

ULTRAVIOLET

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Brrrr: An Arctic Move for UN



New York--UN ambassador Micky Holey proposed that, given the more temperate climate in the Arctic, the North Pole would be a more appropriate location for the UN. "It's time to get it out of New York," Holey said, "where it is constantly making poor foreign policy decisions such as the recent condemnation of moving US embassies to Jerusalem." She noted that the move of all US embassies, currently scattered around the globe, to Jerusalem would create "one-stop shopping." "When you think about it, the North Pole is really the capital of the world," she said, noting that virtually all world airlines fly the polar routes. The mandate in the tax bill to drill in the arctic wildlife refuge will bring a new economic vitality to the region, Holey said.

Holey noted that there is even an appropriate site available. "When Kal-el (*aka Superman-ed.*) abandoned his arctic Fortress of Solitude for other locations in the Antarctic and the rain forest, the huge complex, complete with an interplanetary zoo, became available. It even has a golden door and golden key," she said. "It may seem cold now," she said. "But believe me, future generations will thank us."

Isn't Puerto Rico Getting Better?

by Amanda

"Isn't it getting better?" people ask on my return from a second trip to Puerto Rico since Hurricane Maria. Well, yes I guess in some ways.

Does getting better mean that almost everyone on the island now knows the only safe drinking water is bottled, treated, or filtered despite no government information campaign? For the island, that's a minimum of 3.5 million gallons of water a day. And that doesn't include water for hand washing, dish washing, cleaning food. FEMA and the military were worried that they shouldn't distribute too much potable water as people will become DEPENDENT. Dependent on having clean drinking water? Also, they argue, it would destroy the local economy since it could interfere with businesses that sell water...often for extremely inflated prices. Remember, we are talking about an island where more than half the residents are below the official poverty line, jobs have disappeared, and everyone has lost something since Maria: family members, homes, all of the possessions inside their homes, cars, damaged windows, roofs, and appliances. I spoke with a local doctor from a mountain clinic who is a public health specialist. I asked her how long it would take for safe water to return to PR. "About a year", she replied. "First you need to have reliable electricity so that the pumping stations and filtration systems can work." The reservoirs in Comerio are filled with dead animals. Near Caguas, raw sewage backed up into the water supply for San Juan. We see water borne diseases constantly in the clinics.

And what about the mountains of plastic water bottles? Not to mention the 100,000s of tons of trash including furniture, appliances, electronics, trees piled up along the roads providing homes for rats and other vermin. In the wealthier urban areas, garbage has been hauled away, but to where? Will there be more toxins leaching into the water and soil in the future. Getting better, the official line has changed to stop the water from a toxic superfund site in Dorado being sold as safe to drink as it was officially sanctioned in the first weeks after Maria.

Does getting better mean that most people on the island have figured out how to survive without having electricity? And those with electricity still have frequent black outs including at the international airport. There were 60,000 electrical workers in Florida after Irma, working around the clock to restore electrical services in a week. In PR, there are a few thousand workers and electrical restoration may take until May, 8 months after Maria, or longer. Estimates of how many people have electricity are all over the place. Now there are only estimates of what percentage of power is being generated (maybe about 50%) but no one pretends anymore how that translates to households with electricity. No electricity means washing all your clothes, towels, bedding by hand. It means no fresh foods unless you live in an urban center close to a well-stocked market with refrigeration and can afford fruits and vegetables. The temperature is still unseasonably warm, in the upper 80's with lots of humidity. It means a short shelf life for insulin, no means of cooling people. Remember the nursing home in Florida where many elders died without air conditioning?

Yes, everyone who gets electricity back up is happy, even though it goes off a lot. And many find their appliances no longer are working. Still, it's better than Haiti where years after the earthquake nearly 70% of homes have no electricity. Not really a fair comparison, although close by, since it is not an official US colony. More comparable is the Navajo nation where over 30% of homes have no electricity and about 40% have no running water; the same reservation has enough polluting fossil fuels extracted to power Las Vegas and beyond.

Does getting better mean that a clear majority of the

island's population live in poverty, up from slightly less than half before Maria. In Mississippi over 20% of people live in poverty. On the Navajo nation, the number is over 40%.

