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#### EDITORS/FACILITATORS:

Marya Burke  
Brian Dolinar  
davep  
Belden Fields  
Bob Illyes  
Paul Mueth  
Neil Parthun  
Kristina Williams

#### The *Public i*

Urbana-Champaign IMC  
202 South Broadway  
Urbana, IL, 61801  
217-344-8820  
www.ucimc.org



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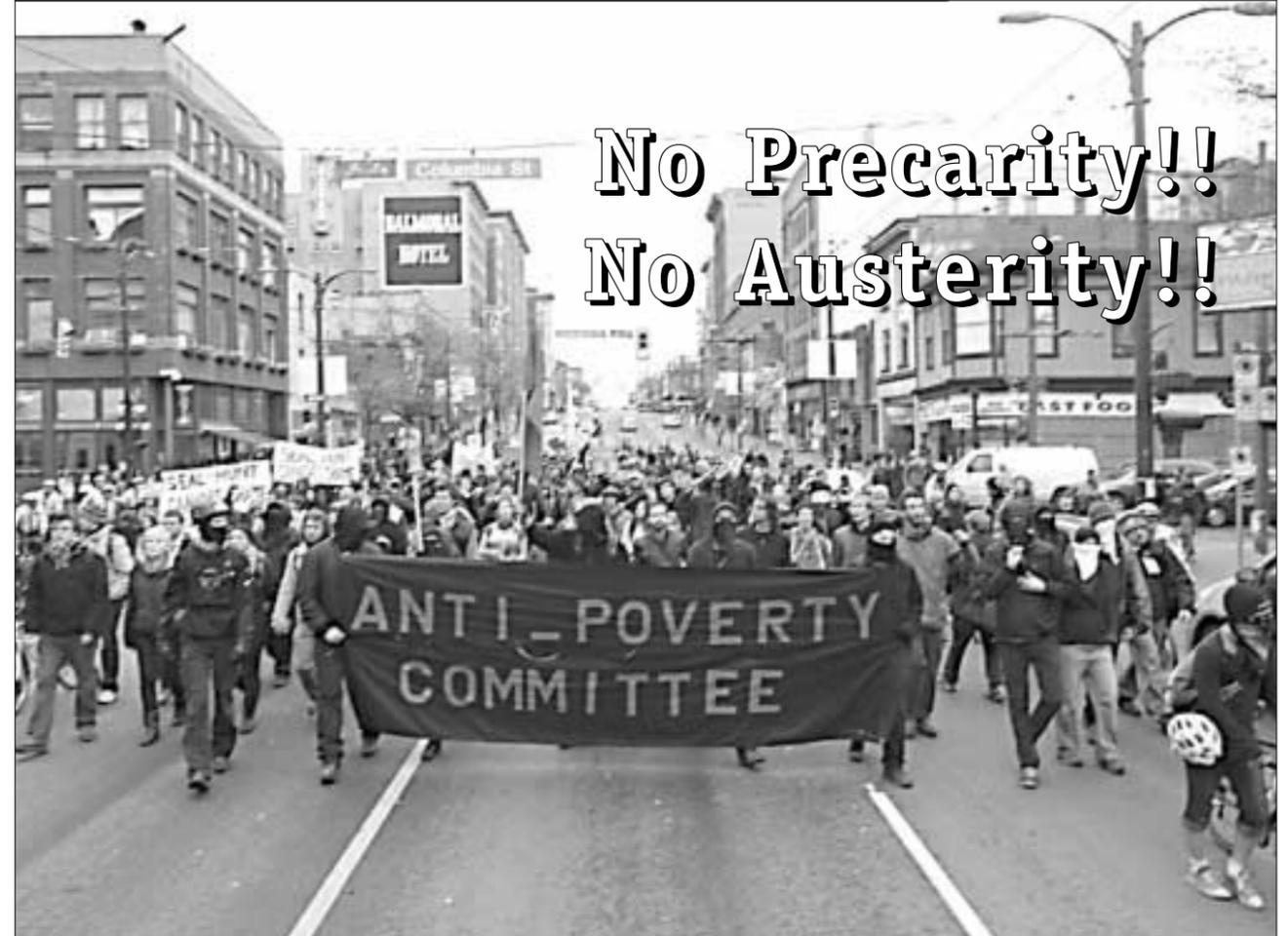
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# Chicago Commemorates 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Haymarket Affair

By Chicago IMC

IN EARLY MAY 1886, Chicago workers demonstrated for an eight-hour workday. One demonstration on May 3, 1886, in solidarity with workers who had been locked outside of the McCormick Reaper Plant while strikebreakers worked inside, led to police opening fire and killing some workers.

To protest those McCormick killings, two thousand workers came to Haymarket Square in the West Loop (Randolph and Des Plaines) to an event which Chicago Mayor Carter Harrison permitted and even attended. As the rally came to an end, Mayor Harrison ordered the police to disperse, yet some 180 police entered the square and began attacking attendees.

At that point, someone threw a bomb at the police. The explosion resulted in a number of deaths; wild gunfire by police killed workers and as many as six police officers. But the bomb galvanized a campaign against organized labor and political radicals. Eight labor organizers were charged with conspiracy and found guilty, even though only one of the eight even attended the rally that night.

A massive international cause celebre rallied on behalf of the Haymarket Eight. Four of the eight were hanged in 1887, a fifth died in prison, and the remaining three were pardoned by Illinois Governor John Peter Altgeld in a move considered to be Altgeld's swansong in politics.

125 years after that fateful night, the consequences of Haymarket still reverberate. May Day has been celebrated internationally (except in the United States) as a workers' holiday, generations of radicals drew inspiration of Haymarket for their own activism, and the eight-hour workday was ultimately won. But efforts to improve the lot of poor and workers face constant assault and threats of rollback; the struggles fought in 1886 echo those fought in 2011. But the struggle continues, as it always does.

The city of Chicago did place a memorial to Haymarket which was unveiled on a nondescript Tuesday in September 2004



Chicago Branch of the Industrial Workers of the World march for May Day

to comparatively little fanfare. But Chicago citizens and activists have organized memorials and commemorations of the quasiquintennial (125th anniversary) of Haymarket, including a full-scale historical re-enactment at Haymarket Square.



