Honor the Warrior, Not the War

by Joseph Miller

VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR (VVAW) always organizes under the above slogan, during Memorial Day or Veterans Day events in cities like Chicago, or through participation in national and international demonstrations such as this past February 15 and the veteran-organized “Operation Dire Distress” in Washington, D.C. of March 22-24. Since 1967, when we organized against “our” war while it was still being fought, we demand “Support the Troops - Bring Them Home!” So, contrary to the media mythology out there, these are not new sentiments, not even “fringe” sentiments, inside the peace movement in this country. The peace movement in the United States recognizes that GIs and reservists, our brothers and sisters, are our natural allies, as Dave Dellinger advocated in 1966.

In a sensible world it would be obvious that there is a natural alliance of sympathy and common interest between the men whose lives and limbs are threatened in a dishonest and unnecessary war and those who are trying to bring that war to an end. The veterans’ movement, now including Veterans for Peace, Gulf War Veterans for Common Sense and Veterans Against the Iraq War, has fought for peace, social justice and veterans’ benefits consistently since the late 1960s. With every war, new veterans are recruited to this movement, as they come to realize that the ideals that took them into military service have been betrayed by the political and economic elites who make policy. Most of us were these idealistic young men or women who enlisted into the service and were not drafted. We were “educated” to believe that our country was always in the right, and each successive generation of veterans has had to learn the hard way that this is seldom, if ever, true.

This then is the historical and experimental basis for a contemporary veterans’ movement in opposition to the Bush Doctrine of continuous imperial wars. We know how easy it is to get sucked in by the military machine, especially when there do not seem to be many other opportunities out there for young people who really want to serve their country and its people. We also know how ready and willing the politicians are to hide or ignore the complete costs of military conflict, from Agent Orange and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) through to the Gulf War Syndrome from the last adventure in Iraq.

As the Bush-Cheney-Rumsfeld “axis of evil” sent young men and women to fight and die in an illegal war against Iraq, they were trumpeting the notion that “real” support for the troops meant to just shut up. At the very same time, the Republican-dominated House Budget Committee was “supporting” the troops by their attempt to cut veterans’ benefits by some $25 billion over the next ten years. How many people were able to see the hypocrisy in this move? Did the mainstream media even mention it at the time?

Not until the veterans’ movement, both traditional and progressive wings, began to make noise did this become an embarrassment for Bush and his cronies in Congress. In a recent article in The New York Times concerning the passage of a $79 billion budget for the Iraq war, it is noted, “To get a deal with the Senate, the House also agreed to spend $100 million on health care for Iraq war veterans that the administration did not request.” (NYT, 4/13/2003) So far, nothing more is being said about the attempt to cut billions from health care programs for thousands of veterans from World War II through Gulf War I. Could it be that they are just waiting for the smoke to clear, for the flags and the yellow ribbons to be put away, before they try again?

And, make no mistake; there will be serious health issues coming out of this war, given the cavalier attitude of the Bush administration toward the use of weapons that contained depleted uranium. They even refuse to clean up the battlefield, arguing that depleted uranium poses no health risks to the GIs or to the local residents. (BBC, 4/2003)

Major Doug Rokke, a veteran of both Vietnam and Gulf War I, has long fought against the effort to cover-up the health costs of war. As a veteran and a victim of the effects of depleted uranium, he has been a consistent voice, going back to the aborted efforts to clean up the war theater in the early 1990s. In an interview with Al-Jazeera on this issue, Doug responded to a question concerning the lies coming out of the Pentagon: “The reason that they lie is to avoid any liability for the deliberate use of uranium munitions not only in Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, throughout the Balkans and throughout all the sites in the United States. Again the purpose of the war is to kill and to destroy. Uranium munitions are absolutely destructive.”

We should also be prepared for veterans of this latest war to come home with serious mental and behavioral issues derived from post-traumatic stress disorder. They shall join veterans from previous wars in this category, and we have already witnessed increased stress levels among earlier generations of veterans. On April 11, the Chicago Tribune published a report, which stated “Across the country, visits to Veterans Affairs counseling centers have spiked over the past several weeks, as Gulf war vets experience flashbacks, nightmares, waves of depression and panic attacks, officials report.”

Pay close attention to the reports coming out of the war theater about troops feeling “anguish” or “remorse” concerning their involvement in Bush’s war. What will these young people come home to? Will the planned welcome home parades with rivers of red, white and blue make them feel better? How ready will they be to talk about their experiences and the real feelings they have about participation in this popular, but illegal, war? Who will be there to listen to them?

As with the previous Gulf War, the veterans’ peace and justice movement will be here to provide counsel and support and a place to get active for these men and women.

The larger peace and social justice movement should also be preparing for this. While the government and many in the larger society will forget all about their “support” for the troops, once the war is “won” and “Johnny [and Jane] come marching home” we in the peace and social justice movement must embrace these victims of Bush’s policy. The men and women in uniform are just as assuredly victims as are those innocent men, women and children killed in Iraq, and if we are to build a broad movement for serious and fundamental social change, we must recognize all victims of this corrupt system.

Joseph T. Miller is a resident of Urbana, a National Co-Coordinator of Vietnam Veterans Against the War and an employee of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Iraq War Quiz
(excerpted from footnoted ZNET article by Stephen R. Shalom)

1. The anti-war movement supported our troops by urging that they be brought home immediately so they neither kill nor get killed in an unjust war. How has the Bush administration shown its support for our troops?
   a. The Republican-controlled House Budget Committee voted to cut $25 billion in veterans benefits over the next 10 years.
   b. The Bush administration proposed cutting $172 million from impact aid programs which provide school funding for children of military personnel.
   c. The administration ordered the Dept. of Veterans Affairs to stop publicizing health benefits available to veterans.
   d. All of the above.

   Answer: d. All of the above.
WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO TODAY?

Berman, Rosenzweig, and Kagan have in common: They are all Jewish names, and they belong to activist librarians who have worked for justice for Palestinians wherever they have lived. I have participated with two colleagues in the American Library Association in two very difficult campaigns over the last ten years addressing issues of freedom of expression in Israel and the Occupied Territories and the destruction of Palestinian libraries and cultural institutions. We do this because it is U.S. government aid and weapons that make these policies possible. At first glance, it may seem surprising that the leaders of these campaigns were raised in the Jewish tradition and that the issue of the Palestinian people claimed their attention. Jews have many reasons to be concerned about the current situation in the Middle East, but when the issue of the Palestinian people is raised, it makes a lot of sense as I will explain below.