Hey, but at least there aren't bombs falling like in Palestine, Syria, Yemen. Saharan Africa has 70% of households without electricity. And in many countries around the world, people don't have access to clean water. "45" and the ruling elite is making the US and its colonies into true world citizens.

Let me end by praising the spirit and resilience of the Puerto Rican people in the face of the island-wide destruction of Maria. The first days after Maria had every able-bodied person working nonstop with a machete, chain saw, or what-



ever means available to clear a path of debris to get out their door, connect with neighbors, clear the roads. Many people were rescued from extreme flooding by their neighbors with boats, rafts, anything that would float. That continues to this day with most of the rescue, relief, distribution of food, water, and medicines as well as reconstruction of homes done by the grass roots. No one I talked to had gotten economic help from FEMA to rebuild or repair their home.

Also, there is the resilience of the land itself. A fabulous change is the trees are coming back. The beauty of the tropical vegetation is being reborn. The mudslides are being covered with greenery.

I worked at Clinica Bantiox, an amazing free clinic and emergency room in Toa Baja which took care of everyone who walked in the door. Young Puerto Rican health professionals and students run the clinic with occasional help from visitors. I had lunch with several nursing students who were running down the colony status of Puerto Rico, their inability to vote in US elections, and their second class status to a Mexican classmate who asked "but can't you immigrate and have voting rights if you go to the US?" Yes, they responded, "but this is our home...not the US mainland." However, they continued. it was almost impossible to afford to stay on the island now. One student was planning to move to the US, at least for a while, after graduation as she would be unable to support her family on a nursing salary in PR. Maria has torn aside the facade; many people are vocal about PR being a colony. One friend said "It is not enough to be diligent, it is not enough to make your regular practices more flexible and adapt to the humanitarian crisis in which we live. The

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Saturday, January 20, 2018
Women's Marches for a
positive and just future for all
Celebrating the spirit of resistance

Join Women's March Oakland and
March for Our Future
10 AM, Lake Merritt Amphitheatre
womensmarchoakland.org

Women's March Bay Area
San Francisco: 11:30 at Civic Center
San Jose: 11 AM, San Jose City Hall
WomensMarchBayArea.org

Remember the Comfort Women

by Mirk

Three young women/girls, a Chinese, Filipina and Korean, stand atop a column. They face outward, forming a circle, their hands linked together. Their faces are calm but determined. They represent those that didn't survive and those that lived to tell the truth. Below them stands a life size replica of Hak Soon Kim, the first Korean woman to break a silence of over fifty years. A silence of what happened to the hundreds of thousands of women and girls who were sexually enslaved by the Japanese Imperial Army during the Pacific War.

This statue, Comfort Women: Column of Strength, is causing an international incident. Mayor Yoshimura of Osaka is ending the sixty year sister city relationship with San Francisco. Prime Minister Abe is making statements. The consul-general of Japan in San Francisco is extremely upset.

Why are these women so important? What do they represent?

These women represent one memory of the world. A memory of rape and violence against women. A memory which when articulated helped change and is still helping to change what has long been considered "normal behavior" for men during war. It's still widespread, but today, rape as a strategy of war is considered a crime against humanity and a war crime.

These women/girls are known euphemistically as the "comfort women." From 1931 to 1945, the Japanese Imperial forces instituted the largest systematic system of sexual slavery in the twentieth century. Young women (the majority, teenagers) were either lured by promises of jobs or kidnapped and were forced into a system of brothels in more than 13 countries conquered by the Japanese army in WWII. It involved 180,000 Koreans (then a colony of Japan), 250,000 Chinese and thousands of young women from every country under Japanese occupation.

The women were supposed to provide "comfort" to soldiers either going off to or coming home from war. "Comfort" in this case meant being repeatedly raped by as many as 40 soldiers a day. Referred to by the soldiers as "latrines," the women were listed by the Japanese as part of the supplies needed for war. It was believed that if a soldier had sex, especially with a virgin, before going into battle, his chances of survival greatly improved. The opposite, of course was the case for the young women. It's estimated that that between 87-90% of all the comfort women died in captivity. The survival rate for front line Japanese military? 27%.