At the Haymarket Memorial

On May Day 2011, a march took place from Union Park to Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood, long a bastion of immigrant communities, particularly today Chicago's huge Mexican community. The march of more than 1,500 people was organized and led by people from Pilsen, including many young people who are fighting for the rights of their immigrant families and neighbors just as the original movement that the Haymarket activists helped create 125 years ago struggled for the rights of immigrant workers and their communities. The call of the day? The people are the movement and the movement wants justice, dignity, economic and social equity, and the freedom to live unmolested by

## I Guess I Planted

By Woodie Guthrie

I guess I planted some long lonesome seed of a song  
Way down inside me long ago  
And now I can't remember when it was  
But it joined up with the rest of them and grows  
It's such a little song it don't compare  
With all your big ones you hear everywhere  
But when it dawns away in the back of your mind  
The big ones are made up of the little kind  
Union song. Union battled.  
All added up. Won us all what we got now.  
I can't even start to look around me here  
Without hearing this song  
And seeing all of us first separated  
Hurt, apart, and afraid  
And hungry for the union  
And so we kept on  
Singing and working, fighting till we got it.  
And this is the big union song I guess I hear.  
We fought there at your place  
We fought there on your ship  
And I guess if you missed out on the fight for our  
union  
You missed out on one awful big step  
Us people took.

state, economic or social oppression. ¡La lucha continua! There was also a gathering earlier in the day at Forest View cemetery, burial place of the Haymarket martyrs and site of the Haymarket memorial.

# Awakening to The Limits of the Obama Presidency

By Antonia Darder



Antonia Darder is a professor at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She is a longtime Puerto Rican activist-scholar involved in issues related to education, language, immigrant, workers, and women's rights.

THERE ARE FOLKS WHO SEEM to keep hoping that Obama has a 'progressive' side which we will all soon see emergereminiscent of the transformation of Clark Kent to Superman in the phone booth. Yet, I can't help wondering if all that progressivism was merely projected upon the handsome

Black man with the charming discourse style because folks were all feeling so desperate; we were are still seeking a political savior or messiah in Obama.

Well the last four years should have caused us to become much more sober and astute about what we can expect from the President of the U.S, in these times. Perhaps, it's a moment for us to contend with the fact that there are multiple levels of political action and social struggle at work in this nation; and that each of us must decide where our strengths and skills are needed and where we can do the most good. The only in-the-flesh savior we should be looking for is we the people.

From such a vantage point, we can then

move to discern collectively what it is that we absolutely need to demand collectively from Washington. In the process, this also asks us to consider where we each want to put our individual efforts. For me, issues close to my heart are universal health care, public education, and the amelioration of poverty. For others, it may be issues related to labor and the local or national economy. For others it might be immigration, the arts, women's issues, or gay marriage.

Now, those who have been around the political block enough times already know that these issues are all interconnected everywhere. We are forced to contend with the interlocking forces of oppression tha

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# Statement From Socialist Forum of Champaign-Urbana: Our Democracy Has Been Replaced By a Plutocracy

THE PRESENT ASSAULT ON working people and the poor shows us clearly the class warfare inherent in capitalism. The system aims to treat everything, including people, as commodities in order to maximize profits. Wages must be depressed. Basic needs such as food, water, shelter, and education must be subject to the private market. And the two institutions seen as obstacles to this, government and labor unions, must be rendered powerless.

This explains the attack on any attempt of government to play a role in extending health care to the uninsured, or to protect or extend programs benefiting the poor, aged, and unemployed. Such programs are seen as unmerited entitlements rather than as humane claims for dignified living conditions and even survival.

Under severe attack, unions are disappearing rapidly from the private sector, while businesses export once well-paying jobs to low wage countries and promote misnamed right to work laws. Attacks on public sector workers, who constitute most of the unionized work force, represent the last stage in an offensive on working people's efforts to protect themselves. The aim is always the same—to depress wages and impose unlimited control over workers. In Wisconsin, radical right wing officials are taking wages and benefits from state workers and turning them over to corporations in the form of tax reductions.

Yet those who claim to hate government intrusion most advocate government intrusion in ways that favor the super rich minority and corporations through tax breaks, tax loopholes, tax write-offs, subsidies, outsourcing, contracting out, no-bid inflated contracts, deregulation, bailouts, and anti-union measures.

The idea that working people, the poor, and the most vulnerable in our society must suffer even more to balance federal and state budgets is a bald lie. The problems we face are largely political. Americans are subjected to high unemployment, a dilapidated national infrastructure, unprecedented loss of homes, out-of-reach utility charges, increasing hunger, and inadequate medical care, all in



Democratic Socialist Rose

order that billionaires and multinational corporations can continue to accumulate unprecedented wealth. An unrestrained, radical form of capitalism is destroying American democracy and our standards of living. A perverse mentality has justified the greatest inequality between the few rich and the growing ranks of the poor since the 1930s.

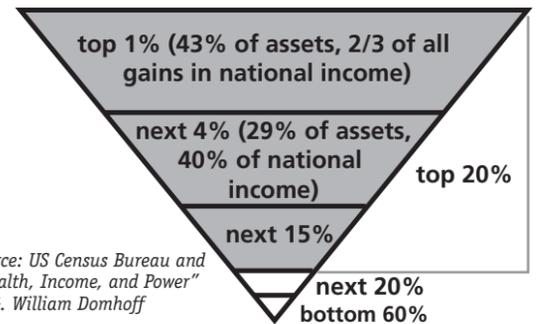
The capitalist system of value ignores environmental costs. It denies or underestimates the seriousness of climate change induced by human actions in its push for unrestrained growth, consumption, and profit. Technology may improve efficiency,

but it also affects employment; the growth of the GDP creates wealth for the upper echelons of society, while much of the world experiences increased poverty and inequality.

## WHAT WE NEED

- A truly progressive national and state income tax and the closing of corporate loopholes.
- Substantial reduction of the military budget and an end to foreign invasions and occupations.
- A defense of the basic democratic right of all workers to organize and bargain for their rights, and a fair playing field for unions in order that they might provide some countervailing balance to the enormous and growing power of multi-national corporations.
- Immigration reforms that will have protections for immigrant workers and their children, and a clear process for amnesty and naturalization based upon fair criteria.
- An ecological socialism that replaces capitalism's mesmerization with unrestrained growth, consumption, and profit with a model that gives a high priority to a sustainable natural world and a livable environment from which all, including future generations, can benefit.
- The single most important change, however, must come from us. All other change depends upon it: Americans must organize in their workplaces, schools, and communities and begin to take their nation back from the plutocrats. Electoral politics can play a role in the effort,

## The U.S. Wealth-Income Pyramid



Source: US Census Bureau and "Wealth, Income, and Power" by G. William Domhoff

**FACT:** Incomes for 90% of Americans have been stuck in neutral, while the wealthiest tier has surged ahead... In 1988, the income of an average American taxpayer was \$33,400 (adjusted for inflation). Fast-forward 20 years and not much had changed: The average income was still just \$33,000 in 2008, according to IRS data.

**OPINION:** America is on a path leading to two distinct classes: the haves and the have-nots. When you hollow out the middle class, the very fabric of the country changes forever. It is happening as I type.

but the system is so corrupt by this point that other strategies will also be vital. Community, student, and teachers organizations, unions, and groups formed by women, immigrants, and people of color must unite to protect their most basic rights in the face of an unprecedented assault. We can take back our country and help others throughout the world in the process, but it will not happen without a fight.

