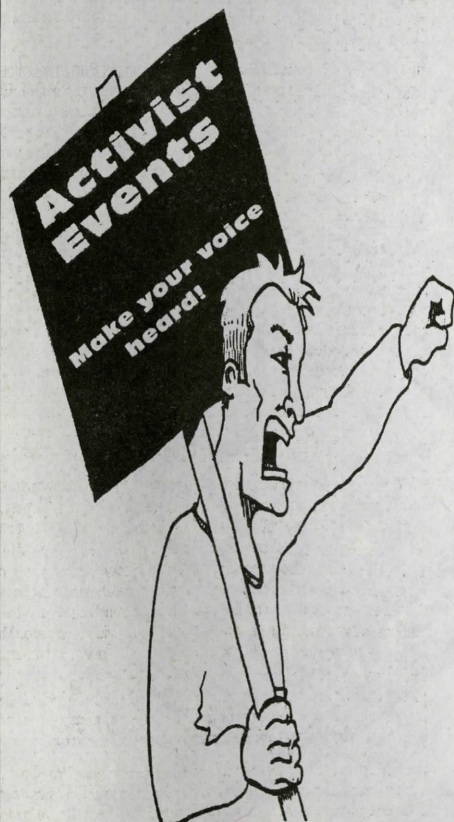
Label Addresses

(write these guys, tell 'em IMPACT sent ya)

54°40' or Fight!, PO Box 1601, Acma, MI 49610-1601
 Absolutely Kosher Records, 1412 10th St, Berkeley, CA 94710
 AK Press 674-A 23rd St, Oakland, CA 94612
 Alone Records, PO Box 3019, Oswego, NY 13126
 Alternative Tentacles Records, PO Box 419092, San Francisco, CA 94141
 amBiguous City! Records, PO Box 31560, Baltimore, MD 21207
 Anabel Records, 28 Rundel Park, Rochester, NY 14607
 Anticon, c/o 6months Distribution, 5878.5 Doyle St., Emeryville, CA 94608
 Arms Reach Records, 1220 W. Hood Apt. #1, Chicago, IL 60660
 Arsenic Records, 130 5th Avenue, 7th Floor, NY, NY 10011
 Artform Entertainment, 303 E. 60 St. #21E, New York, NY 10022
 Asian Man Records, PO Box 35585, Monte Sereo, CA 95030
 Back Bone Records, 4761-6 Bayou Blvd, Pensacola, FL 32503
 Blow Up Hollywood, c/o Steve, 8 Bryan Meadow Path, Northport, NY 11768
 BYO Records, PO Box 67609, Los Angeles, CA 90067
 Caulfield Records, PO Box 84323, Lincoln, NE 68501
 Cement Records, 121 W. Linden Ave. Suite #D, Long Beach, CA 90802
 Chunksaah Records, PO Box 974, New Brunswick, NJ 08903
 Coldfront Records, PO Box 8345, Berkeley, CA 94707
 Constellation, PO Box 42002, Station Jeanne-Mance, Montreal, Quebec, H2W2T3
 Coqi Records, 1034 Falaise St., Ottawa, ON, K1C 0M5, Canada
 Cornerstone RAS, 2691 Dow Ave. #C-2, Tustin, CA 92780
 Corrupt Records, 1 Provincial Terrace, London SE20 7JQ
 Country Club Records, 34-31 75th Street, New York, NY 11372
 Coup d'Etat, 532 La Guardia Place #704, NY, NY 10012
 Crank!, 1223 Wilshire Blvd. #823, Santa Monica, CA 90403
 Crows, 814 NE 7th Pl., Gainesville, FL 32601
 Deep Elm Records, PO Box 36939, Charlotte, NC 28236
 Diaphragm Records, PO Box 10388, Columbus, OH 43201
 Dim Mak Records, PO Box 14041, Santa Barbara, CA 93107
 Dischord Records, 3819 Beecher St. NW, Washington, DC 20007
 Domino Recording Company, Ltd., PO Box 1207, New York, NY 10276
 Eastern Conference Records, no contact info available
 Eighteenth Street, 1210 18th St. NW, Ste. 200B, Washington, DC 20036
 Emperor Norton Records, 102 Robinson Street, Los Angeles, CA 90026
 Empty Records, PO Box 12034, Seattle, WA 98012
 Equal Vision, PO Box 14, Hudson, NY 12534
 Espo Records, PO Box 63, Allston, MA 02134
 Ether, PO Box 32125, Philadelphia, PA 19128
 Eulogy Recordings, Inc., PO Box 8692, Coral Springs, FL 33075
 Exotic Fever Records, Box 297, College Park, MD 20741
 Fans of Bad Productions Records, 3-225 Bagot St., Kingston, ON K7L 3G3
 Fat Wreck Chords, PO Box 193690, San Francisco, CA 94119-3690
 Fiddler, PO Box 330667, Miami, FL 33233
 Flameshovel Records, 1658 N. Milwaukee No. 276, Chicago, IL 60647
 Formula 13, PO Box 7385, Tempe AZ 85281
 Future Fossil Records, PO Box 6248, Hoboken, NJ 07030
 Gaggles of Cocks, 212 St. Nicholas Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11237