The statue, officially unveiled and given to the city of San Francisco in the fall of 2017, was the brain child of two retired judges and their colleagues, among them activists who had fought for an official apology and reparations for those Japanese families interned during WWII. In 2015, a resolution was passed in the SF Board of Supervisors to build a statue in memory of the comfort women and to illuminate the issues of sexual violence during war and sex trafficking. In order to build the statue a multi national, multi generational and multi issue coalition came together. The Comfort Women Justice Coalition represents the international population of the Bay Area. It's made up of Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Filipino Americans, Japanese nationals, Women's Activists, Human Rights Advocates, Peace and Veteran Groups and various others. It is the first statue to commemorate the experience of the comfort women in a major city in the United States. It is also unique in that it is one of the only statues to be built in memory of Asian women.

The statue is part of a world wide movement to demand an official apology and reparations from the Japanese government for their WWII wartime activities. It is also to bring attention to the relationship between militarism and sexual violence in the past and today. Long before the #metoo movement, these "grandmas" were showing the power of speaking out about women's experience. There is also a direct line and continuum between what happened in the "comfort stations" during WWII to the brothels and rapes of the Korean and Vietnam Wars. The rape centers of Yugoslavia and the treatment of Yazidi in Iraq are related as are the treatment of women in every war.

One would think that the building of such a memorial would be a no-brainer. Who, after all could be against a

memorial to the memory of young women raped during war? Think again.

There was pushback from the Japanese government and their representatives from the very beginning. Right wing Japanese activists with close ties to the government claimed that it was all made up. Their arguments ranged from "it never happened," to "all the women were prostitutes, who volunteered and were well paid," (as though multiple rape is ok in this case), to "the numbers are exaggerated." Although, many Japanese Americans supported the statue, some were afraid that this added scrutiny would re-engage anti Japanese feelings and build disharmony among the Multi Asian community. (There has been no evidence of this at all.)

But the big sticking point? To this day, the Japanese government has refused to officially, through the Diet (the Japanese Parliament), acknowledge and apologize for their actions. Nor have they provided official government reparations. At various times, officials have said they were sorry, only to take it back later, some stating that sexual violence was actually necessary during war. The Japanese consulate in San Francisco insists that there are "two sides" to the story and that the statue only tells one. Of course this is not true. It happened. It was an example of femicide and those that survived demand and deserve justice.

The Abe administration sees the issue of the comfort women as an impediment to their nationalist narrative of WWII. They have banned the mention of what happened in current textbooks and fired teachers who want to teach about both the comfort women and what happened during the massacre of Nanjing in 1937. The government even tried to influence McGraw Hill here in the US to not talk about either of these historical truths. The rewriting of history comes at a time of right wing resurgence around the world. Political parties in Austria, France and Italy also want to rewrite their twentieth century narrative. This of course is very dangerous.

We invite everyone to come see this one symbol of both women's vulnerability and women's resilience. It calls on all us to understand the relationship between war and violence against women. It asks us to examine what is happening to women today in Syria, in Myanmar and in Iraq. The issue of the comfort women opens up the question of the relationship between rape and violence against women historically as well.

The Comfort Women: Column of Strength is in St. Mary's Square Annex between Kearny and Grant and right off of Pine Street. For more information go to www.remembercomfortwomen.org

Support J20 Resisters Everywhere!



Suppressing Dissent, Liberally

by Tory

It is a year after the inauguration of trump and not a day goes by without there being a new or escalated assault on the people. ICE menaces immigrant communities, more and more people getting deported, families ripped apart. kkk governmental decrees are signed making a specious Muslim ban. Temporary status for refugees is revoked putting vast numbers of Central Americans and Haitians in chaotic limbo. This kkk government is trying expel as many people of color as fast as it can. The list of atrocities is ever expanding and ongoing, from the apartheid wall in Palestine, to the militarized border wall between the u.s. and mexico, to white supremacists carrying tiki torches and guns trying to intimidate people opposing racism. The water protectors arrested at Standing Rock are embroiled in some 700 criminal cases in hostile courts. And then there is the accelerated displacement of whole neighborhoods driven by the odious tech boom, and the attempt to end whatever little benefits people get, like medicaid, medicare, social security.