This short article is necessary now because of an on-going debate about the extent of anti-Semitism in the peace movement. The slogan "Not in My Name" has recently come to the fore. My library friends and I are outraged that the officials of the government of Israel occupy the possession of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as the Bush administration is now occupying Iraq. The Israeli officials, descendants of those who were persecuted and gassed during WWII, somehow find it possible to oppress other people. New York's Gordon of Ben-Gurion University in Israel notes that due to Israeli policies, per capita food consumption in the Gaza Strip has declined by 30 percent and the population is experiencing severe malnutrition equivalent to the poorest nations in Africa (The Nation, April 14, page 17).

Any discussion of anti-Semitism and the worldwide peace movement must start from these facts on the ground; there are daily reports that the dream is being undermined by their own government policies targeting people from Arab and Jewish backgrounds.

The interesting point is that more and more American Jews are beginning to realize that they can speak out, and that they can oppose the propaganda that dominates the mainstream media. It is encouraging to see that this is also true in our own community. Most Americans, and especially American Jews, don't understand that there is an Israeli peace movement and that the range of opinions regularly published in the mainstream Israeli press is wider than the range published here. We remember the Israeli conscientious objectors, or "refusenik," who visited our community some months ago. He is but one representative of a movement absent from the American mainstream press. I am proud to say that I support that movement.

I was an anti-war activist during the anti-war movement has lately centered around the exclusion of Rabbi Michael Lerner of Ta'ayush, the Arab-Jewish Partnership, from speaking at the San Francisco anti-war protest on February 20th. For a detailed analysis of what happened, I refer readers to a section of Edward S. Herman’s article entitled "The Cruise Missile Is Left, Part 2" (Z Magazine, April 2003, page 38-39). The article notes that activists from six anti-war Jewish organizations spoke at that protest representing a broad spectrum of Jewish anti-war views, and that the representative of Ta'ayush was not invited to the planning meeting where Lerner was ruled ineligible to speak. The Ta'ayush representative raised no objection. The ground rules stated that no member of any of the organizing groups would be denied the podium. One might argue with these ground rules, but there is a larger point that is more important. Ed Herman writes that Lerner applies the term “anti-Semitism” not to people who hate Jews, but to those who assert that Israel today is a racist dangerously out-of-control state that needs to be stopped by the international community.

Progressive American Jews who would not support the slogan “My country, my right” or even, sometime, that slogan when it comes to Israel. For whatever (understandable) reasons, when they close their eyes or excuse what is going on in Israel, they have lived. I have been deeply affected by this genocide. As a member of a generation that came of age during the McCarthy era, I have had difficulty in understanding the gravity of its human rights offenses. The Israeli government with Jews as they see the subjugation of the Palestinian people. Thus, it is the U.S. government that is fostering the increase of anti-Semitism (and further terrorist attacks).

Although there may be a few real and dangerous anti-Semites who affiliate with the anti-war movement, and there may be occasional anti-Semitic signs at peace rallies, they represent a tiny minority in the movement. We must clearly isolate these people, but the propaganda directed against the peace movement for being anti-Semitic has no relation to the impact of such elements.

The point is that we must look at these facts on the ground and not be deterred by the lies of those who would try to divide us.

VVAW Should Not Be Forgotten

by Robert Dunn

AS A SON OF A VIETNAM VETERAN, I have seen the effects of war on a soldier by witnessing flashbacks and its effect on my father’s horror stories from 'Nam. In a sense, I had to live through Vietnam with him as he was reliving it. Now, my generation is being driven to go and fight in the current war.

"liberate the Iraqi people from Saddam Hussein," People that I have gone to war with and fought with, it is ridiculous to think that we should be fighting now in Iraq, I began to recognize the relevance of Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) and their continued fight for veterans and American GIs.

I learned about VVAW in high school when I went to a meeting of the Peace Action Coalition (PRC). I saw a copy of their locally-made newspaper "The Veteran," and I read a story about vets fighting for peace and social justice on all fronts. I was shocked since I was taught in high school with are now in Iraq, risking their lives for Big Business.

My library friends and I are outraged that the officials of the government of Israel occupy the possession of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as the Bush administration is now occupying Iraq. The Israeli officials, descendants of those who were persecuted and gassed during WWII, somehow find it possible to oppress other people. New York's Gordon of Ben-Gurion University in Israel notes that due to Israeli policies, per capita food consumption in the Gaza Strip has declined by 30 percent and the population is experiencing severe malnutrition equivalent to the poorest nations in Africa (The Nation, April 14, page 17).

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Protests, a Reflection
by Morton Brussel

At this time of frustration and anger over U.S. aggression against Iraq, the breadth of what can be done to thwart the seemingly inevitable and devastating course of events has arisen. There are questions about the usefulness of the protest movement in view of the failure to defeat the military aggression. It may be useful therefore to reconsider the nature and purpose of the movement, to stock of its achievements and what its future is likely to be.

Have the protests been in vain? Have the millions here and abroad who have gone into the streets, to the web pages, and to the letters columns of the newspapers to express their deep opposition to war - their anger and indignation that such an unjustifiable aggression could even be contemplated - did it have any beneficial effects? The answer must be yes. Here are some reasons:

1. Those who have participated in the protests rallies have had our spirits buoyed by being amongst those large, thoughtful, tolerant, diverse, peaceful, and determined crowds. We came to know that our views represent an important fraction and large cross section of the U.S. population. This has given us at least the illusion of power and hence the hope that our messages of peace and justice would be heard and would be heeded.

2. The fact that websites seemed to spring up on the internet to call for, organize, and coalesce a virtual audience into a real mass movement seemed miraculous and inspiring to those who participated.

3. Overseas, the mass protesting against U.S. intentions had tangible consequences. It strengthened the hands of those governments who opposed U.S. efforts to get a U.N. Security Council resolution for military intervention in Iraq and it encouraged war weary governments to stand against U.S. pressures.

4. The potential of the protests in the streets throughout the world could hardly be ignored by the mass media outlets - the TV channels and the major newspapers - so the reasons for opposing war and the manipulations of the Bush government received more exposure than otherwise would have occurred. It is noteworthy that in the U.S., the initial blatant distortions in much of the reporting of the protests made so obvious the deceit to a witnessing public that subsequent reporting of the protests was much improved.

5. Finally, the mass protests, in emphasizing the moral objections to the war, seem to have mitigated the "collateral damage" inflicted by the invasion. It more clearly shaped the propaganda - at the present juncture, the full extent of the cau- sualties and devastation is hidden, and we may never know it.

Now the situation has changed: the feared aggression has occurred, and we must decide how to confront it and how to avoid future aggressions.

