The Public i, a project of the Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center, is an independent, collectively-run, community-oriented publication that provides a forum for topics underreported and voices underrepresented in the dominant media. All contributors to the paper are volunteers. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to submit articles or story ideas to the editorial collective. We prefer, but do not necessarily restrict ourselves to, articles on issues of local impact written by authors with local ties.

The opinions are those of the authors and do not reflect the views of the IMC as a whole.

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You don’t need a degree in journalism to be a citizen journalist. We are all experts in something, and we have the ability to share our information and knowledge with others. The Public i is always looking for writers and story ideas. We invite you to submit ideas or proposals during our weekly meetings (Thursdays at 5:30pm at the UCIMC), to post a story to the web site (http://www.ucimc.org), or to contact one of the editors.

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• Make a tax-deductible contribution.
• Help distribute the Public i around the Champaign-Urbana area.
• Help with fund-raisers.
• Join the editorial board.

TWO GREAT MAYDAY WEEKEND EVENTS ON SATURDAY, APRIL 28

The Recent Resurgence of Socialism and Populism: What Is Happening in Latin America?
1-3 pm at the Illinois Disciples Foundation, corner Springfield and Wright Streets.

Featuring:
Martin Sanchez, Consul of the Government of Venezuela in Chicago.
Maria Silva, Urbana resident from Ecuador.
Rev. Mike Mulberry, Urbana resident, on the struggles in Oaxaca.

A Bread and Roses Event sponsored by Socialist Forum, and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at the U of I.

Solidarity Forever!
A Mayday/Workers’ Memorial Day Celebration Party
3pm–7pm at the Independent Media Center, Downtown Urbana Post Office Building, 202 S. Broadway
Fun, food (BYO alcohol), music benefitting our newly created “Jobs with Justice Coalition.” suggested donation $10/$5 minimum

Performances by:
Anne Feeney, renowned rabble-rousing song writer and singer
Paul Kotheimer, our favorite local bard
Other great local bands

This event is in honor of the campaign for the eight-hour day (Haymarket in Chicago 1886) and those who died to make the eight hour day a reality, as well as for workers who have died on the job-site.

Contact: David Johnson 356-8247 or unionyes@ameritech.net

SUSTAINING CONTRIBUTORS

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Socialist Forum: An Open Discussion and Action Group, Meets 3rd Saturdays of the month, 3-5 pm, at IMC, Broadway & Elm. (U)

World Harvest International and Gourmet Foods
519 E. University, Champaign

Union of Professional Employees (UPE)

Jerusalem Cafe
601 S. Wright St, Champaign; 396-9022

The AFL-CIO of Champaign County

That’s Rentertainment
516 E. John, Champaign; 384-0977

World Harvest International and Gourmet Foods
519 E. University, Champaign

A Bread and Roses Event sponsored by Socialist Forum, and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at the U of I

WWaarr IIss Peace... Ignorance Is Strength...
Structured Cruelty: Learning to Be a Lean, Mean Killing Machine

By Martin Smith, USMC, Sgt., ret.

Martin Smith is a member of Iraq Veterans Against the War and a graduate student in History at UIUC. He can be reached at scnd2smith@yahoo.com

I will never forget standing in formation after the end of our final ‘hump,’ Marine-speak for a forced march, at the end of the Crucible in March, 1997. The Crucible is the final challenge during Marine Corps boot camp and is a two-and-a-half day, physically exhausting exercise in which sleep deprivation, scarce food, and a series of obstacles test teamwork and toughness. The formidable nine-mile stretch ended with our ascent up the “leaden Reaper,” a small moun-
tain in the hilly terrain of Camp Pendleton, California. As we stood at attention, the Commanding Officer made his way through our lines, inspecting his troops and giving each of us a stern, encouraging glance before giving the order to commence transition from recruit to Marine. But what I recall most was not the pain and exhaustion that filled every ounce of my trembling body, but the sounds that surrounded me as I stood at attention with eyes forward.

Martin Smith is a graduate student of Lee Greenwood’s “God Bless the USA,” belonging from a massive sound sys-
tem, were the soft and gentle sobs emanating from numer-
ous newborn Marines. Their cries stood in stark contrast
for the uniform and a fetishization of combat.拆除
The process of reconstructing recruits and molding them into Marines. During Vietnam, the enemy in Vietnam was simply a “goon,” “dink,” or a “slope.” Today, “rag head” and “sand igniter” are the current racist epithets lodged against Arabs and Muslims. After every command, we would scream, “Kill!” But our call for blood took on particular importance during our physical training, when we learned how to light with pupil sticks, wooden sticks with padded ends, how to run an obstacle course with fixed bayonets, or how to box and engage in-hand-to-hand combat. We were told to imag-
ne the “enemy” in all of our combat training, and it was always implied that the “enemy” was of Middle Eastern descent. “When some rag head comes lurking up from behind, you’re gonna give me one,” barRED the training DI. We all howled in unison, “Kill!” Likewise, when we charged toward the dummy on an obstacle course with our fixed bayonets, it was clear to all that the lifesless form was Arab. Even in 1997, we were being brainwashed to accept the coming Iraq War. Abruptly interrupting a class, one of numerous courses we attended on military history, first aid, and survival skills, a Series Chief DI excitedly announced that all training was coming to a halt. We were to be shipped immediately to the Gulf, because Saddam had just fired missiles into Israel. Given that we lived with no knowledge of the outside world, with neither TV nor newspapers, and that we experienced constant high levels of stress and a discombobulating environment, the DI’s false assertion seemed all too believable. A half-hour pause, we were led out of the auditorium to face the rubble and scorns of our platoon DIs. It turned out that the inter-
ruption was a skit planned to scare us into the realization that we could face war at any moment. The trick certainly had the planned effect on me, as I pondered what the hell I had gotten myself into. I also now realize that we were being indoctrinated with schemes for war in the Middle East. Our hatred of the Arab “other” was crafted from the very beginning of our training through fear and hate.