There have been many acts of sustained rebellion, people disrupting, marching, street theater, street art, and dumpster burning and general carrying on in the streets. The kkk government just hates this, and wants it all to stop so they can carry on with their vicious agenda to enrich billionaires and

plunder the earth, in peace and quiet, without pesky demonstrators.

On January 20, 2017 in San Francisco there were a variety of raucous militant actions. One action blocked the caltrain lines in downtown San Francisco in a spectacular statement of NO BUSINESS AS USUAL. Eleven people were arrested for this nonviolent act of civil disobedience.

A year later here in "liberal" san francisco the district attorney is refusing to drop the misdemeanor charges against the 11 SF J20 defendants. The charges, which carry as much as a year in jail plus fines, belie the sacred image of san francisco as a free progressive sanctuary city and fighting the trump administration. Even in La Belle SF, in this veritable so-called bastion of democracy, the city neocon government is trying to squelch dissent, to stop protest and the exercising first amendment rights, to make it scary for people to take a stand. There has been a petition signed by thousands of people telling george gascon the District Attorney to drop the charges. People have packed the courts of several hearings. The city continues to make an example of militant actions which stop the flow of capitalist business. So much for dissent in these liberal parts.

This same long drawn out court process has happened with other civil disobedience actions stopping BUSINESS AS USUAL. The Black Seed 25, queer activists who shut down the bay bridge to protest police violence and the unjust incarceration of Michael Johnson for AIDS transmission in January of 2016, did not have their charges finally dropped until November of that year, and only after much petitioning and protesting. The Black Friday 14, a group of Black Lives activists who shut down the bart trains in 2014 in protest of the police killings of Black people and the displacement of Black people in the nearby West Oakland neighborhood, went well over a year organizing to get their charges dropped by Alameda County d.a. nancy o'malley.

The district attorneys are just not feeling it when it comes to actions that stop the flow of capital. Alex Bastian from the SF DA's office said on the news about the SF J20 actions "It's a balancing act. We find the First Amendment to be very sacred and we protect it at all costs. However,

when something occurs where either assaultive behavior or vandalism or critical infrastructure is impacted, we have an obligation to do things in a different way."

We activists don't have much with which to fight, but we can stop things, put a cog in the wheel!

We cannot let a white supremacist obscenely capitalist government stop our vigorous dissent.

PEOPLE OF THE WORLD UNITE! WE HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT OUR CHAINS!

Some better news from DC

by Julie

In a blow to the Trump administration's efforts to silence dissent, the first trial of people arrested at last year's Inauguration Day "Disrupt J20" protests ended Dec. 21st with all six of the defendants found not guilty of all charges. This first case was closely watched as a bellwether for free speech. So far, 42 of the protest-related charges have been rejected at jury trials. But there are still 188 defendants awaiting trial.

Six people faced multiple felonies and 50 years in prison for just being in the area where anti-fascist and anti-capitalist protesters were marching. During the protest, police blocked more than 200 people into a corner in a process known as "kettling" and carried out mass arrests of everyone nearby, including medics, legal observers and some journalists. Many were trapped in the kettle for as long as nine hours, after police had doused them with pepper spray. They were denied food, water and access to bathrooms.

One of the major pieces of evidence presented by the prosecution was a video showing protesters cheering during the demonstration. The video was supposed to prove the "incite to riot" felony charge. Last month, the judge in the case cited the video when she dismissed this felony charge, saying cheering is not enough evidence to prove incitement.

After the not-guilty-on-all-counts verdict came down on Thursday, supporters gathered outside the courthouse and held a banner that read "Love for all who resist."

#MeToo and the Master's House

by Kate

Al Franken has crawled back to Minnesota and the Senate is once again safe for women.

Or maybe not.

Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), whose name is synonymous with denying women access to abortion, remains president pro tem, putting him fourth in line to the presidency.

John Conyers (D-Michigan) is out of Congress, taking with him the sole sponsor of legislation to consider reparations for slavery. Conyers introduced the bill, to create a commission to study the subject of reparations, annually for the last 30 years. He has never had a cosponsor and the bill has never made it out of committee.