Galapagos4, 1457 W. Rascher, Suite 2, Chicago, IL 60640
 Gern Blandsten, PO Box 356, River Edge, NJ 07661
 Ghostly International, 202 E. Washington #510, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
 GMM Records, PO Box 15234, Atlanta, GA 30333
 Go For Broke, Box 38, South Amboy, NJ 08879
 Gold Standard Laboratories, PO Box 178262, San Diego, CA 92177
 Good Ink Records, PO Box 19645, Seattle, WA 98109
 Good Looking Organisation, 84 Queens Road, Watford Herts, WD17 2LA, UK
 Goodfellow, 762 Upper James St., Suite 275, Hamilton, ON, Canada, L9C 3A2
 G-Stone, postlagernd beim Postzentrum Wien-Süd, Wiedner Gürtel 1a-1b, A-1103 Vienna
 Guidance Recordings, Inc., 160 N. Halsted, Chicago, IL 60661
 Guilt Ridden Pop, 2217 Nicollet Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55404
 Harmless Records, 1218 W. Hood Ave., Apt 2, Chicago, IL 60660
 He Who Corrupts Inc, 196 Fairfield, Elmhurst, IL 60126
 Hey Frankie, PO Box 090629, Brooklyn NY 11209
 High Times Records, 588 Broadway, Suite 204, New York City, NY 10012
 Honest Don's, PO Box 192027, San Francisco, CA 94119
 Honey Bear Records, 1730 E. Olcott #135, Austin, TX 78741
 Hope and Nothings, PO Box 148010, Chicago, IL 60614
 Hopeless Records, PO Box 7495, Van Nuys, CA 91409-7495
 Huggy Bear Records, 1730 E. Olcott #135, Austin, TX 78741
 Hydra Head Industries, PO Box 990248, Boston, MA 02199
 Ignition Records, 1 Chandos Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2NY, UK
 Immigrant Sun, PO Box 150711, Brooklyn, NY 11215
 Insomniac, PO Box 592722, Orlando, FL 32859
 Intelligent Records, 203 Washington St. #102, Salem, MA 01970-6500
 Ionik Records, 1634 Lombard St., 2nd Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19146
 Ipecac Recordings, PO Box 1197, Alameda, CA 94501
 Jaggiaguar, 1021 South Walnut, Bloomington, IN 47401
 Jetset Records, 67 Vestry Street, NY, NY 10013
 Johann's Face, PO Box 479164, Chicago, IL 60647
 K Records, Box 7154, Olympia, WA 98507
 Keith Moore, 29 Klamath Way, Novato, CA 94947
 Kill Radio, no contact info available
 King Bee Records, PO Box 1164, Denver, CO 80201
 Krescent 4, c/o Rainmaker, 398 Columbus Ave., PMB 183, Boston, MA 02116
 Kung Fu Records, PO Box 38009, Hollywood, CA 90038
 Level Plane Records, PO Box 280, New York, NY 10276
 Lorelei Records, PO Box 902, Santa Cruz, CA 95061
 Loveless Records, 1122 E. Pike, #1361, Seattle, WA 98122
 Lujo Records, 3209 Jennie Dr., Morgan City, LA 70380
 Maniac Records, 141 Robert E. Lee Blvd., #394, New Orleans, LA 70124
 Million Dollar Marxist, PO Box 77062, Ottawa, ON, K1S 5N2, Canada
 Minimalist Recording Company, 154 Walnut St. #2, Somerville, MA 02145
 Modern Radio Record Label, PO Box 8886, Minneapolis, MN 55408
 Moses Carryout Records, 174 E. Oakland Ave., Columbus, OH 43201
 Near by Music, PO Box 441448, Somerville, MA 02144
 Negative Progression Records, PO Box 193158, San Francisco, CA 94119
 New Disorder Records, 115 Bartlett St. San Francisco, CA 94110
 New School Year, c/o Ian Yount, 236 E. Taylor St., Reno, NV 89502
 Ninja Tune Records, 222 Dominion # 20, Montreal, Quebec, H3J 2X1
 No Idea Records, PO Box 14636, Gainesville, FL 32604
 Not Without Your Space Helmet Records, PO Box 533124, Orlando, FL 32853