Socialist Forum encourages all those who share in these commitments to attend its meetings every third Saturday from 2 to 4 pm at the Independent Media Center in the old post office building in downtown Urbana, for more information, email: [lightport\(at\)sbcglobal.net](mailto:lightport(at)sbcglobal.net), or call 344-7265.

## Portrait of Ethel Rosenberg by Jason Patterson

By Brian Dolinar

THIS IS A PORTRAIT OF ETHEL ROSENBERG by local artist Jason Paterson taken from the original mug shot after her arrest on August 11, 1950. Ethel and her husband Julius Rosenberg, both members of the Communist Party, were sentenced for espionage and sent to the electric chair in 1953 at the height of the Red Scare. Their trial was riddled with errors and provoked international outrage from those such as Jean-Paul Satre, Albert Einstein, and Pablo Picasso.

Patterson says he became fascinated by the story of Ethel Rosenberg through the play *Angels In America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes*. "In the play Ethel Rosenberg is a ghost that haunts Roy Cohn, one of Joseph McCarthy's right hand men, and was also on the prosecution team in the Rosenberg case." About a year ago, he Googled the Rosenbergs' name, found her mug shot, and "just really liked it." After his curiosity was piqued, he began reading about the Rosenbergs and was convinced that this would be the first in a series about the case.

While Ethel probably knew her husband was passing information to the Soviets, her brother David Greenglass later recanted his testimony during the trial claiming that she had also participated. He had given into pressure to save his wife and children. Others have said that the information provided by Julius was of no use to the Soviet development of the atomic bomb. Their son Robert Meeropol, who was six years old at the time of his parents' execution, has said that the Espionage Act used to convict his parents is unconstitutional. In 1990, he established the Rosenberg Fund for Children to benefit the children of political prisoners and youth activists.

This story is especially relevant today, Patterson says, "I think the Rosenberg case can help us think twice when we go after the people we see as enemies in this country. Hope-



Portrait of Ethel Rosenberg, Photo: Brittany Pyle

fully this case and the entire Red Scare of the 1950s will help us keep our wits. It is important that we not forget the laws and rights we are fighting to protect."

More of Jason Patterson's art work can be seen at [jasonpattersonart.com](http://jasonpattersonart.com)



# Graduate Employees Lobby Illinois Legislators to Protect Workers' Rights

By Natalie Uhl



THE FIGHT FOR WORKERS' RIGHTS in the U.S. has always been political, but this spring, as state legislators and governors proposed bills to limit or eliminate collective bargaining rights and devastate public services, including schools, the battle for labor took main stage. Union

busting efforts in Wisconsin, Indiana, and Ohio have threatened public sector workers rights for hundreds of thousands of people. The Graduate Employees Organization (GEO, AFT/IFT Local 6300) has been engaged in the labor movement and social justice initiatives in Champaign-Urbana for years, but recently recognized the inherent importance of action through the political process and formed a Lobbying and Legislative Committee.

Labor unions are well-known for lobbying, but usually this aspect is handled by large parent unions employing professional lobbyists. However, in the case of the GEO, higher education unions make up a small percentage of AFT/IFT membership, and graduate locals make up an even smaller portion, so it is easy for our specific interests to fall out of focus. GEO's Lobbying and Legislative Committee is a group of rank and file graduate employees doing research, meeting with legislators and lobbying specifically for the rights of students and workers at the University of Illinois. It has been instrumental as a voice for higher education employees and students in Springfield a voice that has been a vital component in protecting graduate employees rights this year. Active member of the Legislative Committee, Andy Bruno, a graduate student in the history department believes these efforts are more

important now than ever. With mounting pressures to transform education from a public good to a private privilege, it is more important than ever that the GEO engage in the legislative process. We can make our voices heard!

Last summer, the University of Illinois violated the GEO contract when they reduced tuition waivers for some graduate employees in the College of Fine and Applied Arts (FAA). Less than a year after going on strike to attain language to protect tuition waivers, incoming students in certain programs had their tuition waivers reduced to base rate, which only covers in-state tuition, even though the majority of graduate students matriculating here are from other states. Many FAA graduate students provide the necessary, skilled labor required to run the Krannert Center for the Performance Arts, a world-renowned performance space on campus that attracts hundreds of productions each year. During the Spring 2010 semester, 75% of FAA students made less than \$800 a month for their work; the difference between base-rate and full tuition what these students would be responsible for paying is \$13,266.

Longstanding practice in these departments had been to cover full tuition since many graduate students come to UIUC from out-of-state. Unlike many other universities, gaining in-state residency for tuition purposes at UIUC requires students to live and work in the state (employment cannot be through the university) for at least one year before beginning their education. Departments made scholarships available to cover most of the almost \$8,000 difference, but unlike a full tuition waiver, the scholarships are not guaranteed to continue and out of pocket expenses for these students still increased by \$1,000-\$2000 per year.

Because the GEO saw this as a clear contract violation, there was legal recourse, but the grievance process can be lengthy and cannot provide immediate financial relief to students. Currently, the grievance process is ongoing; GEO and the University are set for arbitration for this case next month. In addition to the arduous legal process, GEO members took direct action on campus all year to increase public awareness of this issue and pressure the administration to rescind the tuition waiver changes. FAA tuitions waivers were the focus of a flash mob at Krannert's opening night, numerous rallies, organizing sessions and town hall meetings.

Now, through the work of the Lobbying and Legislative Committee, GEO has a third approach. These members communicate regularly with our local representatives in Springfield, are exploring options to relax residency requirements (thus eliminating the differential between a base rate and full tuition waiver), and have even testified to the State Board of Higher Education to include more graduate employees in the bargaining unit. The Committee is also pondering solutions to the recent revelation that Graduate Assistants and Pre-professional Graduate Assistants owe a large tax liability (upwards of 30%) for their tuition waivers. The GEO and University reached an agreement to provide emergency loans for students affected in the Spring 2011 semester, but the only permanent solution will have to be a change in tax law, surely a tough fight, but one that GEO members and the Lobbying and Legislative Committee are willing to fight for workers on this campus.

# The 1970 Student Strike in Protest of Kent State Killings

By Eric Heim



Eric Heim is a recent 2011 graduate at the U of I. He wrote his undergraduate thesis on the 1970 student strike. He is also a member of the International Socialist Organization.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS STUDENTS and faculty went on strike 41 years ago this May in response to the killing of four students at Kent State by the Ohio National Guard. The killings at Kent State were seen by many at the time as an extension of the same violence that was being perpetrated against oppressed people at home and overseas in Southeast Asia. For this reason, a call to strike sparked by the incident in Ohio soon morphed into a protest against the greater societal ills of racism, militarism, and imperialism. Taken together, these events in the first weeks of May 1970 constitute one of the forgotten chapters of activism at the U of I.