With the present Bush administration, it seems clear that a deflection from its militaristic quest for domination over the world will occur only if there are credible threats to its contin- ued existence. With a no war government, and in the absence of a credible foreign military opposition such as existed in the cold war, the ultimate threats reside in politics and elections. It is useful therefore to list various factors or events which could threaten the present political support for the administration. Although it is unlikely, failure by the Bush regime to negotiate and to control Iraq, with substantial losses of American lives and slaughter of Iraqi civilians, could cause disgust, dissil- eusions, and dissatisfaction. It happened in Vietnam, and Lyndon Johnson abandoned the Presidency as a result.

There has been a debate in the protest community about the advisability of disruption. Some have argued that nonviolent activities are insufficient to change the course of events, that opposition to war needs to be more forceful, that it needs to be demonstrated that business as usual in the face of death and disaster is not an option, that when lives and livelihoods are at stake, drastic actions are called for. Of course, such is stuff of the making of resolutions. Lying on roads or railroad tracks to impede weapons delivery, invading military bases to disrupt and cast light on their activities, hammering and shedding blood on intercontinental ballistic missiles - all such actions are done to create stir in the foreigners.

It therefore seems clear that the protest movement can profitably act on two fronts. It can use educational processes to increase public knowledge of what is and has been going on, in the hope that this will change the public's consciousness and conscience. It can act politically to support candidates for national office who oppose the militaristic and repressive Bush policies and oppose those who are acquiescent of those policies. It can act as a huge pressure group. We have to decide on the strategies and choices to be employed to obtain the greatest pay-offs, not what to do so much as how to do it. It is this question of the "how" that I now address.

The outpouring of protest against the war has been largely mobilized by a repugnance to a war of aggression, a war whose victims are seen to be the innocent and the vulnerable, an aggression whose stated justifications have been felt to be hollow, inconsistent, deceitful, and hypocritical. Many have also joined in protest because they've seen in the Bush policies a dangerous threat to society itself, a rejection of the United Nations and its charter, a danger to a just world order, and a turning backwards towards the barbarism of "might makes right" and the law of the jungle.

People have turned out in order to make a show of strength, to have their voices heard, or to release their frustra- tions. We hoped that others, including political and cultural leaders, would join in so that our message would resound throughout the country, to have their voices heard, or to release their frustra- tions. We hoped that others, including political and cultural leaders, would join in so that our message would resound throughout the country, to have their voices heard, or to release their frustra- tions. We hoped that others, including political and cultural leaders, would join in so that our message would resound throughout the country, to have their voices heard, or to release their frustra- tions. We hoped that others, including political and cultural leaders, would join in so that our message would resound throughout the country, to have their voices heard, or to release their frustra- tions. 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Impeachment: Something Worth Voting For

By Lisa Chason

When President George W. Bush, Vice President Richard B. Cheney, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, and Attorney General John D. Ashcroft are eventually impeached for crimes against humanity, we can look back and say it started here, when UIUC law professor Francis Boyle announced the beginning of the campaign on October 7, 2002 at a rally on the university quad. Since then this work has been shared with Ramsey Clark, U.S. Attorney General in the Johnson administration and renowned human rights lawyer, and there are now many websites devoted to impeachment.

On March 11 Boyle and Clark met with John Conyers, D-Michigan, the ranking member of the House Judiciary Committee (if the Democrats were to win control of the House he would be chair). Any action would have to start here. Conyers convened a two-hour meeting in Washington with almost fifty top advisors, most of them lawyers, to hear the arguments to file a second draft of the impeachment bill. Several congressional staff members are surveying the public to determine the level of support for such an action. What is needed now is a member of Congress to introduce it.

Boyle concedes that this is not very likely in a Republican-controlled Congress. Indeed he stresses that a significant point about this call for impeachment is that it is grassroots-based. Full-page advertisements, costing around $45,000 apiece, with the funds raised from public contributions, have appeared in several major newspapers including the New York Times and the San Francisco Chronicle. Impeach Bush has become a major theme at most recent demonstrations, and over 250,000 people already have cast their vote for impeachment at www.VoteToImpeach.org, with a goal of one million.

When asked if initiating impeachment was not most because Congress voted to give Bush the authority to act in November, Boyle answered that the Constitution clearly requires a declaration of war by the legislature. Congress gave the President conditional authority providing he exhausted all means of diplomacy and that the attack was necessary for vital national security. According to Boyle such a case was not made, what the administration has said is based on lies and a formal declaration is still needed. The campaign received strong imnput recently when Colin L. Powell, Secretary of State under George Bush Senior, said an extension of the war against Iraq was unthinkable. In an impassioned BBC interview and an article in the April 14 issue of the UK newspaper the Mirror, Mr. Eagleburger said that if George W. Bush were to take military action against Syria or Iran he would support impeachment.

The Constitutional

The Constitution mentions impeachment six times. It is part of the system of checks and balances and provides the legislative branch a way to try the President, Vice President, cabinet members or federal judges. The term “impeachment” has an aura greater than its technical meaning, which is equivalent only to the power to indict. The process begins in the House of Representatives judicial committee, which conducts an investigation and can then make charges, known as Articles of Impeachment. Each article requires a majority vote of the House. When this is successful, the President has been impeached. The case then passes to the Senate where the trial takes place.

The impeachment process has been initiated against several presidents in recent times including Harry Truman, Ronald Reagan, George Bush Sr., and of course Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton. In fact, the case now being considered is based on the same grounds introduced by Boyle and the late Representative Henry B. Gonzales (D-TX) in calling for impeachment of the first President Bush. Gonzales kept the case alive in the Clinton administration but dropped it in 1994 when Democrats lost control of the House.

Only Presidents Andrew Johnson, in 1868, Nixon, and Clinton were in danger of being removed from office. In Nixon’s case he resigned before the process could run its course. As for Clinton, the proceedings reached the stage of trial before the Senate, but the final vote (46-54 on perjury, 50-50 on obstruction) failed to produce the two-thirds needed for conviction and removal.

There are now a large number of websites devoted to documenting Bush and his administration’s offenses. You can find them by searching for “impeach Bush.” Cast your vote at the VoteToImpeach website given above, and call Representative Tim Johnson (202-225-2371) to let him know that his constituents support this growing movement.
**International View From Guatemala**

by Jessica Pupovac

**As the war in Iraq progresses, I feel the need to share with you, my friends and family, what I have experienced. People have been living outside of the US for many years to escape this frightening reality. In Guatemala, there has been a significant ongoing presence outside of the US Embassy vehemently opposed to the war. One day last week during lunch and someone threw red paint on me. After dinner, I went to the balcony and banged on pots and pans...”**

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**Wartime Reflections from Spain**

by Jim Kotowski

Jim Kotowski spent junior year of college (‘86-'87) in Barcelona as a student, and squandered his time in the company of other US-Americans, which is something one can easily do in Illinois. He is now fulfilling his vow to come back “do it right”, teaching English and living Barcelona life in a more integrated fashion, looking forward to walking through Spain this summer via the Camino de Santiago, a medieval pilgrimage road that is still quite active today.