Ohiv Records, PO Box 772121, Coral Springs, FL 33077
 Ol' Scratch Recs, c/o Scot, PO Box 872, Colorado Springs, CO 80901-0872
 On/On Switch, PO Box 641122, San Francisco, CA 94164-1122
 Ozone Music, no contact info available
 P.A.W. Records, c/o Matt Marka, 1514 East 19th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55404
 Polyvinyl Records, PO Box 7140, Champaign, IL 61826-7140
 QN5 Music, c/o Score, 808 N. Orangecroft Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90046
 R3 Records, Oosthamsesteenweg 129, B-3581 Beverlo-Beringen, Belgium
 Radical Records, 77 Bleeker Street #C-21, New York, NY 10012
 Radio is Down, PMB 1436, 120 State Ave. NE, Olympia, WA 98501
 Reaction Records, PO Box 362, Stockton, NJ 08559
 Record Collection, 1223 Wilshire Blvd. #811, Santa Monica, CA 90403
 Remy De Laroque, 990 6th Ave., 21S, New York, NY 10018
 Resurrection A.D. Records, PO Box 763, Red Bank, NJ 07701
 RoosterCOW, PO Box 578174, Chicago, IL 60657
 Ruck La' Rou, no contact info available
 S.H.Ar.Q., 2 School St. Base. 2, Northampton, MA 01060
 Sara Marlow, 60 Spencer Ave., Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6K 2J6
 Scissor Records, PO Box 206512, New Haven, CT 06520
 Secretly Canadian, 1021 South Walnut, Bloomington, IN 47401
 Sessions Records, 15 Janis Way, Scotts Valley, CA 95066
 Shat House Records, no contact info available
 Sick Pup Records, 7150 Tularosa Ct., Ft. Worth, TX 76137
 Silverthree Sound Recordings, PO Box 3621, Fairfax, VA 22038
 Sinister Label, PO Box 1178, LaGrange, IL 60526
 Sixgunlover Records, 3203 Overcup Oak, Austin, TX 78704
 Sloth Bear Records, Inc., 3203 NW 4th Street, Gainesville, FL 32609
 Smokeylung Recordings, 943 N. Jackson, Bloomington, IN 47404
 Sonic Unyon, PO Box 57347, Jackson Station, Hamilton, ON, Canada L8P 4X2
 Springman Records, PO Box 2043, Cupertino, CA 95015-2043
 Stonegarden Records, 3101 Exposition Place, Los Angeles, CA 90018
 Subtype Music, 89 Bleeker Street #2E, New York, NY 10012
 Suburban Home, PO Box 40757, Denver, CO 80204
 Superbad Records, Box 21313, Washington, D.C. 20009
 Surfdog, 1126 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, CA 92024
 Susstones Records, 3010 Hennepin Ave. S. #161, Minneapolis, MN 55408
 Tableturns, 328 Flatbush Ave., PMB #137, Brooklyn, NY 11238
 The Anchorite Four, 4212 SW 5th Pl., Cape Coral, FL 33914
 The Rubatos, c/o Dale Warner, 3563 Jasmine Ave., Ste. #1, LA, CA 90034
 Tiger Style Records, 149 Wooster St. 4th Floor, New York, NY 10012
 Tooth & Nail Records, PO Box 12698, Seattle, WA 98111
 Trashbox Records, 1383 Carlyle Park Circle, Highlands Ranch, CO 80126
 Triloka Records, 23852 Pacific Coast Highway #745, Malibu, CA 90265
 Trustkill Records, 23 Farm Edge Ln., Tinton Falls, NJ 07724
 Ultimatum Music, 8723 W. Washington Blvd., Culver City, CA 90232
 Undecided Records, 10695 Lake Oak Way, Boca Raton, FL 33498
 Universal Warning Records, 2800 Irving Street, Denver, CO 80211
 Urenee, c/o Antony, 5041 Auckland Ave., Toluca Woods, CA 91601
 Vintage Marketing, 2 Campus View Drive, Loudonville, NY 12211
 Viper Records, 230 Mott Street, NY, NY 10012
 Vital Cog Records, PO Box 7846, Princeton, NJ 08543
 Wnd-Up Records, 72 Madison Ave., 8th Floor, NY, NY 10016
 Wishing Tree Records, PO Box 197, Warren, RI 02885-197



EU Summit Counter Demonstration

When: December 15-17, 2002

Where: Copenhagen, Denmark

Info: <http://www.cph2002.org/>

Protest Against War and Racism

When: January 18-19, 2003

Where: Washington D.C.