Trent Franks, R-Arizona, is also out of Congress, proving that even republicans cannot recruit female staff as surrogate wombs. They can, however, control the wombs of non-surrogate non-staff members who might want to access contraception with their government-subsidized health care.

#MeToo is the *Time* Person of the Year, notwithstanding that a hashtag is not a person. Well, actually, *Time* named its POTY "The Silence Breakers" and featured a diverse range of women including former Fox TV host Gretchen Carlson, and Tarana Burke, the Black girls' advocate and counselor who first introduced the phrase Me Too in 2006, after feeling that she hadn't responded well enough to a student's disclosure years earlier.

After actress Alyssa Milano tweeted #MeToo following the flood of revelations of Famous Men Behaving Badly, a series of tweeps accused her of coopting the movement Burke started. Milano, who probably had never heard of Burke or her campaign, did the right thing. She acknowledged Burke's trailblazing and the two teamed up with actress Rose McGowan, one of those responsible for the demise of Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein, to spread the movement far and wide.

"Like the 'problem that has no name,' the disquieting malaise of frustration and repression among postwar wives and homemakers identified by Betty Friedan more than 50 years ago, this moment is born of a very real and potent sense of unrest," *Time's* cover story read. "Yet it doesn't have a leader, or a single, unifying tenet. The hashtag #MeToo (swiftly adapted into #BalanceTonPorc, #YoTambien, #Ana_kaman and many others), which to date has provided an umbrella of solidarity for millions of people to come forward with their stories, is part of the picture, but not all of it."

Burke is quoted as saying, "The message of #MeToo is the same across the board. Sexual violence knows no race, no color, no gender, or class. But the response to sexual violence does, and I don't want us to get pigeonholed into a racialized or classist or sexist or gendered response to this moment."

I'm not exactly sure how the response can not be gendered, but it is a positive development that race and class have been made up front and visible from the beginning of this particular attack of the social media mobilizing virus. Tantalizing tales of traumatized talent – Matt Lauer's lock-em-in button under the desk, Charlie Rose's episodes of unprovoked nudity, Louis CK's masturbatory interviewing style – have been periodically interrupted by exposes like the recent New York Times piece on Ford plants in Chicago, where a \$22 million settlement in 1998 and a \$10 million one last August seems to have done little to curb a culture of terror against women workers. Alianza Nacional de Campesinas wrote a statement in advance of the November 12 Take Back the Workplace march in Los Angeles (which I heard nothing about) expressing solidarity with Hollywood whistleblowers on behalf of 700,000 Latina farm workers:

"We do not work under bright stage lights or on the big screen. We work in the shadows of society in isolated fields and packinghouses that are out of sight and out of mind for most people in this country....Even though we work in very different environments, we share a common experience of being preyed upon by individuals who have the power to hire, fire, blacklist and otherwise threaten our economic, physical and emotional security."

When law professor Anita Hill testified at the confirmation hearings for supreme court justice Clarence Thomas, it sparked a national conversation about not only sexual harassment, but also the unrepresentative nature of our supposedly representative governmental bodies. Women ran for congress and won in record numbers. The house of representatives' 1993 "Anita Hill Class" had a record 48 women, up from 30 in the previous session, and the number of women in the senate tripled from 2 to 6, leading the senate to install a one-stall women's bathroom for the first time (not sure what the two women were doing before that). Carol Mosely-Braun became the first African American woman ever elected to the u.s. senate (Kamala Harris became the second in 2016).

Women put "I Believe You, Anita" stickers on our cars and wore them on our lapels. But Thomas was still confirmed.

The response to accusations against powerful men in 2016 was very different. Beginning with firing Fox founder Roger Ailes and on through Kevin Spacey's \$10 million



excision from Ridley Scott's new film, corporations and political parties – or one party, anyway – have been quick to divest themselves of people who might besmirch their brand.

And then there is the left.