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**One thing I remember of the Spanish people, when I was there 15 years ago as a young American study abroad student, was their attention to political matters. I never was part of one, but they seemed to have a lot of demonstrations; their news seemed to go a little deeper than the relentless parade of fires, shootings and tragedy I was used to in the US. It seems telling to me now that, due to the relative abundance of syllables present in the Spanish language, I referred to it as “talking like a machine gun”.

This time around I am a bit more integrated into things. I have been part of a demonstration, chanted the sad and stirring refrain, “No, no, guerra no, guerra, no guerra!” (“No war!”), basically, laughed at banners depicting Spanish President José Maria Aznar having sex with Tony Blair, who was doing the same to George W. Bush, and marvelled at the sheer number of people present. I especially felt a sort of wonder that so many children were singing slogans of peace, as well as senior citizens - but wasn’t a demonstration a dangerous thing? Not this one. It was a long part, several hours with my friends, but it was peaceful and passionate - and if any combination of factors can stop or slow the advance of greed, folly and violence now so painfully obvious to so many, it is that of peace and passion.

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**It is amazing to me, the amount of public outcry that is going on right now throughout the world. People in Asia, in Africa, in Central and South America and throughout Europe have been marching in the streets and speaking out against the largest common enemy, and potential threat, the world has ever known.**

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**Even in the conservative Guatemalan press, articles about the US empire needing a new enemy, the civil wars in Iraq, and the arrogance of US foreign policy inundate the coverage of the war. Many Guatemalan journalists are very afraid not only of what this attack means to international security and respect for international law but of what it will do to the poorest nations in the world, whose economies are already in a recession when the US economy sneezes.**

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**CNN, which some friends of mine have here, seems to have become the official station of the US Department of Defense. I hear terms like “Operation Freedom for Iraq” and laugh. “Who’s buying any of this?” I ask. And then I realize, 80% of my fellow Americans (I’m told), want to think that it’s their fault and that they are being lied to, but I wonder how much they want to believe what they hear. I know that if the US were to use the tools available to them - their educated minds, the internet, compassion - it wouldn’t be this way.**

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**I read last week that Bush has signed an executive order that makes it easier for government officials, including the White House, to keep documents classified and out of public view. From the NY Times: “The order delays by three years the release of classified gov- ernment documents dating from 1978 or earlier and treats all material sent to American officials from foreign govern- ments -- no matter how routine -- as subject to classification. It expands the ability of the Central Intelligence Agency to shield documents from declassification. And for the first time, it gives the vice president the power to classify information.” The Center for Public Integrity (www.publicintegrity.org) apparently obtained a draft version of the second Patriot Act, which makes all information gathering, including research, a possible “weapon of mass destruction” and considers any criminal a “terrorist,” eligible for deportation, even if you are a natural born citizen. I read reports circulating in activist circles of artists and organizers being harassed by plain-clothed government officials and being asked questions and warned that they should stop their subver- sive activities. A man in Washington was arrested in a mall two weeks ago for wear- ing a t-shirt that read, “Give Peace a Chance.” I feel that these acts are the acts of a frightened emperor, who can see the imminent crumbling of his empire. I worry for my country and I worry for the American people. I hope that none of you forget that there is nothing more American than dissonance and that if you do not exercise your rights, you will, indeed, have them taken away from you. Peace, Jessica**

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**Jim Kotowski spent junior year of college (‘86-'87) in Barcelona as a student, and squandered his time in the company of other US-American, which is something one can easily do in Illinois. He is now fulfilling his vow to come back “do it right”, teaching English and living Barcelona life in a more integrated fashion, looking forward to walking through Spain this summer via the Camino de Santiago, a medieval pilgrimage road that is still quite active today.**

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**The television images that I remember of the Spanish people, when I was there 15 years ago as a young American study abroad student, was their attention to political matters. I never was part of one, but they seemed to have a lot of demonstrations; their news seemed to go a little deeper than the relentless parade of fires, shootings and tragedy I was used to in the US. It seems telling to me now that, due to the relative abundance of syllables present in the Spanish language, I referred to it as “talking like a machine gun”.**

---

**As it is, Basque is a language in danger of extinction, a language that is essentially dying. There are hints of increased tensions, at least among the demographically singular adolescent crowd. Isolated incidents have been reported including the sack of the local McDonald’s and the egging of politicians and offices of President Aznar’s “Popular Party”.

The television images that I remember of the Spanish people, when I was there 15 years ago as a young American study abroad student, was their attention to political matters. I never was part of one, but they seemed to have a lot of demonstrations; their news seemed to go a little deeper than the relentless parade of fires, shootings and tragedy I was used to in the US. It seems telling to me now that, due to the relative abundance of syllables present in the Spanish language, I referred to it as “talking like a machine gun”.**
Meet the Coalition!

by Sarah Boyer

Peppered throughout broadcast and print media reports on the Iraq War is the term “coalition”. Very early in the war, Secretary of State Colin Powell appeared on Fox News with Brit Hume and described the coalition members as “part of this great effort to rid Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction and provide a better life for the Iraqi people by getting rid of this regime.” But discovering who is part of this effort and what each coalition member is contributing (and why) is less than obvious. The White House webpage (www.whitehouse.gov) lists the coalition members without individual contributions. Digging and sifting through mainstream press articles, government, and NGO sources is required simply to learn exactly what kind of support the Bush Administration has pulled together. And, after reading the compiled list that follows, the real purpose of this “lie of omission” becomes apparent.

The Big, the Bad, the US, & Australia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Troops</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>574,000</td>
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<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<td>Australia</td>
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Many nations that contributed troops to Gulf War I (Saudi Arabia, Egypt, France) are noticeably absent from the current coalition. In addition, most current coalition members are participating in a very limited way—either by providing political support or postwar reconstruction and humanitarian aid. Certainly many non-coalition members will supply reconstruction or humanitarian relief as well—without the dubious title of coalition member—through the UN. Technically, the 49 countries in this coalition is a numerically larger group than the 43 countries in 1991, but only 3 countries are sending significant numbers of troops in this war—compared to the 17 countries which sent combat troops in 1991. Regardless, three-quarters of the 191 UN member nations elected not to participate in this coalition.