When news of the events at Kent State reached the U of I campus, the situation evolved quickly. On the night of Monday May 4, the first proposed plan of action was put forward by the Undergraduate Student Association (UGSA). As reported in the Tuesday, May 5 edition of the *Daily Illini*, the UGSA planned to hold simultaneous rallies at different locations on cam-

pus Wednesday to protest the shootings at Kent State as well as U.S. military involvement in Southeast Asia. On Thursday, Senator Albert Gore was to give a talk on the subject of Cambodia. Only on Friday was picketing planned for University buildings.

In reality, events turned out quite differently as students met Tuesday night at the University Auditorium (now Foellinger Auditorium) and decided to go on strike the morning of Wednesday, May 6. Other organizations endorsed the strike including the Graduate Student Association (GSA), the American Association of University Professors and the Black Coalition. Taken together, these different groups had a diverse number of issues they organized around, ranging from withdrawal of American troops from Southeast Asia and the abolishment of ROTC to the hiring of more Black police officers in Urbana-Champaign. Following the meeting, a body of some 2,000 students marched through the campus to raise support for the strike. University and Campustown buildings had their windows broken during the march.

The next morning saw the beginning of pickets at buildings on campus. Picket lines and bail funds necessary for a successful strike were coordinated from a room on the second floor of the Illini Union. Money collected from student organizations and individuals totaled \$4,000. According to Ed Pinto, the chairman of the UGSA, the goal of the strike was to shut the

campus down completely. Accordingly, pickets were set up around the main academic buildings on campus, the Illini Union loading docks, the University Power Plant, and Central Receiving. Students from the Law School volunteered to act as monitors to ensure that police acted in a lawful manner. Unfortunately, the days events did not end peacefully as clashes with police led to many people being beaten and arrested, among them Philip Meranto and Michael Parenti, faculty members in the Institute of Government and Public Affairs and the Department of Political Science, who were seen by many on campus as leading experts in the political affairs of the day.

The University Administration issued statements Wednesday informing students that they had the right to non-disruptive protest, but that a strike was out of the question. Chancellor Peltason wrote, "I mourn the deaths and senseless violence that are so much in evidence today. But neither this nor other problems that this society faces will be solved by disrupting our educational institutions." Peltason and other University and Champaign-Urbana leaders became so concerned at the generally tense atmosphere on campus that on Wednesday afternoon they asked for assistance from the Illinois National Guard. A curfew was also imposed from 8 p.m. until 6 a.m. the next morning.

On Thursday May 7, picketing contin-

ued on campus but with the addition of the Illinois National Guard to maintain order. Beyond keeping the peace, the Guard and police were also used to break picket lines at the Illini Union in order to ensure that food trucks made their deliveries on time. Thursday saw the largest single event of the strike with 10,000 students attending a three hour peaceful evening rally on the Main Quad. Ed Pinto told the crowd that more than one third of all classes were cancelled on Thursday and claimed the strike was a success. The curfew was lifted because of the relative calm that had been restored to campus.

On Friday, May 8, a rally of 2,000 people took place on the Quad. According to the *Daily Illini*, most students either stayed away from classes or actively participated in the strike itself. The strike was most effective on the west side of the Main Quad with Gregory Hall, Lincoln Hall, and the English Building almost empty. Other parts of campus, such as the Engineering Quad, saw less successful numbers with about half of the students staying away from class.

By the end of the week, many of the strikers had turned to activities besides picketing and holding rallies. These included canvassing in the local community for peace candidates and to inform local citizens of the reasons behind the strike. According to students interviewed at the

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# The Tunisian Revolution: Dignity, Expression, Gender, and Religion

By Belden Fields

THE TUNISIAN UPRISING THAT DEPOSED dictator Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali is of enormous historical significance for the entire region of North Africa. A recurring and resounding call during the uprising has been for dignity and freedom. Dignity, as the word has been used by the participants and transmitted through the media, is complex and encompasses a wide range of individual and societal factors.

## DIGNITY AND EXPRESSION

One key aspect of dignity is that it requires that people be recognized as human beings with an inherent right to individual and collective expression. It also means that such expression is taken seriously by others and has the potential of affecting one's conditions of life. Thusly understood, dignity could only be manifested within a civil society in which people can form political parties and labor unions, have access to media outlets not controlled by the state, and peacefully demonstrate in public.

None of these was possible under the regime of Ben Ali. He monopolized the public space with his party, the RCD, which had a similar status to that of the Communist Party in China. Media was strictly controlled by the state. The national labor union was subservient to Ben Ali until his regime was weakened to the point of falling. At the regional levels, however, some of the unions were early supporters of the young people who protested the poverty and lack of jobs in the rural areas. Protests resulted in imprisonment, torture, injury and death for many; clear violations of dignity.

Dignity also has material requisites. While the political and economic elites in the coastal cities were living extremely well, poverty was a very serious problem, particularly in the interior. Unemployment was very high for people at all educational levels. Those who graduated from secondary schools or even universities often faced the choice of living off of their less educated parents or leaving the country to search for usually very low-paying, menial jobs in Europe. Life was especially hard for the families of those who were killed or imprisoned after participating in protests over these very conditions.

## GENDER

It could be said that the Ben-Ali regime respected the dignity of women to a greater extent than it is respected in many other North African or Middle Eastern countries. According to an article on *Aljazeera.net*, women represent 26 per cent of the working population, half of students, 29 per cent of magistrates and 24% of the Tunisian diplomatic

corps ("Tunisian Gender-Parity 'Revolution' Hailed" 4/21/11). Under the dictatorship, men could not legally take more than one wife, abortion was legal, and the dress of women was unrestricted by the state.

It is difficult to know to know what the attitudes of those in the economically depressed rural areas thought of this cosmopolitan attitude held by the former political and economic elite, but one story is revealing. While the protests and their violent repression go back as least as far as 2008, the incident that triggered the country-wide process that overthrew Ben Ali was the self-immolation of fruit vendor, Mohamed Bouazizi, in the town of Sidi Bouzid on December 17, 2010. Through the world-wide media and web, we learned that this young, uneducated supporter of his family set himself afire after, for some reason, municipal officers confiscated his fruit and scale and his attempt to appeal this to a higher official level had been rejected.

One factor reported in the story was that his dignity had been affronted because, in the interaction, an officer had slapped him. What most people did not read in the media was that the officer in question was a woman. I pondered whether the indignity he felt was largely in response to being stripped of his and his family's livelihood, being slapped in public by an officer, or being slapped in public by a woman. I raised the issue with a Tunisian friend in Paris. It turned out that he had attended a Parisian solidarity forum to which Bouazizi's sister had been brought. There she contended that her brother's dignity was affronted because the inspector who slapped him was a woman. My friend tried to convince her that the gender of the inspector should not have been the issue.