It started with Matt Taibbi, who was on all the talk shows hawking his new book, *I Can't Breathe*, about the police murder of Eric Garner. As a journalist who lived in Russia for years before returning to the States and writing about inequality, election fraud and Donald Trump, Taibbi was pretty well situated to cash in on the current state of politics. But then someone actually read his first book, co-written with Mark Ames about their lives running an expat newspaper in Russia in the 1990s. In the book, Ames and Taibbi credit themselves with harassing and raping women and girls, including a 15-year-old. Taibbi's response was that Ames wrote those passages and they were made up, fiction, intended as satire. Exactly what was supposed to be funny about rape, I'm not sure, but that was good enough for at least some liberal and progressive outlets who pointed out that the quotes were first unearthed by the right-wing blogger and operative Mike Cernovich of Pizzagate fame. Indeed, it's worth being conscious of Cernovich's hands in the spate of targeting of liberal politicians and media folks – it was also Cernovich, a hard-core antifeminist ("men's rights") activist who also unearthed the settlement that Conyers had paid to a former staff member, which ultimately led to Conyers' resignation. But in Taibbi's case, the material is there, in print, speaking for itself, unlike the accusations that Garrison Keillor touched a woman's bare back (eek! Not the back!) thirty years ago or that George Takei jumped on top of a guy during a party that he and his husband were hosting.

AlterNet put executive editor Don Hazen, previously of Mother Jones, on indefinite leave, after at least seven women accused him of inappropriate conversations. The New Republic fired Hamilton Fish (former editor of *The Nation*) after revelations that he, among other things, choked a woman staffer at The Nation Institute.

Public Radio International and WNYC's The Takeaway fired long-time host John Hockenberry in the wake of accusations by women of color that he treated them badly, and PBS canceled its broadcasts of Tavis Smiley's popular show, after learning that Smiley had had romantic relationships with several employees of his company.

Dennis Bernstein remains host of KPFA's Flashpoints, despite the station having paid a million dollar settlement years ago because of his pattern of creating a hostile work environment for his female cohorts.

In fact, long before #MeToo (though not before Burke's Me Too initiative), way way back in prehistoric 2015, FitzGibbon Media, a PR firm representing NARAL Pro-Choice America and other feminist groups along with Amnesty International and WikiLeaks, was shut down amid a slew of sexual assault accusations against founder and CEO, Trevor FitzGibbon. And speaking of WikiLeaks, while the majority of leftists continue to defend Julian Assange as a hero against the New McCarthyism of Russia, some have been shocked, shocked! to find out that he had directly communicated with Donald Trump, Jr. during the 2016 campaign. The new Assangoskeptics apparently had been less impressed by the stories of the two women who say he raped them.

How do you spell R-E-S-P-E-C-T?

So we've gone from all-male tribunals deciding women are liars to swift retribution and distancing from anyone accused of sexual misconduct. That's progress, right?

Well, yes and no.

Women have known a few things for a very long time:

(1) with apologies to our friends of the male persuasion, most men are pigs who think they are entitled to sex whenever they want it and believe women's bodies exist only for their pleasure.

(2) the more powerful the men, the more impunity they have and the bolder they get about enforcing their demands for sexual availability from women and girls.

(3) sexual violence at work is a way of enforcing male supremacy in the work place, not a reflection of men's

uncontrollable desire for women.

(4) naming a problem is the first step toward solving it.

What some women know and others – the neoliberal white feminist elite – not so much, is that collective problems like patriarchy and rape culture have collective solutions, not individual ones. It's clear that having Nancy Pelosi as speaker of the house did not do much to change the culture of male supremacy in congress.

The democrats pressed Al Franken – whose worst offenses seem to have been the least reported; check out <https://tinyurl.com/frankentouch> – and Conyers to resign quickly in order to help them win the hotly contested Senate race in Alabama, which pitted the lackluster prosecutor Doug Jones against the multiple sex abuser and white nationalist Roy Moore. It paid off, as Jones beat Moore by 1.5 percentage points. Whether this ends up being a long-term victory for the democrats remains to be seen. The win was due to one thing: Black turnout. Moore carried 63% of white women, as well as 72% of white men. Presumably Moore's history of assaulting and propositioning teenage girls was the only reason he didn't win, despite having suggested that women should never have gotten the right to vote, that slavery was the best time in U.S. history, that homosexuality should be illegal, and that 9/11 was a punishment for abortion and legalizing gay sex. The margin of victory for Jones, who now is being courted to vote with the republikkans (he has not indicated he will do that but does identify as a "Blue Dog" right wing demokkkrat), was smaller than the number of write-in votes, the vast majority of which, sad to say, will have been cast for right-wing republikkans who are not known child molesters, as opposed to socialists or feminist environmentalists.