Info: <http://www.internationalanswer.org/>

Out from the Shadows: Ending Drug Prohibition in the 21st Century

When: February 12-15, 2003

Where: Universidad Autónoma de

Yucatán in Mérida, Mexico

Info: www.stophthdrugwar.org/shadows/

Liberation Now! The National Student Animal Rights Conference

When: February 21-23, 2003

Where: San Francisco, CA

Info: <http://www.liberationnow.com>

CannaTrade.ch Int'l Hemp Fair

When: Feb. 28-March 2, 2003

Where: Bern, Switzerland

Info: <http://www.cannatrade.ch>

The Day of Silence Project

When: April 9, 2003

Where: Across the U.S.

Info: <http://www.dayofsilence.org/>

2003 NORML Conference

When: April 17-19, 2003

Where: San Francisco, CA

Info: <http://www.norml.org>

6th Annual Jacksonville Hempfest

When: May 31, 2003

Where: Jacksonville Beach, Florida

Info: <http://www.jaxhempfest.com/>

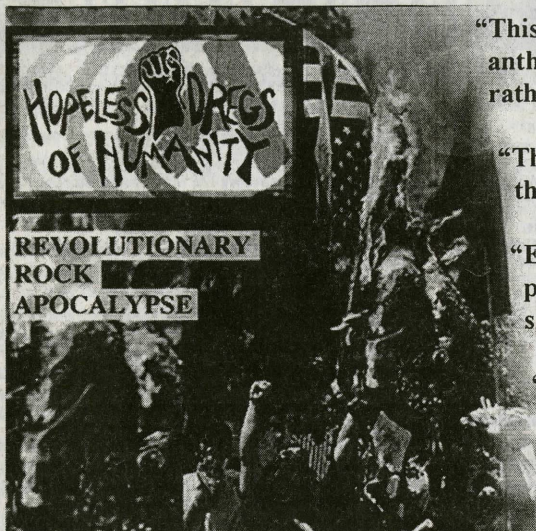
Animal Rights 2003 Conference

When: June 27-July 1, 2003

Where: McLean Hilton Hotel, Near DC

Info: <http://www.farmusa.org>

Want to get an event listed? COOL. Email us: editor@impactpress.com



"This is great sing-along
anthemic punk rock that would
rather burn a flag than wave it"
--Maximumrocknroll

"This is the sort of band
that I love to see"

--Slug & Lettuce

"Excellent, raw, hard,
political, snotty, backlashing,
sarcastic punk rock"

--Wonka Vision

"To be honest, I wasn't
expecting much given the
band name...it turns out to
be better than I thought"

--Heartattack

Even hardcore scenesters can't deny...

Hopeless Dregs of Humanity rock!

REVOLUTIONARY ROCK APOCALYPSE

The CD from HOPELESS DREGS OF HUMANITY

Send \$8 postage paid with check, money order, or well-concealed cash to:

EVER REVEILED RECORDS, PO Box 1904, New Brunswick, NJ 08903-1904

Don't forget to tell us where to send it to Sherlock!

Still available...Give Us Barabbas debut CD, "Luke 23:18" for \$8 postage paid

Visit www.everreveiledrecords.com

For more info on past and future releases, e-mail jordan@everreveiledrecords.com

Support worker-owned and run



COMPASSION FOR ANIMALS ACTION SYMPOSIUM

Presented By VegEvents

March 7-9, 2003

University of South Fla., Tampa

Join us in this beautiful campus setting to
gain a greater understanding of a
compassionate lifestyle and the plight of
all sentient beings. Raise your awareness
and take it back to your community.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

- Hear experts in Vegan Nutrition, Animal Ethics and Environmental Issues
- Participate in panel discussions
- Enjoy great vegan meals and exhibit hall
- Network with like-minded individuals and form friendships that will last a lifetime!

Questions? Contact Event Coordinator:

Chas Chiodo @ 386-454-4341

chasmo@netcommander.com

More Info: www.vegetarianevents.com

For best rates, register early!