Almost ten years since I stood on the yellow footprints that greet new recruits at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, I express gratitude for my luck during my enlistment. I was fortunate to have never witnessed a day of combat and was honorably discharged months after 9/11. However, joining the military is like playing Russian Roulette. With wars raging in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the likelihood of military action against Iran, troops in the Corps today are playing with grimmer odds. In these “dirty wars,” troops cannot tell friend from foe, leading to war crimes against a civilian population. Our government is cynically promoting a campaign of lies and deception to justify its illegal actions (with the complicity of both par-
ties in Washington), and our troops are fighting up top regimes that lack popular support and legitimacy.

DEGRADATION OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT

With over 3,100 U.S. troops now dead and thousands more maimed and crippled, I look back to the other young men I heard sobbing on that sunny wintry morning on top of the Reaper. The reasons we enlisted were as varied as our personal histories. Yet, it is the stark iron-

Continued on page 7
Resistance IS NOT Futile
by David Enstrom

Forty years ago as the Vietnam War was raging opposition and organized resistance to the US military was growing rapidly. The military draft provided the focus for protest and resistance. Young men and their families were forced to examine the morality of that war with intense clarity. Each boy had to decide whether to allow his government to conscript him into the military and place him in kill or be killed situations.

In the past few years I have heard some prominent political figures that avoided the military draft during the Vietnam War either apologize for it or deny doing so. But tens of thousands of draft-aged boys resisted the draft during that war and millions of others in the country aided and supported them, helping to bring conscription to an end in 1973 and the war to a close in 1975. In the current political climate it is essential to remember, claim, and celebrate this victory.

A variety of methods were used to avoid compulsory war service during Vietnam. Many boys secured a military position, often through connections, that assured them an assignment far from the war. Others petitioned for an exemption on the grounds that they were conscientious objectors, although few were granted CO status. Some simply refused induction. Many of these were prosecuted and about five thousand were sentenced to prison. With the help of anti-war counselors some young men contacted anti-draft physicians who fabricated medical records to gain their clients permanent 4-F ( unfit to serve) draft status. Boys also inflicted real injuries on themselves, or kept themselves in a constant state of poor health (for example remaining drastically under weight), in order to fail draft board physicals.

A tragic number of young Americans evaded the military by leaving the country. Between 1965 and 1973 about 100,000 American boys fled to the safety of Canada and other countries. Even more hid from their local draft boards somewhere in the United States. The most common means of escape was simply to go to college. In 1969, when the U.S. was drafting boys into the military at a rate of 28,000 per month, I entered Knox College, receiving 2-S status and a four-year deferment. Many of my generation chose the 2-S option, and as a result there was an unprecedented spike in the admission of young males to college between 1965 and 1969. The inherent unfairness of 2-S was soon addressed, and that new draft could be activated quickly. Registration with Selective Service is still mandatory and federal law provides stiff penalties for non-compliance. Most Americans understand that failure to register bars a young man (only males register) from federal programs such as student loans. However, most may not know that under the law a fine of up to $250,000 and a prison sentence of up to 5 years can be imposed for failure to register. Thus far, our wary federal government has prosecuted violators rarely and very selectively. However, forty-one States have laws that add penalties for non-compliance with the Selective Service Act. In Illinois, a young man must be registered with Selective Service in order to obtain state student financial aid and must prove that he is registered in order to obtain an Illinois drivers license. I carry a burden of sorrow for the Americans of my generation who were swept away and sacrificed to that terrible national mistake, the war in Vietnam. I am sorry as well that many Americans are currently caught up in the violence of our latest military adventure in Iraq. Thus far, our government has been able to maintain its war effort by liberal use of the National Guard and aggressive military ad campaigns. This may soon prove inadequate. Iraq is more than this generation of soldiers bargained for. Recruiting and retention rates are falling and the military is resorting to unfair deployment policies to maintain its numbers in the field. In his State of the Union speech Mr. Bush called for the creation of an army of "civilian volunteers", i.e., mercenaries, to shore up the war effort.

This is ultimately an appeal for a more focused and urgent opposition and resistance the current US effort to control other people through military force. Heros from all of our citizens is called for and, in my view, heroes seldom carry weapons. Thirty-seven years ago the actions of protest and resistance of the American public forced our government to stop its prosecution of an unjust war. In the present crisis we lack the focusing power of imminent conscription that loomed over our young men during the Vietnam era. We must instead find our focus solely in reason and justice. And we must find a way to bring that passion and resolve to our fellow citizens.