Final Note: This is not to argue that a coalition is not a positive thing. In most cases, coalition is simply a euphemism for US. But then again, in a war where “conquer” is redefined as “liberate,” it’s not very surprising that the US is the head of a rather weak-kneed coalition indeed.

Introducing...Compacts of Free Association (CFA)

In a Compact of Free Association, countries receive aid in exchange for US military access. However, since these three have no independent military, the US is also responsible for their defense. In addition to aid, CFA citizens are eligible to enlist in the US military. All three have citizens serving in the US armed forces, so technically these “coalition” members are providing troops.

MARSHALL ISLANDS Political support; Home to the US Army Base Kwajalein (USAKA) since 1964; Entered into a CFA in 1986 for $39m in annual aid.

PALAU US granted 50 years of military access to the islands in 1994 for $700 million spread over 15 years; South Pacific island nowhere close to Iraq; About 20 Palau citizens currently serve in the US military.

MICRONESIA Political support; Achieved independence under a 1986 CFA which is currently being renegotiated ($1.3b during 1986-2001); Directly from www.cia.gov: “Federalated States of Micronesia (FSM) is a sovereign, self-governing state in free association with the US and fully dependent on the US for its defense...” Free and dependent—interesting definition of free association.

You scratch my back...

ERICA & ETHIOPIA These bitter rivals seek US support in a boundary dispute. One hundred thousand citizens and refugees from both countries are refugees as a result of the 1998-2000 border war. Human Rights Watch has documented: prolonged detention; lack of food, water, and medical care; beatings and other physical abuse. With the final decision concerning the border between Ethiopia and Eritrea scheduled for May 2003, both countries want US favor. In addition, freedoms of association, religion, press, and privacy protections are questionable or nonexistent in both countries.

Sure...I'll help you move....

SINGAPORE Opens military bases and air space to the US; Relies on US for security in case of dispute. Concern its neighbor, Malaysia.

SLOVAKIA Chemical-biological warfare support unit; Overflights and humanitarian missions; EU and NATO candidate.

CZECH REPUBLIC Chemical-biological warfare support unit; Overflights and humanitarian missions; EU and NATO candidate.

Romania 278 experts in landmine removal and chemical-biological decontamination; Basing and overflight rights. Participating in post-conflict peacemaking and humanitarian missions; EU and NATO candidate.

Netherlands Anti-missile batteries and 360 soldiers.... to Turkey to defend the border with Iraq. Participating in post-conflict peacemaking and humanitarian missions; NATO member.

Hungary Provided a base for US training of Iraqi opposition members as interpreters and guides for US troops; Helping with reconstruction and refugees; NATO member.

Ukraine 500 nuclear, biological, and chemical decontamination experts. Assisting with reconstruction and refugees.
With friends like these....

AZERBAIJAN  Political support; To receive almost $50m in foreign aid in 2004; Torture and physical abuse of detainees in Azerbaijan is common for both political and non-political detainees.

UZBEKISTAN  Promises support (as an ally in the war on terrorism); Receives US military assistance; To receive almost $60m in US aid in 2004; Human Rights Watch has documented arbitrary arrests, unfair trials, and torture of hundreds of independent Muslims since October 2001. Most government officials are former Soviet officials; Current president has held office since 1990 after several referenda to "extend" his term (which now runs until 2007); No functioning independent judiciary; Government controls the media and press; 88% of population is Sunni Muslim and primarily rural cotton farmers.

RWANDA  An estimated 800,000 Rwandans were killed in 100 days in 1994; Half of all Rwandan refugees have returned home; Vast majority of those who have returned have not been traced or registered publicly; 90% of those who have returned have not received any form of assistance; The New York Times, June 24, 2003.

ANGOLA  85% of population subsistence farmers; Oil and diamonds are main exports; US purchases half of Angola's total oil exports (which total 900,000 barrels a day as of 4/03); 50% unemployment; 85,000 soldiers and their 340,000 family members are completely dependent on government or international aid; World's leading coca producer and an "active aerial eradication supplier of 90% of US cocaine and an "active aerial eradication program."

UGANDA  Declared a British protectorate in 1860 and attained independence in 1962; Expelled a UN aid agency rep in April after a disagreement over transfer of refugees; Diverse country in regards to geography and culture but not politics — only one military-controlled political party.

POLAND  Finally agreed to overflight rights and political support, but never agreed to specific military support and, as a result, lost a US proposal of $13b in grants and loan guarantees; Opposed to Kurdish control of oil-rich Kirkuk or Mosul in N. Iraq and fears an independent Kurdish state would include Turkish Kurds and territory; Kurd population denied political and cultural rights — speaking Kurd or wearing Kurdish colors is illegal; Currently involved in a dispute with the Philippines.

TURKEY  Currently occupied and protected by US and other "War on Terrorism" allies; Set to receive $550m in US foreign aid in 2004 and currently receives $327m to fight terrorism, $437m to build an army, and $337m for relief, resettlement, and reconstruction.

PHILIPPINES  Political/moral support; Currently receives US military assistance and will receive almost $900m in US aid in 2004; Popular revolt against Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos occurred in 1986 without US military intervention (or, in this case, protection), but rather by the people of the Philippines.

FACT or Fiction?

Fact

MOROCCO  Not on list as of 5/13

Raised chickens for use in detecting chemical attacks (think canaries in coal mines), but the project was abandoned due to high costs and lack of funding.

MOROCCO --- NOT ON LIST AS OF 5/1/03


Follow the money

TURKEY  Currently occupied and protected by US and other "War on Terrorism" allies; Set to receive $550m in US foreign aid in 2004 and currently receives $327m to fight terrorism, $437m to build an army, and $337m for relief, resettlement, and reconstruction.

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ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA  All three are currently seeking US financial/military support through NATO; None existed as sovereign states during the 1991 Gulf War; EU and NATO candidates.

KINGDOM OF TONGA  Four times the size of DC (747 sq. mi.); Imports of coal and oil exceed exports; The government is responsible for the country's national debt of $300m.


I'll just supervise....

SOUTH KOREA  May send engineering battalion (500 troops); Helping with reconstruction.

ITALY  Opened bases and air space; Supportive of US position; Home to three US air bases; NATO member.

SPAIN  Political support but no military assistance (80% of population oppose military intervention); Offering warplanes — to defend Turkey from an Iraqi attack and one medical ship; Opened NATO bases.