AVAILABLE 11.19.02

INCLUDES EXCLUSIVE BEHIND THE SCENES FOOTAGE, PHOTO GALLERIES, HIDDEN FEATURES AND MUCH MORE

VAGRANT RECORDS

ANOTHER YEAR ON THE SCREEN

VOLUME 1

12 VIDEOS PLUS BONUS MATERIAL

ALKALINE TRIO
THE ANNIVERSARY
DASHBOARD CONFESSIONAL
FACE TO FACE
THE GET UP KIDS
HOT ROD CIRCUIT
NO MOTIV
SAVES THE DAY

VAGRANT

Vagrant Records • 2118 Wilshire Blvd. #361 • Santa Monica CA 90403 • www.vagrant.com

neva dinova



self-titled debut cd
out now

crank! A RECORD COMPANY

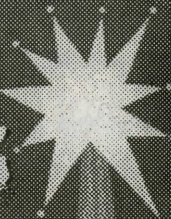


www.crankthis.com * www.nevadinova.com

1223 wilshire blvd # 823 santa monica CA 90403 * fan@crankthis.com

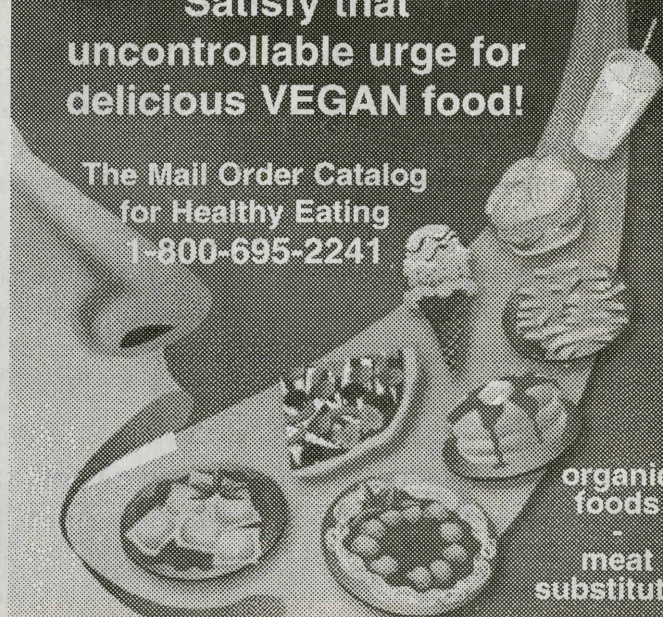
www.vegetariancatalog.com

Munchie Madness



Satisfy that
uncontrollable urge for
delicious VEGAN food!

The Mail Order Catalog
for Healthy Eating
1-800-695-2241



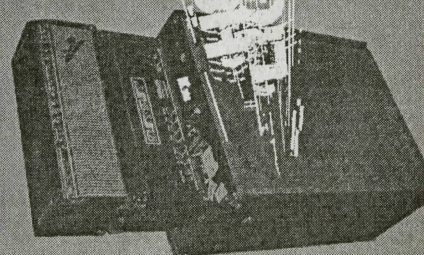
organic
foods
-
meat
substitutes



CITY OF CATERPILLAR
DEMO + LIVE RECORDING



level-plane.com
www.
po box 4329 philadelphia pa 19118



Split 7" out now
Level Plane Records
www.level-plane.com

Race and the Enemy

(RACE, continued from page 49)


who greets me on the street with a smile on his or her face and hatred in their heart?

Death is death, whether at the hands of Caucasians, Hispanics, Asians or African-Americans. Moreover, a killer's color should not be a deterrent in denouncing crime. What happened to Young is appalling. And if the young men who assaulted Young are indeed guilty, they should be sentenced accordingly.

Speaking of the law, did you know that studies show that the punishment Blacks receive when the victim is White is far more severe than if the victim is Black? Does this mean that an African-American's life is worth less in comparison to their White counterparts? Based on the aloof reaction of Blacks in relation to Black-on-Black-violence, it would seem so.

With my fingers typing furiously on the keyboard, my eyes casually scan the TV screen. Glimpsing the weatherman's plaid suit, I wonder what the average person will say when another Black person meets their death at the hands of another African-American today, tomorrow, or whenever it happens. The answer is simple. They will shake their head and say with a sigh, "Yeah, so what?"

For too long we've been thinking that our enemy was the other race; but if they were our enemy, then who is the enemy now? Sadly, our enemy has changed his color to Black. Or is that the way it has always been? We have met the enemy, and unfortunately it is ourselves. ❧



MARY, MOTHER OF JESUS
Virgin or adulteress? Jesus, Son of God or a Roman Soldier? The **GREAT CHRISTIAN HOAXES** exposes all: The Creation, Noah, Moses, St. Peter's Tomb. A book for those who want to KNOW, not just BELIEVE!

WHICH CAME FIRST SIR, THE CHICKEN OR THE EGG?

A philosophical short story spoof, taking a brief but serious look at the essence of 2000 years of the highly Christian ecclesiastical influenced Western philosophy.

THE GREAT SCHAZIAM!