Letter to the Publici

Dear PL,

I was disappointed to see in your March issue an unbalanced and unscientific article by Ayanna Qadeem attacking the new HPV vaccine. Although Qadeem cites many statistics, most are simply irrelevant to her case that the costs would exceed the benefits. The bottom line is that once phased in the vaccine would prevent about 2500 painful premature deaths from cervical cancer every year in the U.S., at a cost of probably less than about $100,000 per life saved. (The cost of the vaccine would be much less than the current list price when it is offered in large-scale programs.) That’s not expensive by the standards of other domestic public health expenditures. Furthermore, as a genuine preventive method, the vaccine is much preferable to cancer treatments (surgery, chemotherapy) which can have very serious side effects.

Qadeem also raises speculations about possible serious side effects of the vaccine. In one case, the claim that the trace amounts of aluminum (tiny compared to the amounts in many antacids) might cause Alzheimer’s disease is simply false. Other speculations about possible ill effects are unlikely to prove significant, since the clinical trial was ended due to the 100% success rate against targeted viral strains coupled with the lack of any detected adverse effects. Beneficial side effects are much more likely, since even non-lethal cervical cancer creates major problems. Furthermore the vaccine protects against strains which cause 90% of all genital wart cases. Genital warts create major dangers in pregnancy, and the open sores they create are believed to facilitate the spread of HIV and other STIs.

Qadeem scrabbles at other facts. The vaccine has been confirmed to be fully effective for at least five years, and counting. She says instead that “at best, immunity has been slated for 5 years”. She warns that the vaccine should not be used by pregnant women. Since the current plans, as she states, are to give the vaccine to 6th graders, that’s unlikely to be a major problem.

If Qadeem had ever had to watch, as I have, a loved one die young of a cancer whose treatment (or prevention) was introduced just barely too late for her, I do not believe she would so easily dismiss thousands of cancer victims as not worth saving because they are “so rare”.

Michael B. Weissman is a Professor of Physics at the Uof I
How Does the Criminal Justice System Work in Champaign County?

By Marti Wilkinson

On March 13, 2007, members of the community showed up at the Urbana Civic Center to learn how the criminal justice system works. A panel comprised of Sheriff Dan Walsh, States Attorney Mark Rietz, Public Defender Randale Rosenbaum, Associate Judge Richard Klaus, and Director of Court Services Joe Gordon shared what their duties are and how they do them. After their speeches, the participants took questions from the audience. The only parts of the evening offering anything fresh and new were the coolies served to the people who attended.

During the lecture portion of the event State’s Attorney Julia Rietz talked about how her office considers individual factors in making decisions on what criminal charges to press when a law is broken. Without revealing any names she mentioned receiving a phone call from a concerned father who wanted to see his daughters’ abusers behind bars. An emergency in a small country was already learned as a human punching bag. Later in the conversation this same father pleaded for leniency on behalf of his son who got behind the wheel of a car drunk and killed somebody. She presented this as an example of how she is expected to engage in prosecutorial discretion.

This particular aspect of her job is one that considers the history of a defendant. For instance, if a person goes to a local store and steals a bottle of liquor chances are that engage in prosecutorial discretion.

Additionally, it begs the question of what to do when the people who are expected to uphold the law are the ones who break it. In 2005, an Urbana Police officer named Kurt Hjort was accused of raping a woman while on duty Hjort resigned as a result of the investigation and no charges ever got filed against him. After the panel discussion ended I approached Ms. Rietz and asked her about the case and she stated that her office holds each and every officer accountable for crimes that are committed.

Considering the alleged rape occurred in 2005 and Ms. Rietz took office in 2004 it’s a bit of a contradiction. She also stood firm in her decision to allow William Alan Myers, a former guard at the Champaign County Jail, to accept a plea bargain to charges associated with his decision to use a Taser on a restrained inmate and his later falsification of the reports of the incident. In return he gets two years probation and no jail time. Now exactly how did Ms. Rietz end up being held accountable for his crime?

One Person Can Make A Difference: Cindy Sheehan in Urbana-Champaign

The following is excerpted from a talk given by Cindy Sheehan at the University of Illinois on March 1, 2007. It was recorded and transcribed by Shara Ebseneshale.

Before my son was killed, I disagreed with the war and I disagreed with George Bush—I never voted for him. My son was not for the war. But he knew his duty. Not like George Bush, who went AWOL from the Texas Air National Guard. Not like Dick Cheney, who got five deferments from going to Vietnam. And I don’t think it’s wrong for anybody to have got- ten deferments. But when your history is one of dodging the draft and you start your own illegal and immoral war and then other people’s children are dying—that’s what I have a problem with.

Casey knew his duty. He went over there and he was there five days and he was killed. When Casey was killed in a war that I disagreed with, in a war that his father disagreed with, in a war that his brothers and sisters disagreed with and he disagreed with, I knew that I had to do something. It was too late for Casey but it was not too late for millions of other people in harm’s way. It was not too late for our soldiers. It was not too late for the people of Iraq.

The Iraqis did not have weapons of mass destruction. They did not have anything to do with 9/11. Iraq was not an enemy. We are invading an innocent country. Some of our soldiers told me they met Iraqi soldiers that were wearing flip-flops and had rusty weapons. This is the country that George Bush lied us into an invasion of and the occupation of. I want to tell you something; it has not proven how strong America is; it has proven how weak America is. And we are invading an innocent country.

I just got back from Turkey yesterday I travel around the world and I want to tell you one thing. I have no idea where George Bush has gone to. He has made us partisans in the world.

The world hates us. They do not only hate George Bush but they hate Americans and I say, “You know we are trying to get him out of office, we are trying to end the war.” They say, “Why did you vote for him in 2004? Why did you elect him again?” It was too late for me. It was bad enough for Casey but it was not too late for millions of other people in harm’s way.