In general, positions in the repressive forces were open to both men and women. Indeed, Leila Trabelsi, the extremely powerful wife of dictator Ben Ali, was reported to play a central role in the recruitment of a special commando force of exceptionally loyal men and women whose job it was to violently put down protests. Their equal opportunity work was especially brutal and deadly in the rural towns of Kasserine, Mbarki, and Dachraoui. So it seems that the conditions for women in Tunisia were better than in many other countries, but not always representative of a strong endorsement of dignity.



Tunisian demonstrators

## RELIGION

Under Ben Ali, and his predecessors, Tunisia was a secular state. Unlike Egypt, which has an approximately 10% minority Christian Coptic population, almost the entire religious population of Tunisia is Moslem. Like Egypt under its dictator Mubarak, there was also a banned Islamist movement in Tunisia, Ennahdha. As was the case in Egypt, the ban was removed after the dictator was deposed.

Respect for human dignity must surely entail respect for the spiritual beliefs and practices of others. Sadly, some of the same Moslem people who were united with Copts in struggling for freedom from the Mubarak dictatorship have violently turned on the Copts and are risking the freedom and dignity of all of the people of Egypt. This civil disorder might be used by the Egyptian military as an excuse to set itself up as the new collective dictators in a country that they view as ill-prepared for democracy.

There is hope that religious differences will not be so detrimental to the future of Tunisia, though it is far from clear. Ennahdha is by far the largest organized political force in the country today. The group is allied with the politically aggressive Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, but says publicly that it does not share the Brotherhood's position of imposing Islamic law on their country. Nevertheless, some fear that they will play upon the religious sentiments of those rural people who were the most economically and politically oppressed under the former secular dictatorship in order to impose a religious one. However, Ennahdha has supported an electoral rule that stipulates that all parties must have equal gender parity on their electoral lists for the coming national elections on July 24.

If Ennahdha does become the majority party in the new government, it might model itself on the more restrained Islamic majority party in Turkey. Or, there might arise a more powerful secular party or collation of parties to counter it. Nothing is guaranteed after a revolution, especially where there has been no opportunity for a civil society to develop. The struggle to create a society with freedom and dignity is only just begun with the overthrow of a dictator.

# Awakening to The Limits of the Obama Presidency

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dehumanize and lead to policies and practices that both perpetuate and reproduce inequalities and social exclusion.

That said, it seems that one of the ways in which we must proceed is to create a greater public commitment to coalitional and collaborative relationships across communities and across the nation a sort of multiple peoples' congresses, if you will, that can communicate with one another on key issues and concerns, outside of the limited and ego driven arena of electoral politics.

Moreover, it seems that once we accept the limits of the presidency in its capacity to enact change that improves the quality of our lives, we can become more effective in putting people pressure on the presidency with respect to local, state, national, and international concerns. Historically, it seems that most major changes of policy at the federal level, in the interest of the

many, were made as a consequence of the enormous pressure put on the Washington by folks on the ground.

This said, with more and more people out of work, we should be working together to develop community cooperatives so unemployed people can put their "on hold" talents to work in ways that might make a difference in their own lives and the lives of our communities, while being both fed and housed. This requires us to shift our paradigm, from an individual sense of material responsibility to a collective sense of material responsibility for the greater good. If the rich are able to enact an economic socialism (aka, corporate mergers and public bailouts and subsidies) to maximize individual profits for the few, why can't those of us who are committed to social justice and genuine equality enact a different form of economic socialism in

the interest of the many?

To do this would also require that those of us who do hold well-paying jobs be willing to channel a greater percentage of our resources to community organizations and political advocacy groups that are working together for an emancipatory agenda, steadfastly focused on building relationships, concrete strategies, and viable solutions for social change, at every level of society, so that we might begin to restore our lives, our communities, our country, and our world.

If we were to take this kind of an approach, we might become clearer about what we need now in order to further a genuinely democratic citizenship. Through greater collective and organized interaction, we could better assess not whether Obama will become the progressive president we longed for, but rather how can we

pressure whoever is in office (or campaigning for office) at the local, state, and federal level to be fully responsive to the needs of people, rather than responsive to the political pressure and private interests of those who continue to hold illegitimate wealth and power over our lives.

What I'm saying is that no U.S. president is going to come from on high and wave his/her magic wand and change our material and social conditions. Only the will and movement of the people can finally make a dent in transforming the illegitimate power of the wealthy elite. Of course, this means that we must be willing to not be bought off for a few crumbs, but to redirect our frustration, rage, love, hope, and political will to enliven a political vision, soulfully anchored in integrity, humility, compassion, honesty, dignity, and a renewed sense of human solidarity.



# The Border Thickens: (In)Securing Communities in C-U and Beyond

By Gilberto Rosas



Gilberto Rosas is an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Anthropology and Latino/o Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His expertise includes questions of state formation, immigration, criminality, political economy and the ever thickening US-Mexico borderlands.

THE DESPOTIC POLICING APPARATUS found at the U.S.-Mexico border now reaches into Champaign County and across much of the United States. Under federal initiatives "Secure Communities" and related police-ICE collaborations, local law enforcement agencies in communities across the United States have been enlisted in the enforcement of immigration laws. Indeed, the apprehension of the undocumented through the criminal justice system is now the primary focus for enforcement. In the last 3 years ICE (Immigration and Custom Enforcement of the US Department of Homeland Security) has rounded up over half a million people through such Criminal Alien Programs. Yet, there is no legal definition of what a criminal alien is.

Secure Communities is in effect in more than 1,000 jurisdictions in 40 states, including locally. The plan is to take it nationwide by 2013. This prerogative was once exclusively reserved for the federal government and the nation's largest militarized police force, the Border Patrol. "Secure Communities" is an automated screening system. Fingerprints of presumably everyone booked into participating jails are run through vast immigration databases. ICE agents then are supposed to have 48 hours to pick up those deemed criminal aliens to process them for deportation.

In Champaign County, consular forms that are designed to protect foreign nationals by alerting their representatives of their arrests and that are given to foreign nationals once they enter the County Jail have become the modus operandi for in-securing community. The Immigration and Criminal Justice Working Group, comprised of local community members, students, and faculty, has discovered that in Champaign County these forms are being shared with ICE.

Moreover, although Secure Communities was ostensibly designed to find and deport illegal immigrants found guilty of serious crimes, concerns have emerged that a significant number of arrestees hold no criminal record through Febru-

ary 2011. Over 50% of those deported from Illinois through Secure Communities were of non-criminal status as of September 30, 2010. 71% of those arrested and processed through "Secure Communities" were not criminals. Moreover, 66% of the deported were not criminals. Indeed, the aforementioned working group found that an overwhelming majority of the "Secure Communities" related arrests are for minor offenses, such as having no car insurance or lacking a driver's license. Traffic stops and other mundane elements of policing so taken for granted in daily life thus now sow terror among the undocumented community. The undocumented can be ripped from the fabric of their communities and deported to places that they haven't lived in many years.