JAPAN  Financial support for the reconstruction of Iraq; Japan's constitution bans the use of force in settling international disputes (What a novel idea! Wonder who thought of that...? Oh, wait,...).

GEORGIA  Political/moral support and use of air bases; To receive a little less than $90m in US aid in 2004.

PORTUGAL  Granted permission to use Lajes Field air base in the Azores Islands as a refueling stop; the Azores was also the site of summit between Bush, Blair, and Spanish Prime Minister Aznar before the war.

ICELAND  Postwar humanitarian relief; Has no independent army and is currently defended by the US-led Icelandic Defense Force; NATO member.

MACEDONIA & MONGOLIA  Political support only.

SOLOMON ISLANDS  Political support (has no independent military); Achieved independence from UK in 1978; Denies supporting the coalition or being a member but continues to be listed on official White House list.

COSTA RICA, HONDURAS, PANAMA  Political support; Panama's official statement says that they: "understand your decision to grant to the Iraqi people the chance to enjoy democracy, peace and respect for human rights."
The Neoliberal Noose Hanging Nicaragua

by Meghan Krausch

Meghan is a grown-up who lives in Urbana. Likes: social justice, abortion, democracy. Dislikes: American hegemony, birds.

What I didn’t expect from my trip to Nicaragua was for such a clear picture to emerge. Although I learned many things about the gray of life in a “third world” country—not every maquila worker is poor, not every poor person is unhappy, many people do have high school or even college educations—I also learned how startlingly black and white international power dynamics can seem when viewed through the bottom-up lens.

The daily minimum wage for a worker in a Free Trade Zone is $33 Cordobas ($US 2.20). This is the amount of rice, beans, and oil that $33 will purchase to feed the average family of six.

THE LEGACY OF IMPERIALISM

Nicaragua has been struggling under the yoke of colonialism (now called “foreign intervention”) since the Spanish invaded Central America in Columbus’s wake. In the past two centuries, though, the United States has been primarily responsible for enslaving Nicaragua in the service of Western capitalism.

In 1855, only thirty-four years after Nicaragua’s independence from Spain, an American named William Walker invaded Nicaragua and declared himself the head of state. It didn’t last long. In the 1920s and 1930s, U.S. Marines occupied Nicaragua. And in the 1980s, as we all know, the U.S. government funded the Contra rebels in a war against the Sandinistas, the socialists who had driven U.S.-supported dictator Anastasio Somoza from power in 1979. The Contra war ended only in 1990, when Violeta Chamorro was elected president under new democratic elections.

THE REALITY OF IMPERIALISM

Currently, Nicaragua’s external debt totals U.S.$36.6 billion. Nicaragua’s annual GDP is only U.S.$21.6 billion. Nicaragua will pay $225 million this year just to service this debt, meaning that it will spend that amount of money simply in order to service the minimum interest payments necessary to borrow more money from institutions like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Nicaragua owes the United States and international financial institutions billions of dollars to service this debt. Why do the people of Nicaragua pay the bill? Because the U.S.-backed Contras agreed to abandon Nicaragua’s claim to the money in exchange for loans and other aid. And why does the IMF keep encouraging privatization and other measures if it isn’t helping Nicaragua? Because the IMF policies are helping the countries whose investors are able to come into Nicaragua and make a fortune by selling utility services. They’re helping the international financial institutions get back some of their loan money by providing governments with quick cash. Most of all, they’re helping to ensure the world economic status quo.

In 1987, the World Court ruled that the United States owed Nicaragua $17 billion dollars in damages for mining Nicaragua’s harbors. The United States does not recognize the jurisdiction of the World Court, so it has never recognized that debt. U.S.-backed Chamorro agreed to abandon Nicaragua’s claim to the money in exchange for loans and other aid. So why does the IMF keep encouraging privatization and other measures if it isn’t helping Nicaragua? Because the IMF policies are helping the countries whose investors are able to come into Nicaragua and make a fortune by selling utility services. That’s why the IMF keeps encouraging privatization and other measures if it isn’t helping Nicaragua.

It’s like paying the bill. According to Carlos Pacheco, a Nicaraguan economist, the situation got so out of hand that Union Fenosa cut the power to a branch of the Nicaraguan government that hadn’t paid its bill—the branch that is responsible for monitoring the seismic activity in the region.

Union Fenosa, the Spanish transnational company that bought Nicaragua’s national electric company has raised electricity rates drastically in order to increase the efficiency of the company. The raise was so drastic that neighborhood associations (and some government agencies) can no longer afford to buy electricity. For a family living on $600 Cordobas a month—minimum wage for policemen and teachers—electricity amounts to about 76% of their income. Furthermore, a private company has no incentive to provide electricity and services to those who are unlike-
Local CU Residents Protest Monsanto's Involvement in Colombia Spraying

by Melissa Villegas & Demian Kogan

On Monday, March 24, 2003, seventy-four activists rallied in front of Monsanto headquarters wielding signs and chanting to end the aerial fumigation in Colombia. Seven Champaign-Urbana community members, including five University of Illinois students, made the trip to St. Louis to participate in the day-long action in protest of the use of Roundup herbicide, the chemical manufactured by Monsanto and used to fumigate Colombian coca crops.

Colombia Mobilization, a national organization that works to transform US policy in Colombia, coordinated the protest. The weekend of action was a two-day event, comprised of a beach-in the first day discussing Monsanto's role in Colombian issues, followed by the protest the following day.

"The situation in Colombia is atrocious. The US justifies its actions in Colombia with the War on Drug rhetoric. It is a War on Drugs, but it is an unjust and inadequately appropriated war," said Kenneth Okeke, senior in economics and international studies who attended the protest.

LOCAL PROGRESSIVE ACTION

The UIUC SOAW and the Latin American issues committee of the University’s Amnesty International group.

Our group specifically focuses on Colombia and closing of the School of the Americas/Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (SOA/WHISC). We focus on Colombia because at this time the largest percentage of students attending SOA/WHISC are brought from Colombia. We participate in the annual protest at Ft. Benning (Georgia, where the SOA is located) and attend events organized by Colombia Mobilization in the spring semester," said graduate student and coordinator of UIUC SOAW Stephanie Crandall.

The SOA is responsible for the training of many Latin American soldiers who orchestrate some of the worst human rights violations in the region. Last spring, the group attended the national Colombia Mobilization protest in Washington, DC.

DELETERIOUS EFFECTS OF FUMIGATION

According to Don Fitz, the executive director for Gateway Green Education and one of the speakers at the teach-in, Roundup is being sprayed in massive amounts over the coca fields of Colombia under the guise of eradicating the coca plant from which cocaine is obtained. It was found that glyphosate - the main ingredient in Roundup - is hundreds of times more toxic to fish and invertebrates as compared to people. The fumigation process also results in "drifting" of the chemical upon food crops, exacerbating the process of starvation occurring in Colombia.