The Anybody Can Start A Church Book

A former U.S. Marine officer and a wealthy pimp, seeking ways to sustain his business after the political scene changes, build a church! "A satirical, sometimes whimsical novel that gets it point across in compelling terms."

PRESIDENT'S WIDOW & SON caught running dangerous, frequently deadly, money scam. Read all about it! **FREE BOOK!**

www.asgayle.com

925-625-5818 Ph/Fax

IMPACT ranked #16 for "Favorite Zines Overall" in Zine Guide.
Visit IMPACTpress.com for details.

HAR MAR SUPERSTAR

YOU CAN FEEL ME

IN STORES NOW

FOR INFO VISIT: YOUCANFEELME.COM



RECORDCOLLECTION / 1214 ABBOT KINNEY / VENICE, CA 90291 / WWW.RECORDCOLLECTIONMUSIC.COM



THE HOPE CONSPIRACY

E N D N O T E



ENDNOTE SHOWCASES A WHOLE NEW LEVEL OF EXPLOSIVE POWER.
CONTROLLED CHAOS AND UNBRIDLED AGGRESSION



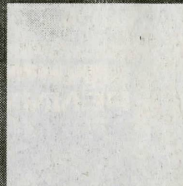
EQUAL VISION RECORDS PO BOX 14 HUDSON NY 12534 USA • WWW.EQUALVISION.COM



BOY SETS FIRE
LIVE FOR TODAY
EVR79 LIMITED 10"



TIME IN MALTA
A SECOND ENGINE
EVR75CD



FAIRWEATHER
ALASKA
EVR76CD 10"



LIAR'S ACADEMY
TRADING MY LIFE
EVR76CD

VOICES OF REASON FROM WITHIN AN INSANE NATION...



JELLO BIAFRA MACHINE GUN IN THE CLOWN'S HAND

At last, the full no-holds-barred Spoken Word Album #7, explaining how the war on terrorism went terribly wrong and detailing what we can do about it. Jello expands on his April 2002 release, "The Big Ka-Boom, Part One," with more in-depth details, plus an eye-brow raising recap of the Florida election fraud follies. A searing reply to anyone who still thinks Mader cost Gore the election. VIRUS 290 3xLP: \$14.00 / 3xCD: \$18.00

DARRYL CHERNEY & THE CHERNOBLES BUSH IT! h/w SEND GEORGE BUSH A PRETZEL

DARRYL CHERNEY delivers some of the most side-splitting satires of DubyaLand we've heard yet. DARRYL is best known as a tireless EarthFirst! activist and one time compadre of JUDI BARI; he recently triumphed over the FBI in court! Two pointed and satirical songs- think PHIL OCHS with a JELLO BIAFRA twist! VIRUS 289 CD SINGLE: \$7.00



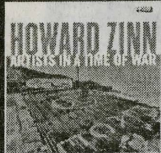
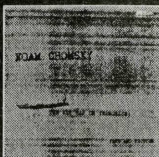
ALEXANDER COCKBURN BEATING THE DEVIL

The pointed wit and scathing insights of maverick author / political commentator ALEXANDER COCKBURN will warm the hearts of even the stodgiest leftist cynics. This columnist for The Nation and founder of Counterpunch skewers the fallacies of the drug war & illuminates the dark crevices of secret government. VIRUS 284 CD: \$12.00



NOAM CHOMSKY THE "NEW" WAR ON TERRORISM

In his most anticipated lecture ever, Chomsky dissects the "war on terrorism" focusing on the historical love-hate relationship between the United States and so-called terrorists. Facts neglected by news outlets and self-contradictions within US policies themselves serve as Chomsky's ammunition in his cutting analysis of why military coercion won't end terrorism in our "homeland" and beyond. VIRUS 293 CD: \$12.00



HOWARD ZINN ARTISTS IN A TIME OF WAR

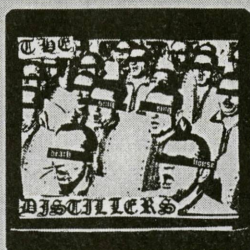
Noted radical historian Howard Zinn provides an alternate perspective on war focusing on writers and artists such as Mark Twain and Langston Hughes. While blind patriotism dominates post 9/11 America, Zinn gently reminds us that pride in one's country comes not from the words and deeds of government, but from the actions of working people. VIRUS 292 CD: \$12.00

ALTERNATIVE TENTACLES RECORDS

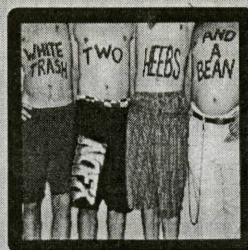
P.O. BOX 419092, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94141-9092, USA
Send \$1 (U.S.) for a catalog. • www.alternativetentacles.com •