"Secure Communities," related ICE-police collaborations, and the insecurity it generates on marginalized communities, must be situated in a cauldron of white supremacy, capital flows, and political violence infusing immigration law and its exercise. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, for example, limited the availability of Chinese laborers as southern landowners then sought to replace these workers with black migrants, but they encountered significant popular resistance. Later, business interests experimented with Japanese labor and Filipino labor. Notably the Border Patrol emerged from the paramilitary police force of the Texas Rangers, an organization that terrorized Black, indigenous, and Mexican people. It was established in the 1920s, days after the passage of the National Origins Act of 1924, which implemented a system of national quotas to protect American racial stock from further degradation or change through mongrelization, and which outlawed virtually all immigration from the western hemisphere. It is further revealing that the US Border Patrol, from 1924—when it was first created—until 1940, operated under the auspices of the Department of Labor. By the late 1920s, the Border Patrol had very quickly assumed its distinctive role as a special police force

for the repression of foreign, all-too-often, Mexican workers in the US. Indeed, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS ICE's predecessor) once estimated that Mexicans comprise 54 percent of all undocumented migrants

in the United States. Yet, modern organized vigilance and enforcement against illegal aliens has been primarily directed against Mexicans.

Since at least the late 1970s military strategies and tactics derived from low intensity conflict doctrine have been incorporated into immigration policing in the southwestern United States. On the eve of the implementation of NAFTA, which liberalized the flows of commodities, flora, and fauna, across the borders of Canada, Mexico, and the United States,

dramatic militarized border policing campaigns occurred in regions surrounding El Paso, and later in south Texas, San Diego and Arizona. A 1990s government document warned that said campaigns would make undocumented crossings perilous, exposing "illegal aliens" to "increased violence," and ostensibly diminishing them. Instead, approximately 5,000 corpses and countless other human remains have been found in the killing deserts of Arizona and other regions of the Southwest. And, undocumented migrants in the borderlands now become subject to the Minutemen and other nativist vigilante groups. Nevertheless, the vast majority of undocumented migrants succeed in crossing, having been violently inaugurated to the subordinate position in the US economic and racial order. Secure Communities and related police-ICE collaborations serve to reinforce their subordination, effectively thickening the border.

Recently, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn bowed to political pressure and called to end our state's participation in this program. Community groups in Champaign Urbana have mobilized and intervened. On March 31, a well-attended *Foro Comunitario*, or community forum, was held at the Urbana Civic Center, and future forums are planned.



Immigrant march in Pilsen on May Day

## Bees in Your... Lawns!

By John C. Marlin

John C. Marlin of Urbana has a PhD in entomology and worked on native bees as graduate student.

AREA YARDS ARE ABUZZ AS thousands of dark colored bees weave at low altitude in impressive displays of aerial acrobatics. These impressive fliers are harmless ground nesting spring bees. They will not attack children, pets or postal delivery persons. However, they will sting if grabbed! Nesting Spring bees are solitary and do not form colonies or live in hives like honey bees and bumble bees. Each female digs its own nest and provisions it with pollen for its young. Many females nest in close proximity and form aggregations of hundreds of nests. The nesting areas are covered with small mounds of excavated soil. You can often find them in shady areas where grass is spotty leaving bare spots great for digging. Older neighborhoods with mature trees are good places to look for them. The north side of Carle Park in Urbana has a large aggregation.

The bees emerge in the spring and fly in circuitous patterns about a foot above the ground. Males find females entering nests and mate on the ground. The males soon die leaving the females to function as single mothers. Females finish the underground cells where they will lay eggs and spend the next several weeks stocking it with pollen. I'm sure folks have seen these moms buzzing about with pollen on their legs like yellow leg warmers! As a single mother, this bee is not aggressive; she can't afford to risk aggression because her young will not survive if she is killed or seriously injured.

After the nest is well provisioned, the female dies too and the young develop in the nest. The following spring they will emerge and begin the cycle again. Unless danger strikes! Occasionally a red or yellow colored bee will come into the picture. These bees parasitize the nest replacing original eggs with their own.

Illinois counties have about 300 species of bees, the vast majority of which are solitary. Some nest in the ground while others

use hollow stems or cavities. A few tunnel into wood. Some, like honey bees and bumble bees, are active throughout the growing season. Others are active only in the spring or fall. Though occasionally scary up close and in person, bees are incredibly helpful to humans and the environment as we know it. Spring bees turn massive quantities of soil and aerate lawns, in addition to pollinating many trees and other plants, they are also good subjects for children to observe and use for science reports.

Since bees need sources of pollen and nectar throughout the year, home and landowners get a greater benefit when they have a variety of plants with different blooming times. Many native wildflowers work well for this purpose. We get a long-lasting and varied garden, and they get well-stocked 'pantries!' Like the spring



Curtis Lee points to bee nest mounds between the bricks on W. Nevada Street in Urbana. Solitary spring bees dig tunnels in the soil for their nest cells.

bees, there are many other beneficial insects that live in the soil. All are threatened by excessive insecticide use. Persons concerned about preserving soil health should make sure that insecticides and herbicides are not routinely added to the "fertilizer" applied to their lawns. Harmful insects can be controlled by targeted applications if they become a problem.



# UIUC Disappoints Environmental Community

By Katie Kinley



Katie Kinley is a sophomore from in Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Illinois and a member of Students for Environmental Concerns.

MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO, dinosaurs died off and left humans a parting gift of a vast supply of fossil fuels. Coal, natural gas, and oil are the black gold upon which society's standard of living is built on today, and account for more than 80% of the United States energy consumption. Since the Industrial Revolution, they have been the most well accepted form of energy, also happening to be completely unacceptable.

Unacceptable is not an opinion, it is a fact. The carbon dioxide level in the atmosphere is just around 400 parts per million (ppm) and rising, while the scientifically considered safe level is 350 ppm. Safe refers to the fact that earth's atmosphere is the one chemical experiment we humans only get one chance with.

Here on-campus, the Students for Environmental Concerns (SECS) group understand this. We have been at the forefront of the efforts to hold UIUC to their commitments made in the Illinois Climate Action Plan. Among these are promises to transition Abbott Power Plant off of coal by 2017 and to build a campus wind turbine by 2011.

Maybe you don't know about Abbott Power plant? It is on the campus, University-owned, 70 year-old coal and natural gas burning facility. SECS has been utilizing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to get more informa-

tion about Abbott and campaigning for an end to Abbotts coal use by 2013, which is the soonest feasible date. The plant is in need of renovation anyway and would transition to burning solely natural gas. This is really the lesser of two evils, considering natural gas produces roughly half as much carbon dioxide as coal but still has its own set of issues with fracking and methane leakage from gas wells.