According to Jess Hunter, who spent four years with a Witness for Peace delegation in Colombia and who has done extensive research on the effects of fumigation on Colombian farmers, several deaths have been reported as a consequence of herbicide exposure directly resulting from aerial fumigation.Fumigation in Colombia is done with the fumigations are incidents of rashes and blisters appearing on children’s feet who had been playing on sprayed land.

"The fumigation process is failing," Hunter said. Farmers who manually eradicate their coca crop are getting fumigated anyway. Ways have been found to thwart the eradication campaigns. Sprayed coca can simply be cut at the root and will re-grow. A certain type of honey, known as Miel de Pulga (honey of the flea), can be applied to the plant before it is fumigated, and the herbicide will simply roll off the plant rendering it ineffective. Hunter also stated that the fumigation contributes to hunger and malnutrition via fumigation of food crops. During the nonviolent daylong protest, speakers focused on the detrimental effects of fumigation on the health and well being of the Colombian people. Between speakers were songs and chants of solidarity. Protestors lined the road holding signs reading "End Fumigation;" "Stop the ChemikIlls;" "Fumigation is Chemical Warfare;" and "Hey Monsanto Complicity Guilty Too." Passing vehicles honked horns in support. At one point, the organizers placed a large wooden sign covering the official Monsanto sign that read "Monsanto Chemical Warfare Division." In response to the damaging effects that Roundup has inflicted on the Colombian people.

WHAT COLOMBIA NEEDS (NOT MORE GUNS)

According to Peter Clark, a Senior Associate for Advocacy and Public Education at the US Office of Colombia (USOC, a progressive non-governmental organization) and another speaker at the Monsanto protest, as a result of Plan Colombia - the $1.3 billion yearly military aid to Colombia, "This is as brutal and immoral as any war," Zaraite-Lauw explains. In her speech, she presented an overhead transparency with a quote from May 2, 2000 by then-President Bill Clinton to a group of business executives.

"When we have an opportunity like the [Free Trade Area of the Americas), we have to take it. And when we have a challenge like the challenge of Colombia, we have to meet it. But we need all your help. We need to win in Colombia. We have to win the fight for the FTAAs. We have to prove that freedom and free markets go hand in hand."

This shows the connection between the "War on Drugs" and neo-liberal free trade aspirations.

DIRECT ACTION IN ST-LOUIS

The protest culminated in a nonviolent direct action in which three protesters, dressed in white hazardous material suits, demanded access to Monsanto headquarters to seek out the damaging chemicals and any receipts of purchase between the US government and the corporation. The suits had three letters stitched onto the back: "C.I.T." representing "Civilian Inspection Team," in reference to the right of civilians to know if there are hazardous materials which could potentially be made into weapons present at the facility. After given three warnings to back off the property, the three were handcuffed and arrested by the waiting police for their action. Fellow protesters sang and clapped in support of their actions.

AFFILIATED ACTIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

While Monsanto was targeted in the Midwest, several other regional demonstrations simultaneously occurred. Across the US, protesters also gathered at the corporate headquarters of Occidental Petroleum, Coca-Cola and UTC Sikorsky to bring light to the unethical and horrendous direct and indirect acts that these corporations are undertaking to benefit from the US funded war in Colombia. As people in Atlanta spoke out against Coca-Cola's anti-union policies in Colombia, the people of Hartford, Connecticut expressed their opposition to UTC Sikorsky's involvement of weapon contributions to the Colombian military. On the West Coast, people gathered in Los Angeles to protest Occidental's defense of their pipeline in Colombia at any cost.

IN THE FUTURE

"UIUC SOAW will continue addressing this issue in the years to come. Strategies we plan to incorporate include attending the annual protests in Fort Benning, Georgia and holding teach-ins to the public about our experience and what was accomplished. Mobilization is key, especially amongst the US student population, in hindering the world of the SOA," said Okeke.

Because the fumigation and US policy is unlikely drastically change within the next year, UIUC SOAW will continue work on the Colombian issue until change is realized.

"I would like to think in future years that UIUC SOAW will focus on closing SOA/WHISC until that base is closed and justice is served. And when that is accomplished, hopefully the group will continue to fight for justice throughout Latin American countries for both tragedies of the past and those that still occur today," said Crandall.
IMC Capital Campaign for Permanent Home

by Mike Lehman

The Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center recently kicked off its Capital Campaign to raise funds to purchase a permanent home for its independent media and arts programs. Since its founding in the fall of 2000, the UCIMC has outgrown our original meeting space, a large living room, where it was decided that a public space was a necessity for our vision of the IMC as a community center. In January 2001, the UCIMC opened in its present location at 218 West Main Street in downtown Urbana. Just over a year ago, the Back Room at the IMC was opened, followed by the remodeled Gallery at the New Year, to provide space for performing arts and to accommodate the growing demands for accessible, artist-friendly community space. Of course, we continue with our original mission, putting media production resources in the hands of the community via the public i, our website (www.ucimc.org), radio and video production facilities, and programs that utilize WEXIT 90.3FM and cable access to serve our diverse community.

The IMC is a financial success, bringing in enough money every month to sustain the many programs mentioned above. As IMC membership has continued to grow, stabilizing IMC finances through the purchase of our own space has become an important goal in order to build financial equity and independence to better serve the IMC membership along with the community. We have not settled on a new home, yet, although there are a number of properties that could serve as an IMC.

A space of this size doesn’t come cheap. We would like to at least double the space currently available, a requirement that implies an investment of between $250,000 and $400,000. Thus we have set a goal of raising $100,000 by December 31, 2003 to provide a twenty percent down payment, along with a reserve fund for needed modifications and repairs to ready the building for use as an IMC.

Our idea of a permanent home for the IMC has captured the imagination of our membership, inspiring initial donations of $7,000 from them, along with another $6,000 in pledges. A generous and visionary anonymous donor raised $20,000, to be used for matching funds. With $27,000 in our Capital Campaign Fund, pledges. A generous and visionary anonymous donor raised $20,000, to be used for matching funds. With $27,000 in our Capital Campaign Fund, an investment of

Sascha Meinrath at sascha@ucimc.org, or call him at 344-0183. All donations identified as Capital Campaign Funds are dedicated solely to the purpose of purchasing and improving property for a permanent home for the UCIMC. The UCIMC is a 501c3 non-profit and all donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law and your tax status.