I was approached at a meeting with a group of Iraqi men who told me what was happening in Iraq. Turk after Turk got up and said, “We are proud of the insurgency. We are proud and you people in Iraq give us hope.” And that broke my heart because we are so hated and our soldiers are so hated and the only reason they are is because of George Bush. Here we invaded an innocent country.

Dick Cheney, “Doomsday Dick,” went all over the world saying, “No options off the table.” So they’re saying to stop Iran from getting one nuclear bomb, they might use them! And who has the most nukes out of anyone in the world? And who is the only country that has ever used a nuclear bomb on innocent people? America. And now we are talking about it again. We are a rogue state.

Some say “Well if you don’t love America why don’t you leave it?” I don’t love America because I love it. That’s why I travel 27 days out of the month to motivate people. About 70 percent of this country disagrees with the war and wants the troops to come home. When I sat down in Crawford, Texas, it wasn’t even 50 percent. But what we don’t see is 70 percent of America out on the streets. If just one percent of those people got out on the street demanding all of those troops home, Congress would have to listen to us. George Bush will never listen to us. We told him on November 7, “We disagree with you and we disagree with your war.” And what did he do? He turned around and sent more troops. He will not ever listen to us. That is why you and your congressional district should demand that Congress end the war by cutting the funding.

Everyone says, “you have to vote for funding to support the troops.” The 21,500 troops they’re sending for the surge will not have body armor until summer. What are they supposed to do? Dodge the bullets. When Rietz was questioned after the panel discussion she became defensive and made it quite clear that she did not wish to discuss the matter. She mentioned that Myers will have to live with a felony conviction and the loss of his pension. Neither would she discuss why her office did not prosecute Myers when two other people brought forth allegations of inappropriate Taser usage.

All it took was a simple question for Ms. Rietz to become defensive and somewhat confrontational. As an elected official in a public office she is in a position where what she does will be scrutinized and questioned. Members of the public have a right to ask questions, and the public has a right to get answers delivered in a reasonable and intelligent manner.

My suggestion to Rietz is that she either works on developing a thicker skin or reconsiders what she does for a living. As long as she is in office there are people who will question what she does and who will not be afraid to approach her with these inquiries. That is a basic part of her job and it’s not left up to prosecutorial discretion.

I also care about the people in the Middle East. Every day our troops stay in Iraq it becomes more unstable and the hope for putting it back together again gets farther and farther away. It’s not going to happen when our troops are there. 87% of the people in Iraq say they want us to get out. I want to tell you something, it is their country. It is not our country. People always ask me, “What would you do with Iraq?” It does not matter what I would do with it, I am not an Iraqi.

Before my son was killed, on February 15, 2003, I saw millions of people all over the world go out and protest the invasion of Iraq. And what did George Bush say? “Well that’s nice but I don’t have to listen to focus groups.” I thought if he calls millions of people a focus group, what is he going to call me? A flea on his butt? So I thought my voice was not going to make a difference. Why should I go out? Why should I go out and hold signs in the rain and the cold? Why should I go out of my little sphere of influence? Because I did not believe that the troops they send to Iraq are there because of me. They are there because of the American people.

But when Casey was killed, I thought to myself, I have to try to make a difference. And if I do not make a difference, at least I can try the making. And I just thought how could I face my grandchildren, Casey’s nieces and nephews, and say, “You know your grandma she just gave up, she didn’t try.” I cannot be able to say, “Your grandma did everything she could do to rectify the problem that killed your uncle Casey.”

After that point, I couldn’t do nothing. So I started working soon after Casey was killed and that was about sixteen months before I went to Crawford, Texas. I decided on

Continued on page

August 3, 2005 that I had had enough. Fourteen marines were killed in one incident. I
Myths About U.S. and Torture Today

By Barbara Kessel

Barbara Kessel is a retired senior activist, currently working on the issue of torture and human rights through the Interfaith Alliance and A.W.A.R.E.

Myth #1. The U.S. Government has a legal right to pursue torture as a means to get information out of people. It deems it to be terrorists because we are under attack.

The Bush Administration issued a torture policy that said, in effect, that they are in their prohibitions. It is also striking that you would be struck by how absolute and uncon-ventional they are in their prohibitions. It is also striking how absolute and uncon-ventional they are in their prohibitions. It is also striking how absolute and uncon-ventional they are in their prohibitions. It is also striking how absolute and uncon-ventional they are in their prohibitions. It is also striking how absolute and uncon-ventional they are in their prohibitions. It is also striking how absolute and uncon-ventional they are in their prohibitions. It is also striking how absolute and uncon-ventional they are in their prohibitions. It is also striking how absolute and uncon-ventional they are in their prohibitions. It is also striking how absolute and uncon-ventional they are in their prohibitions. It is also striking how absolute and uncon-ventional they are in their prohibitions. It is also striking how absolute and uncon-ventional they are in their prohibitions. It is also striking how absolute and uncon-ventional they are in their prohibitions. It is also striking how absolute and uncon-ventional they are in their prohibitions. It is also striking how absolute and uncon-ventional they are in their prohibitions. It is also striking how absolute and uncon-ventional they are in their prohibitions. It is also striking how absolute and uncon-ventional they are in their prohibitions. It is also striking how absolute and uncon-ventional they are in their prohibitions. It is also striking how absolute and uncon-ventional they are in their prohibitions. It is also striking how absolute and uncon-ventional they are in their prohibitions. It is also striking how absolute and uncon-ventional they are in their prohibitions. It is also striking how absolute and uncont-raveling the pictures, but the first time I was receiving details of contract interrogators actually working out at Abu Ghraib.