Why don't we set our sights higher, beyond simply the lesser of two evils? Well, we have had them set higher. For seven years, we've had our sights on the promise of a University-owned wind turbine. Wind is the reigning champion of the renewable world when well-placed, it is even more cost effective than coal, especially if one considers externalized costs. In this year alone, SECS had several strategic planning meetings, made flyers, and organized a rally for our wind turbine campaign.

One of our problems is NIMBY. This is where residents are all for an initiative until it comes close to home and literally stands for Not In My Back Yard. They want it; they just don't want to see it. Key example: Urbana.

Some Urbana residents have in this past year voiced their opposition to the University's wind turbine. Urbana cannot stand to have it less than 1,200 feet away from the nearest resident (the site is all of 200 feet too close). They are not against the turbine itself in any way, just so long as its not in their backyard. These being the same residents that happily live outside of Urbana's city limits to avoid paying their fair share of property taxes.

Urbana claims to have had a legal case, but in reality, the city's ordinances don't apply to state-owned property and their claims would have never held up in court. Nevertheless, in the last few weeks, the administration has given in to Urbana's complaints and killed the project,

despite having \$2 million in grant money and \$640,000 committed to the project by the Student Sustainability Committee (SSC) which is tasked with allocating funds from campus Green Fees.

This turbine would have gone up at about 50% of its total cost for the University. It would have paid for itself in about ten years and generated revenue (not to mention an unprecedented learning opportunity) for the University for the more than twenty years. This represents a better return on investment than that of the U of I Foundation.

So why did the University kill this project and offer the students investment in something else? I seriously doubt that Urbana was the cause, although they may have been the tipping point. If UIUC had wanted a wind turbine, we would have had one. We had the bid, the funds, and everything we needed but the will from the people that matter. So the question is: why didn't these people want the wind turbine?

I'll tell you why: we weren't loud enough to disturb the status quo. Efforts from RSOs like SECS alone were not enough to push this project through. People have other things to do, and it's easy to believe that our efforts won't make a difference. Well, in this case, they would have. Urbana was obnoxious, Facilities and Services wasn't motivated, and one wind turbine by itself can't generate enough revenue to really get the board of trustees attention.

They don't understand the world situation regarding climate change, that UIUC as a world class institution needs to visibly show its commitment to protect the future, and that they have just passed up the perfect dramatic opportunity to do so. Because we—the students, faculty, and community—didn't realize they were that ignorant of the facts and that unwilling to do anything disruptive.

## The 1970 Student Strike

Continued from page 3

time, many, though not all people, in Champaign-Urbana were receptive to what the students were doing, provided it was peaceful.

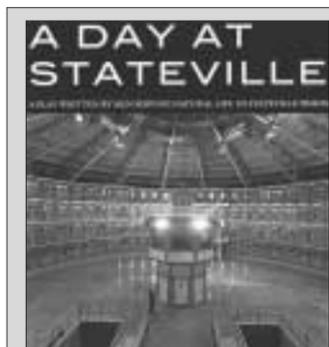
Saturday, May 9 saw the largest single arrest of the strike with over 100 people caught in a sweep on the Main Quad. According to the Daily Illini, many of those arrested had been singled out before hand by the police for arrest. They were held in Memorial Stadium before being released on bail. The mass arrest was an attempt by administrators to clamp down on the strike. In spite of this effort by the police, 6,000 students met on the Main Quad the next day and in the words of the *Daily Illini*, declared themselves liberated from the University. A University official also announced that the National Guard would be demobilized

and state police would not intervene on campus again unless violence occurred. Students were also informed by the Dean of Students Hugh Satterlee that the University administration would not take punitive measures against the striking students.

Instead, a statement released by Chancellor Peltason acceded to the demand for liberation classes to be held in the following week. Taught by professors, these classes were held on the Quad or in classrooms and designed to carry on discussions of the many problems which face our society. This move was welcomed by most, if not all, students simply for the reason that the strike was winding down. The UGSA steering committee had ended the picketing of buildings on Tuesday, May 12, because of lack of participation

and to allow picketers to attend liberation classes. Participation in the strike had dropped down to about 50 per cent. Mike Real, chairman of the GSA noted that it would be unwise to continue the strike any further because of the concessions given to the students by the administration.

By the end of the second week of actions on campus, the strike was over. The militancy of the actions taken by students and faculty on the issue of the war had an effect as the Nixon administration pulled out of Cambodia shortly after a national strike wave on May 13. As one of the high points of activism during this era, the strike at the University of Illinois was a local manifestation of a national movement. It is a story that deserves to be told and remembered by activists today.



Changing Minds Campaign in partnership with UC Books to Prisoners, 3Rs, Education Justice Project, UC Citizens for Peace and Justice and the Independent Media Center, presents a one-night-only, one-of-a-kind presentation of a play

written by Stateville prisoners who are all doing natural life without parole. Performed by formerly incarcerated men, "A Day at Stateville" features a post-show discussion + potluck where the audience can dialogue with the performers. The discussion is moderated by attorney Jim Chapman, who teaches the "Life Transformation Through Communication" class at Stateville, the class in which the play was written.

This event is free of charge and takes place on Saturday May 28 at 4pm at the Independent Media Center, 202 S. Broadway, Urbana

Discussion and potluck to follow (at 4:30). Bring a dish to share!

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# Eurozone's Periphery Needs to Challenge Right-Wing European Authorities

By Mark Weisbrot, first published in *The Nation* on May 19, 2011.

Mark Weisbrot, a former *Urbanite*, is co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research, in Washington, D.C. He is also president of *Just Foreign Policy*.

THE EUROZONE CRISIS IS in some ways less complicated in its foundations than most people are making it. The fundamental problem is that Greece, Spain, Ireland, and Portugal are stuck in recession or near-recession and are not allowed to adopt the poli-

cies that are necessary to get out of it. In 2009, most countries in the world adopted some combination of expansionary policies to get out of recession: for example, a fiscal stimulus or expansionary monetary policy (witness the more than \$2 trillion that the U.S. Federal Reserve has created since our recession began). In some cases countries also got a boost from a depreciating currency, which increased their exports and reduced their imports.

The peripheral European countries are stuck in a currency union where their monetary policy is dictated by the European Central Bank (ECB), which is far to the right of the U.S. Federal Reserve and has little interest in helping them. Since they have adopted the Euro, they also do not control their exchange rate, and their fiscal policy is going in the wrong direction, under pressure from the European authorities (the European Commission, ECB, and the International Monetary Fund-IMF).

No wonder then, that Spain has more than 20 percent unemployment, the Greeks have nearly 15 percent unemployment and are sinking further into debt, and Ireland has lost about 17 percent of its income per person since the crisis began. Portugal just signed an agreement with the IMF that is projected to give them two more years of recession.