Poem: Untitled

by Meg Miner

Old Glory
Listen to a Gold Star Mom
Listen to an orphaned child
Old, yes, old. Glories? Stories?

"We saved their butts in Europe. How could they be so ungrateful?"

Glories, yes, resting on their ...

Laures ... gathered from fields filled with heroes in distant lands.
We did not demand an Oath of Fealty. That is not our way.
Or it’s not supposed to be.

What glories now?

Forcibly liberated emaciated bruised beaten dysentery-infected people ...
just as soon as it was in our interest to do so.

"How could those A-rabs be so ungrateful. They must have our ideals"

And tough love for dis-loyal dissenters.

Old? Yes, old. Everlasting.

Gory Glory
So when it is your loved one, dead for the cause, you can be sure you will get one

A flag of your very own, made by a dollar-a-day laborer we delivered from oppression and into the hands of … Wal-Mart

Yes, you’ll get your very own flag, just as soon as it was in our interest to do so.

Cut loose from crooked spine, folded slowly, pressed gently, now, to your breast, paid for again once.

No longer weaponized, cushioning your pain

Old Glories
Listen to a hero
Listen to a martyr
And when soldiers who can, do march home ...

"Whew, that was tough. Lucky thing we were in the right" - the Prospect patriots will say

How will this gift, this symbol of our gratitude, your take-home token of respect compare to the loving glance, the warm touch, that came from your hero, who fought their martyr?

Will you hoist it? Encase it and dust it off for generations? Pack it away, too horrible to contemplate?

"No matter, we’ll make more – war is good for the economy."

And there are our prospects – cleaned, repackaged and ready to be bought again.
To float, disembowled, close to faintly gleaming staff

Once more, dis-remembering all dis-membering
Still looming, not quite benignly in the dark

* definitions from www.usflag.org
Chillin’ with the Arch-Villians...

In the Middle East...or maybe Texas...
The War in Iraq is over, but the War on Terrot will never end and peace will prevail.

Man, I had no other weapon, or glass, or bone....
Touched my TV, and I’ll give you a whosin’ of ass destruction.

ReCuLeaR eVeNts @ the IMC

Open Stage Cabaret, Thursdays 8-10pm
Yoga Classes, Wednesdays 5-7pm
A.W.A.R.E. Meetings, Sundays 5pm-7pm
Prairie Greens, 1st & 3rd Wednesdays 7-8pm

Meetings @ the IMC

Steering Group - Wednesdays 8pm
Librarians - Tuesdays 8pm
Finance - 1st & 3rd Wednesdays 7:00pm
Print - Thursdays 5:15pm
Shows - Thursdays 7:00pm
Video - Tuesdays, 7:30pm
Web - 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7:30pm

SpeCiaL eVeNts @ the IMC

SATURDAY, MAY 3 4PM-6PM
IMC Zine Reading II

SATURDAY, MAY 3 8PM
Middle Room Gallery: Art Opening for Julie Guyot
Indie Rock

SATURDAY, MAY 10 8PM
Everybody Uh Oh, Written in the Sand, Books on Tape [Chicago], Monk
Indie Rock

SATURDAY, MAY 17 8PM
Words That Burn, Uniform Pants, Skullcrusher, Hollowed Out
Hardcore Punk

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21 8PM
Intense Youth
Hardcore Punk:

SATURDAY, MAY 24 8PM
IMC Folk Music Series: Ellen Rosner with G. Lee and Jet Blonde
Acoustic Indie Rockers

SUNDAY, MAY 25 8PM
Noise show

FRIDAY, MAY 30 8PM
The Skeleton Dance
Goth DJ Dance Night

SATURDAY, JUNE 6 8PM
Q and Not U, French Toast, The Dynamo Theorem
Indie Rock

The Middle Room Gallery @ the IMC, 218 W. Main

Julie Guyot, an exhibition of recent works
May 3rd – May 30th
Opening reception May 3, 7-9pm

"I am interested in the tedium of our days. Most of us are required to perform the same tasks day after day. This can become boring and monotonous and sometimes even lead to feelings of depression and hopelessness. We feel so stuck in what we think we have to do that we are unable to see the beauty in our work or our surroundings. Sometimes we become so focused on one small repetitive element that we fail to take a step back and witness the beauty of the collection of those components.

These are my days, this is my collection. I work spontaneously and intuitively, usually without sketches or detailed plans. I experiment. I play. I stitch, stain, dye, rip, wrap, and cast materials. Although this work contains a sense of history, it is important to realize that these works are not found objects. Although a few components have been acquired, these pieces have been distressed, used, weathered and discarded, leaving the memory of what they once protected."

Contact Sandra to submit entries
367-6345, spiritofsandra@hotmail.com

Call for Entries

Dolls & Dresses

A Group Show
Middle Room Gallery, IMC, 218 W. Main, Urbana
June 7 – June 30
Opening Reception June 7, 7-9pm

Ellen Rosner

Bitch and Animal

Bitch and Animal presents a pumpkie queer pussy manifesting performance! Tribal Folk Improvisation from Ani DiFranco’s Righteous Babe Label. This is a must see show. Advance tickets are available at Record Service.

MondAy, JuNE 2 8PM
Bitch and Animal

Q and Not U (Dischord Records) will tour in support of their new record Different Damage. This date is a makeup for the April 14 date which was cancelled.

This show also features French Toast (w/james Canty of the Make-Up and The Nation of Ulysses) and locals The Dynamo Theorem.

Contact Sandra to submit entries
367-6345, spiritofsandra@hotmail.com

Bitch and Animal

The Middle Room Gallery

@ the IMC, 218 W. Main

Julie Guyot

Ellen Rosner

Call for Entries

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The Middle Room Gallery

@ the IMC, 218 W. Main

Julie Guyot, an exhibition of recent works
May 3rd – May 30th
Opening reception May 3, 7-9pm

"I am interested in the tedium of our days. Most of us are required to perform the same tasks day after day. This can become boring and monotonous and sometimes even lead to feelings of depression and hopelessness. We feel so stuck in what we think we have to do that we are unable to see the beauty in our work or our surroundings. Sometimes we become so focused on one small repetitive element that we fail to take a step back and witness the beauty of the collection of those components.

These are my days, this is my collection. I work spontaneously and intuitively, usually without sketches or detailed plans. I experiment. I play. I stitch, stain, dye, rip, wrap, and cast materials. Although this work contains a sense of history, it is important to realize that these works are not found objects. Although a few components have been acquired, these pieces have been distressed, used, weathered and discarded, leaving the memory of what they once protected."

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