Finally the Bush Administration declared that the President knew of what he deemed necessary in the War on Terror.

Those who put together the Geneva Conventions had thought of that as well. Article 2, states: "No exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification of torture."

Myth #2. The Geneva Conventions are set aside. As the interrogators arriving at Abu Ghraib were told, "The Geneva Conventions are off."

While it is obvious to any casual observer that war crimes are seldom punished and there are many other countries which engage in torture besides the U.S., we are by far the most influential.

We are signatories to the Geneva Conventions and there are several other treaties and conventions that make up International Law on Human Rights, which always includes a ban on torture. It is only "grave breeches" that are cited for punishment and that punishment can include death. Heads of state and individuals carrying out the state policies have been tried before: German and Japanese war criminals were tried in Nuremberg and Tokyo right after WWII and in the 1990's tribunals were created for war criminals committed in Rwanda and the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

A suit was filed in Germany this past November, 2006 against Donald Rumsfeld, along with George Tenet, Alberto Gonzalez and others. It was filed by 11 survivors of Abu Ghraib and one from Guantanamo; the star witness was to be General Janis Karpinski (demoted to Colonel), former in charge of Abu Ghraib, along with George Tenet, Alberto Gonzalez and others. It was filed by 11 survivors of Abu Ghraib and one from Guantanamo; the star witness was to be General Janis Karpinski (demoted to Colonel), former in charge of Abu Ghraib, and will illustrate the point that it can be General Janis Karpinski (demoted to Colonel), former in charge of Abu Ghraib, and will illustrate the point that it can be shown in a court of law.

A suit was filed in Germany this past November, 2006 against Donald Rumsfeld, along with George Tenet, Alberto Gonzalez and others. It was filed by 11 survivors of Abu Ghraib and one from Guantanamo; the star witness was to be General Janis Karpinski (demoted to Colonel), former in charge of Abu Ghraib, and will illustrate the point that it can be shown in a court of law. As for the overreported example of the "ticking time bomb," Moran says that it does not work that way. First of all, very few if any prisoners are likely to have decisive information about imminent plans, but if they did have international crime and as such it is to be carried out in utmost secrecy.

Myth #3. Torture is a highly effective method of getting life-saving information. (We've seen it on TV.)

Absolutely and categorically untrue... and the people telling us this are the military and the non-military inter-rogators who have used it. Apparently there was a great deal of torture about this behind the scenes when the policies were first being formed in March/April 2003 with the military fighting to keep the U.S. out of the torture business. This came out in Senate hearings of July 2005 (Armed Services subcommittee - chaired by Sen. Lindsay Graham) where judge advocate generals (JAGs) and the Army's top lawyer testified about their somewhat ineffective opposition to the Justice Department and the Depart. of Defense.

Recently, this subject has come out of the security-classified closet: a delegation went to meet with the producers of the very popular TV show featuring torture, "24." First was on how to say their war was totally unrealistic and they should do a few shows illustrating that torture backfires. The interrogators at West Point are having trouble training their cadets who all watch "24" and think that it does portray reality. Tony Lagosurn, a former interrogator at Abu Ghraib said in a television interview (Democracy Now, Feb. 22, 2007): "Well the problem was that when we were interrogating in Iraq in 2004, we were being told that Geneva conventions didn't apply. So we didn't have training that informed us what to do anymore, because we were taught according to Geneva Conventions. So people were getting ideas from television." When asked whether torture worked, Lagosurn said, "In my experience, no. I saw torture in Iraq. I even employed some torture methods. In my experience, it doesn't work. I think you are going to get false intelligence when you employ torture methods." The FBI interrogator expert who was at the meeting said that he would not want anyone like Jack Bauer (the star of the show "24") in his organization. They are untrustworthy and tend to have grotesque other problems.

So what do you do instead? Read about U.S. Marine Major Sherwood Moran, a legendary interrogator of the Japanese in World War II, legendary because of his effec-tiveness. In his classic text, Truth Extraction, Moran formulates the basic premise of "truth extraction"—know their language, know their culture and treat the captured enemy as a human being.

As for the overreported example of the "ticking time bomb," Moran says that it does not work that way. First of all, very few if any prisoners are likely to have decisive information about imminent plans, but if they did have...
The United States has a history of interfering with Iran’s development. In 1953, the United States collaborated with Britain to overthrow the democratically elected Prime Minis- ter Mohammed Mossadegh, and put the Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi back into power. His rule quickly became a dictatorship. After Iran’s seizure of the American Embassy in Tehran in 1979, the United States froze $12 billion in Iran- ian assets, which have still not been released. In 1995 President Clinton, under pressure from Congress and the pro-Axis of Evil European Union denounced it and declared it void, it blocked development. In 1953, the United States collaborated with the Iranian government has formally delayed, the Iranian nuclear program. Hard-liners in the West are also worried that the Iranian government might start developing nuclear weapons. President Bush named Iran a threat to the U.S. and its neighbors during his “Axis of Evil” speech in January of 2002. The Bush administration’s official position is that a nuclear-armed Iran is not acceptable.