This does not make any economic sense, except from the point of view of creditors that want to make sure that these countries are punished for their "excesses"—although for the most part, it was not over-borrowing but the collapse of bubble growth and the world financial crisis and recession that brought them to this situation. Unfortunately, the view of the creditors is that which prevails among the European authorities.

IMF Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn, currently jailed on sexual assault charges, understood the futility of some of these policies, particularly in Greece; but he was unable to change them very much, since IMF management is subordinate to the European authorities (and U.S. Treasury). His imminent departure is therefore unlikely to change much, although it may speed up the process of Greece's inevitable move toward a debt restructuring.

Argentina defaulted on its foreign public debt at the end of 2001 after more than three-and-a-half years of trying the IMF route to recovery and sinking further into recession. The currency was cut loose from the dollar, and although the free-fall of the economy accelerated for one more quarter, it then recovered and grew 63 percent over the next six years. Within three years Argentina had reached its pre-crisis level of output; by contrast, Greece is not expected to reach its pre-recession level of GDP for at least eight years, and it will probably be longer.

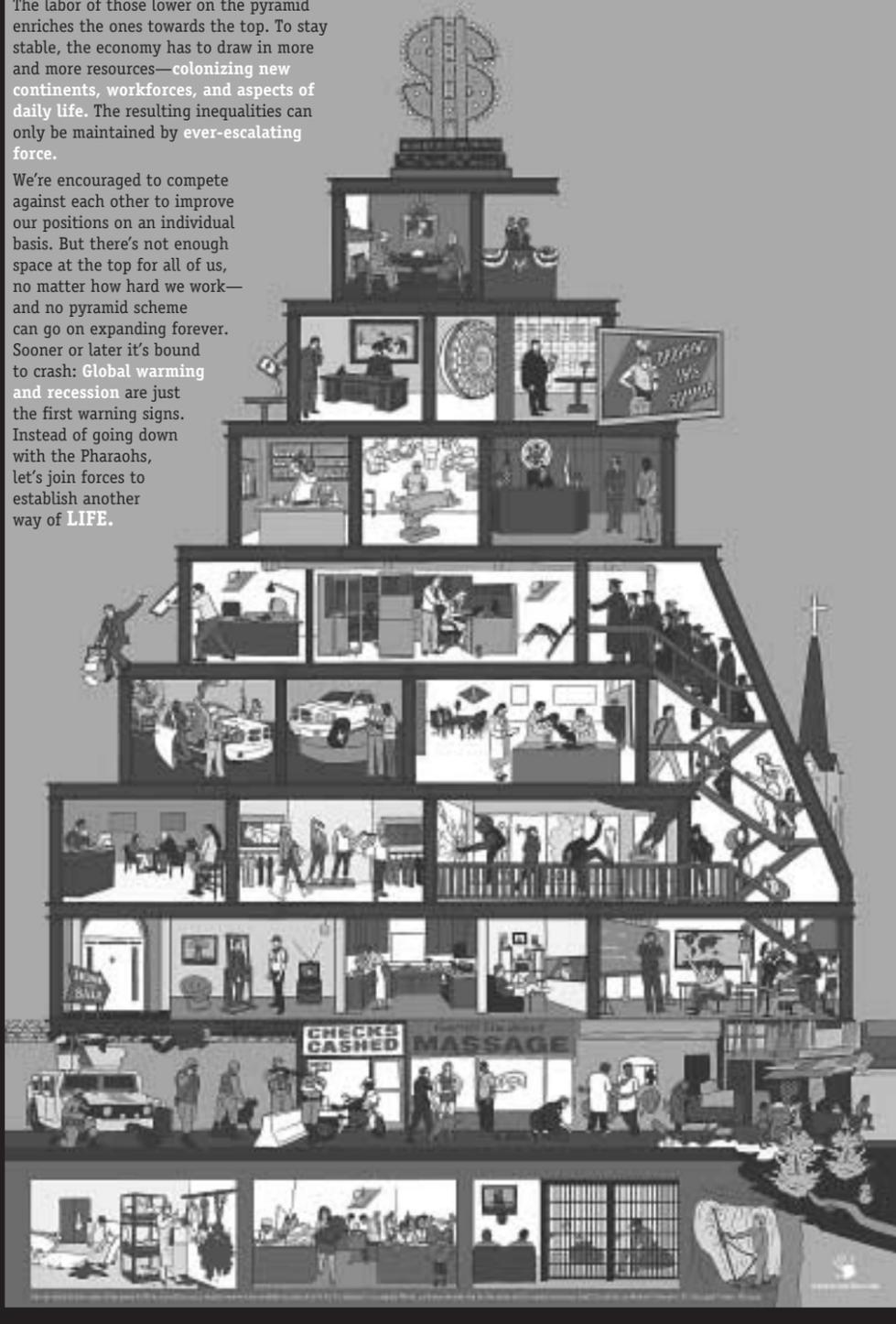
When will it end? So long as these governments are committed to policies that shrink their economies, their only hope is that the global economy will pick up steam and pull them out with demand for their exports. This does not look likely in foreseeable future—the rest of Europe is not growing that rapidly and the U.S. economy is still weak.

The governments of Greece, Portugal, and Ireland need to tell the European authorities that they will not accept any "bailout" agreements that do not allow their economies to grow. That has to be the bottom line: help, not punishment. Spain has not yet entered into a loan agreement but its situation is similar. All of these governments have a lot of unused bargaining power, since the European authorities are very much afraid of a default and/or exit from the Euro by any one of them. And the European authorities have the money to help each and every one of these economies recover with expansionary macroeconomic policies. They just need to be told that "there is no alternative."

## Capitalism is a Pyramid Scheme

The labor of those lower on the pyramid enriches the ones towards the top. To stay stable, the economy has to draw in more and more resources—colonizing new continents, workforces, and aspects of daily life. The resulting inequalities can only be maintained by ever-escalating force.

We're encouraged to compete against each other to improve our positions on an individual basis. But there's not enough space at the top for all of us, no matter how hard we work—and no pyramid scheme can go on expanding forever. Sooner or later it's bound to crash: Global warming and recession are just the first warning signs. Instead of going down with the Pharaohs, let's join forces to establish another way of LIFE.



## Revolution

By Derek Walsh

From the pulpit of  
blind patriotism,  
you preach to me  
about god and  
nation  
this so called  
"land of freedom"  
built on the backs  
of slaves through  
genocide and  
exploitation  
And in the name of  
god, you murder  
without reservation,  
the men and women  
who resist domination.  
And with that  
you expect me to salute and wave,  
the blood stained banner, that you so proudly wave  
as a symbol of freedom, and justice for all,  
yet the day will come, for you to be called,  
to answer for the crime, that you've been committing,  
and when it does,  
we'll all be singing, a song of triumph  
and liberation won, a ballad in the name of Revolution!