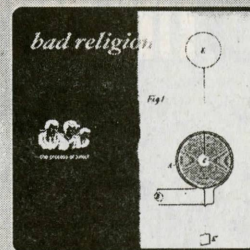
TRANSPLANTS
transplants



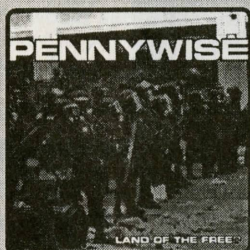
THE DISTILLERS
sing sing death house



NOFX
white trash, two heebs
and a bean



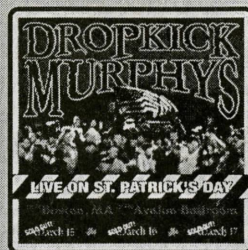
BAD RELIGION
process of belief



PENNYWISE
land of the free?



HOT WATER MUSIC
caution



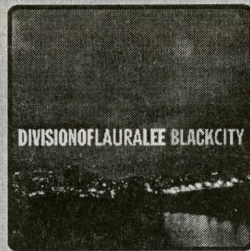
DROPKICK MURPHYS
live on st. patricks day



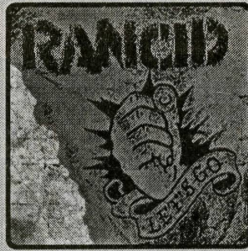
BOUNCING SOULS
how I spent my summer
vacation



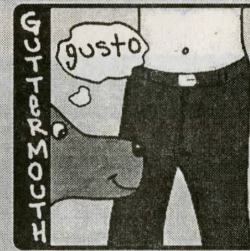
MILLENCOLIN
home from home



DIVISION OF LAURA LEE
black city



RANCID
let's go



GUTTERMOUTH
gusto

This holiday season music is your safest bet.

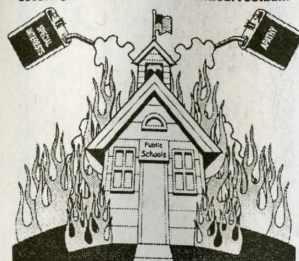
Epitaph



Back Issues

IMPACT

Privatizing Public Schools:
Leveling the Playing Field or Political Football?



Cooperation Essential
in a Struggling World

The Search for a
Species Identity

U.S. Economic Collapse
Cooks Are in Control

issue #41

Issue #41, October/November '02, Cover Story: Privatizing Public Schools - Leveling the Playing Field or Political Football - Also: The Search for a Species Identity; Election Crooks (OUT OF PRINT!)

Issue #40, August/September '02, Cover Story: The Growing Revolt Against Globalization - Also: The Case For Granting Animals Legal Rights; Pledge Controversy - One Nation, Indivisible

Issue #39, June/July '02, Cover Story: Cruelty Under The Big Top - Also: U.S. War In Afghanistan - Another Oil War?; Trampling the Last Taboo - Pedophilia and Politics; Rethinking Race

Issue #38, April/May '02, Cover Story: One Nation Under God - Blurring the Line Between Church and State - Also: Unmasking the Drug-Terror Link; Canned Hunts: Slaughter By Any Other Name

Issue #37, February/March '02, Cover Story: Dying For a Cigarette - Also: Four Lies About Social Security; Rip, Mix, Burn, Go To Jail!; DEA vs. Hemp: Another "War" Waged

Issue #36, December/January '01-'02, Cover Story: Beyond The Bombs - Winning the "War" on Terrorism - Also: Endangered Species: Now Or Never; A Strong People Do Not Need a Government

Issue #35, October/November '01, Cover Story: The Modern-Day Island of Dr. Moreau - Also: Want Some Justice in Your Coffee; The Making of a Terrorist, Part One (OUT OF PRINT!)

Issue #34, August/September '01, Cover Story: Education on the Auction Blocks - Teaching Kids to Consume - Also: Gestation Crates - No Way to Treat a Pig; Across the Great Divide - America's Wealth Gap

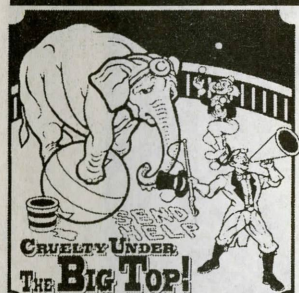
Issue #33, June/July '01, Cover Story: Dissolving Bones and Cancer - The Chemical Industry Exposed -- Dinosaur Fuel Becomes a Dinosaur; Fish Are Not Swimming Vegetables