Western intelligence agencies say that Iran’s nuclear program has serious technical problems right now and, if it gets no outside help, is at least a couple years away from being able to develop actual nuclear warheads. Since the Iranian Air Force set Iran’s nuclear program back several years when it destroyed Iraq’s Osirak reactor in 1981, the Iranian program is still underground, more dispersed, and harder to find sites. This means that the U.S. would have to use mini nukes to actually reach Iran’s nuclear development sites, if they were to attack.

When asked about how he plans to deal with Iran, president Bush has repeatedly stated that all options are on the table, including those nuclear options. In 2005, the U.S. revised its Doctrine For Joint Nuclear Operations to include preemptive use on states with no nuclear weapons. The administration has denied that the U.S. is currently preparing for war with Iran, but a look at the facts suggests we are on the brink of one.

Journalist Seymour Hersh reported in 2005 that the U.S. Central Command, the main unit of the American Armed Forces whose jurisdiction is the Middle East, has been requested to revise the military war plan so that it will allow for maximum air and ground space in Iran. But the Adminis- tration has been conducting secret reconnaissance missions inside Iran since the summer of 2004, and has been flying unmanned armed vehicles into Iran from Iraq since 2003, a couple of which have crashed in Iran. According to Hersh, these incursions have reportedly found hardly any new information and the Iranian government has formally denounced them as illegal. Meanwhile, the U.S. could launch covert missions into Iran. In 2005, Hersh reports, president Bush also “signed a series of findings and execu- tive orders authorizing secret commando groups and other Special Forces units to conduct covert operations against suspected terrorist targets in as many as ten nations in the Middle East and South Asia,” which, Hersh explains, will allow these operations to be run without the legal restric- tions that are imposed on the CIA.

Recently, ABC News reported that the United States has been waging a “secret war with Iran.” The U.S. has been advis- ing and encouraging Pakistani militant group Jundullah, a force of several hundred that has been leading guerilla raids into Iran with the goal of destabilizing the country. They have captured and executed a dozen Iranians already, attacking military and intelligence officers. The U.S. government says the U.S. provides no direct funding to the group, but the Times has reported that U.S. Special Forces are working closely with their leader, former Taliban fighter Abdul Malik Rezayi, since 2005. War with Iran could happen without any public declaration of it from the American government.

As Joseph Cirincione, director of non-proliferation at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace has said, “a mil- itary strike would be disastrous for the United States. It would rally the Iranian public around an otherwise unpopular regime, inflame anti-American anger around the Muslim world, and jeopardize the already fragile U.S. position in Iraq.” And it would accelerate, not delay, the Iranian nuclear program. Hard-liners in Tehran would be proven right in their claim that the only thing that can deter the United States is a nuclear bomb. Iranian leaders could respond with a crash nuclear program that could produce a bomb in a few years.” It is not hard to see why Bush ‘N’ Friends are having such a relatively easy time passing conquest off as self-defense and liberation. The U.S. media portrayal of Iran is as a totalitarian theocracy bereft of free speech, equal rights and opportunity—and most of all, bereft of the ability to change. Our government wants us to think that Iran does not deserve the right to determine its own destiny; its goal is to coax us into believing that the only way that we can be safe and Iran can have freedom is if we invade, nuke some ‘key places’, and smudge some collateral damage statistics. What one does not hear, of course, is that Iran is not syn- onymous with its President Ahmadinejad. In truth, suggest- ing the invasion of Iran due to the words and actions of this fellow is startlingly comparable to espousing an outside attack, it will only incite a rage and hostility towards America that will unite the dissenters with the oppressors in an effort to keep the real issue out of their homeland.

The occupation of Iraq has completely failed and we now have a civil war on our hands. There will be no civil war in Iran, only fear, then anger, then hate, then suffering and bloodshed that will take the life of not only innumerable Iranian lives but also those of the boys and girls of the poor, working-class family. All of these lives are equally valuable, but guess which loss will be a greater motivation for Ameri- cans to speak out? Thanks to the dehumanization of people of Middle Eastern origin in the American media, the beauti- ful, rich country of Iran can be turned into a war zone, and, just like Iraq, no one will care until it’s too late. Iran is grow- ing, and it will continue to grow. If we start its growth with our bombs, we will turn a hopeful, promising nation into exactly what Bush wants it to be: a radicalized, volatile, dan- gerous state, ready for corporate pillaging.

For the anti-war community out there, it is time we stopped denying the possibility of war with Iran and realized that it is already beginning. While we sit and complain about the government’s reluctance to provide a timetable for withdraw- al from Iraq, a deceptive debate of even more monstrous pro- portions is beginning, right before our eyes. The New Yorker’s Seymour Hersh wrote, almost a year ago.

‘He [a White House military planner] added, “People think Bush has been focused on Sad- dam Hussein since 9/11,” but, “in my view, if you had to name one nation that was his focus all the way along, it was Iran.” Americans can not afford another war financially or politically. The Middle East cannot afford more destruc- tion. A war with Iran would be more than an expansion of the War on Terror we are already waging in Iraq; it would draw in other world powers like Russia and Japan and make nuclear war a possibility.