Issue #32, April/May '01, Cover Story: Downed Animals - Diseased Food On Your Plate - Also: Was It the Falun Gong or Chinese Deception?; Selling Our Environment for a Barrel Oil; Educational Equality

Issue #31, February/March '01, Cover Story: Ripe for Revolt - Building a New Left - Also: Global Warming Heats Up and U.S. Runs From Kitchen; Pigs at the Trough - The Corporate Welfare State in America

Issue #30, December '00/January '01, Cover Story: Did Jesus Exist and Does It Matter? - Also: Have You Had Your Ritalin Today?; Trading With The Enemy; Confessions of an Ex-Bodybuilder

IMPACT



U.S. War in Afghanistan
Another Oil War?

Rethinking Race and
Unmasking the Truth

Trampling the Last Taboo
Pedophilia and Politics

issue #39

Issue #29, October/November '00, Cover Story: Attacking America's Greatest Enemy - The Bloated Military Budget - Also: Vaccine Conspiracy - Health of Profit? (OUT OF PRINT!)

Issue #28, August/September '00, Cover Story: Genetic Engineering - What's In It For Me and You? - Also: The Deadly Truth Behind Greyhound Racing; Spaceman Cometh - Corporate Rule & Control

Issue #27, June/July '00, Cover Story: Truth on Trial - Why Capital Punishment Deserves to Die - Also: A Political Solution to Medical Errors; Unholy Alliance - The CIA & Fascist Terrorists (OUT OF PRINT!)

Issue #26, April/May '00, Cover Story: Censorship, Alive and Well in the U.S. - Also: Rape Shield Laws - Who Needs Protecting?; Antisocial Security: Your Personal Info Is At Risk (OUT OF PRINT!)

Issue #25, February/March '00, Cover Story: Vowing for Equality - Same Sex Marriages - Also: Big Brother Broadcasts the Nightly News; The Fruits of Fascism - CIA-Socialism in Chile

Issue #24, December/January '99-00, Cover Story: Creationism - Monkeying With Science Education - Also: Articles by two death row

inmates; Senate to World: "Screw You!" (OUT OF PRINT!)

Issue #23, October/November '99, Cover Story: Big House of Horrors - Abuse In America's Jails - Also: The Religious Left - A Moral Balancing Act; America is Selling Out Taiwan; (OUT OF PRINT!)

Issue #22, August/September '99, Cover Story: Prisoners of Conscience - US Political Prisoners - Also: Space Exploration & Exploitation; America's Ritual Genocide of Iraq

Issue #21, June/July '99, Cover Story: Imprisoning the Mind - Art Censorship in America - Also: Facing 30; Death with Dignity or a .22; A Patriotic Left

Issue #20, Apr/May '99, Cover Story: The Chaining of America - Also: The Death Penalty - Reassessing the Punishment; School of the Americas: Training Foreign Killers

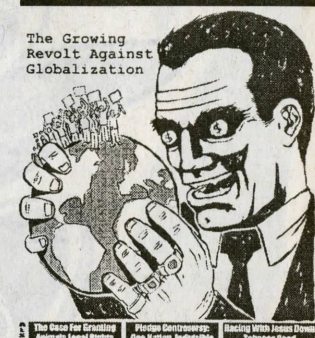
FOR INFO on ISSUES #1-19, log on to our web site: www.impactpress.com

We have listed only some of what each issue contains. Single copies: \$2 (postage-paid) each. Outside the U.S., add \$1 per copy for Canada/Mexico, add \$3 per copy elsewhere. Buy several and save: 3 issues for \$5 (\$8 Canada/Mexico; \$12 elsewhere), add \$1 for each additional copy; 10-12 issues just \$12 (not available outside US); 13-20 issues just \$15, add 50 cents for each additional copy (not available outside US). Address on page 4. Subscription info on page 20.

IMPACT press

covering issues the way the media should

IMPACT



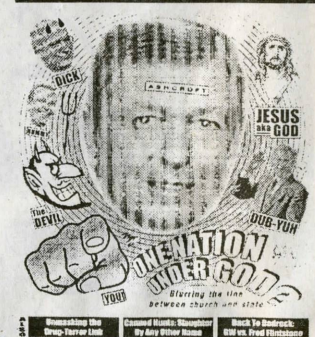
The Case For Granting
Animals Legal Rights

Pledge Controversy:
One Nation, Indivisible

Racing With Jesus Down
Tobacco Road

issue #40

IMPACT



Unmasking the Drug-Terror Link

Canned Hunts: Slaughter
By Any Other Name

Back To Back: Four
Lies About Social Security

issue #38

impact press