Recently, Iran released the 15 British sailors and marines it had captured and we all sighed a little with relief that no larg- er conflict arose, but we must now consider how to oppose a war with Iran that is not even made public, for that seems to be the real of path the Bush administration. We urge those who oppose the current war with Iraq or those who have misgivings about the use of military force in general to act against the coming war with Iran. Phone your representatives and tell them to support HR 770 to prevent an attack on Iran without Congressional authorization. The number for the Capitol switchboard is 866-340-9281. Come out to AWARE’s anti-war protests at One Main in downtown Champaign from 2-4 the first Saturday of every month. Most importantly, keep yourself informed. As a former high-level intelligence official told Seymour Hersh, ’it’s not if we’re going to do anything against Iran. They’re doing it.”
The flood of responses from pro-“charters” since the Board of Regents agreed to retire the racist mascot at UIUC has caused many to think that some sort of archive is necessary. STOP (Students Transforming Oppression and Privilege) is a coalition of UIUC students, faculty, staff, and community members from other allied organizations, who have decided to take up this project. STOP was also the group that organized the forum, “Race, Power, and Privilege at UIUC” on February 1, 2007, which was attended by thousands of students, faculty, and staff and watched live by thousands more.

The STOP Coalition is committed to breaking cultures of silence by encouraging and creating spaces where community members engage and document issues related to racism, power, and privilege at UIUC. STOP’s plans for the future include (but are by no means limited to) the archiving of media coverage, the resulting online discussions, collecting live narratives, and creating documentation out of past video feed, while participants gain the technical skills to produce their own independent media. Please visit the STOP blog “Information” entry titled, “Archives, Narratives, and Creation” for more information about this project and how to contribute at http://stop-bog.typepad.com/stop_blogging/.

The following are just a few excerpts from preliminary gatherings for the archive. Many are from The Daily Illini, the UIUC’s independent student newspaper, whose Editorial Staff has repeatedly worked to undermine STOP’s projects, including encouraging all students not to attend the forum. These quotes have been chosen to reflect the extreme instances of resistance to STOP’s efforts in order to demonstrate why many have felt the need to collect and recognize these opinions. The comments below are a testy memo to the hostile climate on campus that must be addressed by the university administration.

“As anticipated, Thursday’s forum entitled ‘Racism, Power and Privilege at UIUC’ yielded little productive dialogue on race issues. Many opinions were voiced, but it turned out to be mainly an extended anti-Chief protest. Little time was placed to care what truly ails the campus, namely issues of racial insensitivity” [Daily Illini Editorial Boards’ “Future Race Dialog Needs to be Fruitful” published on 2/6/07].

“...Future Race Dialog Needs to be Fruitful...”

Myth #4: it is a shame that we have Archiving, Narratives, and Creation... Continued from page 1

Myths About U.S. and Torture Today

By Cassidy C. Browning

Cassidy C. Browning is an activist theater artist and writer. Browning is now in the M.A./Drama program at UIUC; research interests include Queer Theory and Theatre, Gender Studies, Postcolonial Theory, and Performance Studies.

In the opinion of many (and I mean many) students on this campus, including almost a dozen of friends I have talked about, not only is STOP definitely not ‘decidedly anti-racist’, but in fact this forum has been the most openly, blatantly racist event to plague our campus during my time here. Chancellor Higdon should feel ashamed for having not only tolerated, but also condoned this carnival of hatred.

All you STOP agitprop minions succeeded in creating was not pay for your pretenses and faux victimization, but genuine disgust, not the bitter demagoguery of the whole event, and a determination stronger than ever not to allow our rather moderate, welcoming campus to be confiscated by the radical, hate-filled discourse of some marginal, mediocre students and faculty, unhappy that their disgruntled mediocrity is not being ‘celebrated’ according to their demands...” [Online comment posted to the above editorial on 2/6/07 by ‘Rajeev’]

“The damn left wing morons like you who absolutely ruined the once great state. You should be ashamed of yourself and your heritage. I don’t feel safe...” [a quote from Genevieve Teno’s speech to the Board of Trustees] what a shit you are. Ruining a fine tradition. No one thinks of indians in negative light when they see the mascot you moron, but we do when we see idiots like you spewing your bile. Even the seminoles are telling all of the indian sympathizers around the country to ‘GO SCREW YOURSELVES’ Political Correctness has gone way out the deep end! I am very sorry that the University of Illinois is ‘troubled’ to this very corrupt association known as the NCAA!...” [Email on 3/13/07 to Genevieve Tenoso from sfulrath@cox.net and signed, ‘Scott Fulrath, Ramona, CA.’]

“The Seminole Tribe—the richest of all Indian tribes in the United States have continually endorsed Chief Osceola at Florida State University. It is easy for many columnists and members of third party activism to tell me that I am offending the feelings of Indian sympathizers by supporting the University of Illinois and Chief Illiniwek. I want to see some of these pompous, arrogant, politically-correct campus pagans tell Florida State and the Seminole Nation WHY they are wrong!...”

“...The Seminoles are telling all of the Indian sympathizers around the country to ‘GO SCREW YOURSELVES’ Political Correctness has gone way out the deep end! I am very sorry that the University of Illinois is ‘troubled’ to this very corrupt association known as the NCAA!...” [Email on 3/13/07 to Genevieve Tenoso from < DAC- emy@magellanhealth.com> and signed, “David A. Cerny”]

Film Showing

Showing of the film “The Road to Guantanamo” with discussion afterward at First Mennonite Church, 902 W. Springfield, Urbana on Monday, April 2, 7-9PM. Co-sponsored by the Interfaith Alliance and A.W.A.R.E.
One Person Can Make A Difference: Cindy Sheehan in Urbana-Champaign

Continued from page 3

often think, what is everybody’s breaking point? After the wire tapping, torture in Iran. What is going to make you say, I don’t want it to be the same breaking point that I had. That’s why I am doing this. I don’t want another mother to have to fall on her knees screaming for her son before she decides she is going to get out on the street. When the fourteen marines were killed, George Bush said they died for a noble cause and everybody has said out on the street. When the fourteen

April 2007

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Major Agreement Signed With Tomato Pickers!

By Ricky Baldwin

Just four days ahead of a formal nationwide boycott by tomato pickers and their allies, on April 9, 2007, fast food giant McDonald’s Corporation signed a historic agreement with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, the grassroots labor association of mostly immigrant farm workers in Florida, accepting the CIW demands that exceed concessions made by Taco Bell in March of 2005.

After a spirited four-year boycott, Taco Bell agreed to pay a penny a pound more for tomatoes (with the proviso that the extra cent is passed on through growers to farm workers) and to work with the CIW to improve conditions in the fields.

Now, on the first day of the CIWs cross-country “McDonald’s Truth Tour”—dubbed “Behind the Golden Arches”—McDonald’s has agreed to all that Taco Bell gave up, plus a “workers rights consortium.” The consortium is reportedly similar to the one that US Students Against Sweatshops established in 2001 to monitor conditions along the supply chain for school-sponsored apparel, only this one will keep an eye on the fields.

Events in Chicago planned for April 13-14, however, are still on, but the focus has changed. Friday’s planned protest at McDonald’s headquarters in Oak Brook will be a conference of the groups involved in the campaign. Saturday’s planned “car-naval” and march in downtown Chicago will be a victory celebration—and promises to be an exuberant one.

SWEATSHOPS IN THE FIELDS

As previously reported in the Public i, the average worker earns 40-45 cents for picking one bucketful of tomatoes, weighing 32 pounds. That’s over two tons of tomatoes every day just to reach the federal poverty level—even if you could pick that every day, which you can’t. On average a tomato pick-er can expect to earn about $10,000 a year.

The cost of living in Immokalee is $18,000 for a single person. Also, agricultural laborers do not have even the minimal protections of US labor laws covering most American employees. Conditions in the fields approach those in the global south.

As one extreme there have been six federal slavery convictions in the Florida fields since 1997. Sometimes this is so-called “debt slavery,” where growers promise good jobs, then add on charges at a ‘company store’ or for transportation to the fields. In one case a grower recruited mostly African American men from a local homeless shelter, then paid them at the end of the week in alcohol, ciga- rettes and cocaine.

Growers have also held workers in the fields at gunpoint, beat them, pistol whipped them, run over them in trucks, and locked them in squalid labor camps overnight—chains across the gates, armed guards, no visitors, nobody in or out after dark.

Organizing in the fields around Immokalee since the mid-nineties, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers has been able to eliminate most of the worst condi-
tions in their area. Workers in Immokalee say the beatings, the gun play, all have stopped. Outside Immokalee, however, many are still working without a net.

QUIEN SIGUE? (WHO’S NEXT?)

The Taco Bell victory, and now the victory at McDonald’s, are important for two reasons (besides the obvious historical moment of winning a David-and-Goliath campaign against fast food giants like these). The most obvious is that tomato pickers in the Taco Bell supply chain saw a sudden, unprec-
dented leap in wages. After almost thirty years without a raise, wages practically dou-
bled over night. Presumably that will happen now with McDonald’s suppliers.

In addition, these wage increases—as well as the improvements in working con-
ditions expected from these two pacts—may affect many workers outside the Coalition’s direct organizing orbit. Every worker who picks tomatoes for Taco Bell or McDonald’s should see these improvements, even if they have never heard of CIW. And the more big bites the workers can take out of the market, the easier it gets to expand the victory to other fields, other growers.

Not only this, but every victory makes the pattern stronger. The Taco Bell boycott campaign also laid the groundwork for the McDonald’s Truth Tour, which began last year. The formal boycott of Taco Bell lasted four years. McDonald’s gave in before the boycott announcement. After this, how long can Burger King hope to hold out?

Form ore info on CIW and their work: www.ciw-online.org

Structured Cruelty: Learning to Be a Lean, Mean Killing Machine

Continued from page 1

that the hope we collectively expressed for a better life may have indeed cost us our very lives. When one pulls the trigger, called “enlistment,” he or she faces the choice of becoming a Marine, as a path to self- actualization, or as a path to self-destruction. The USMC claims that recruits learn “to live as upstanding moral beings with real purpose” is a sickening ploy aimed to disguise its true objectives. Given the fact that Marines are molded to kill the enemy “other” from TD One (training day) combined with the bestial nature of colonial war, it should come as no surprise that rather than turning “degenerated” into paragons of virtue, the Corps is more likely capable of transforming men into monsters.

And yet as much as these war crimes reveal about the conditions of war, the circum-
cumstances facing an occupying force, and the peculiar brand of Marine training, they also reflect a bitter truth about the civilian world in which we live. It speaks volumes that in order for young working-class men and women to gain self-confidence or self-
worth, they seek to join an institution that trains them how to destroy, maim, and kill.

The desire to become a Marine—as a jour-
nery to one’s manhood or as a path to self-
improvement—is a stinging indictment of the pathology of our class-ridden world.