Meanwhile, Franken, during his time in congress, requested appointment to the committee on American Indian Affairs, where he fought for funding of reservation schools, and was one of the only members of the Senate to speak in support of the Standing Rock water protectors and oppose the Dakota Access Pipeline. Conyers, in addition to his dogged pursuit on reparations, was the lead negotiator on the Violence Against Women Act (flawed though it is) and recently introduced a Medicare for All bill, taking the mantle of main proponent for single payer health care from disgraced congressman Anthony Weiner. Wiener's 2009 resignation in the wake of the sexting scandal (in that case with adult women, the teens came later) relieved Nancy Pelosi of the only strong advocate in her caucus for single payer, which she had emphatically announced was "off the table." If you want to talk about the biggest threat to women in Congress, I'm not sure it wasn't Pelosi.

I'm also not sure that Conyers and Franken and Wiener shouldn't have resigned. But if anyone thinks that we no longer have predators of many kinds in Congress, they should look at the history. We know for a fact there are members of Congress who have been members of restricted clubs. We know there are members who have supported the klan. I seriously suspect there are members who are slumlords and who have not paid their domestic workers. And there sure as hell are lots who have sponsored legislation to strip women of basic survival rights like welfare, child care and maternity leave.

As a feminist, I'm of course gratified to see powerful men held accountable for decades of abuses against women. But many other times, movements that began by calling out universal experiences of women have been coopted to become one more weapon for white supremacist patriarchy. From "hate crimes" penalty enhancements to zero tolerance school discipline, punitive responses to social problems in neoliberal capitalist regime end up being used first and worst against men of color. Firing individual men who committed sexual abuse in workplaces where they reigned supreme is akin to prosecuting cops who kill Black people – it's an appropriate use of the very flawed tools that exist within the liberal capitalist toolbox.

But that old Audre Lorde quote, "The master's tools will never dismantle the master's house," has never been more apt.



CONTRABAND

FREEDOM:

is contraband in prison because free thinking, independence of spirit and open mindedness are like acids that eat away at all prison bars.

EQUALITY:

is contraband in prison because brotherhood always speaks out against and threatens power structures.

JUSTICE:

Is contraband in prison. How many of my brothers are here who shouldn't be? Some innocent of guilt, others guilty of innocence

PEACE:

Is contraband in prison. From fists and shanks, to shields and batons. Violence is the way of all tyranny.

LOVE:

Is contraband in prison. The warm embrace of family and friends. The touching and holding of lovers dear. The fires of passion, stoked and quenched by hands, lips, tongues and bodies. All this is denied and forbidden here. There is no room for love in hell!

TRUTH:

Is contraband in prison. Because if we knew even half of what the system didn't want us to know, surely the walls would come tumbling down. For their bricks are laid with the mortar of double think. And their foundations are always built upon falsehood. This is the house Orwell's Big Brother built.

UNITY:

Is contraband in prison. Because through unity we can join the fight against cruelty, malfeasance and corruption, as a bulwark of mighty solidarity. For unity always stands tall against unfairness of all kinds.

But, if I take your hand.....you, me and tomorrow link up as one. Together, perhaps, we can find a way out of this deception, this mis-nomer, this evil hoax, this lie the system calls "corrections".

United there is little we cannot do. Making vows against injustice, raising voices in loud protest against harm masquerading as "rehabilitation". Speaking truth to power, we are a resounding war cry, shouting down all that is unfair.

We are the caged wretches whose words are a conspiracy against the silence of indifference. And, our voices will never stop yelling "foul!" until we are finally heard.

Alfred N Rea #206314, MacDougall/Walker C.I. 1153 East St. South, Suffield CT 06080

Gate Money?

I am writing to find out who can help us on this very serious matter at hand. It's got to do with our California gate money. [Gate money is what is given to prisoners when they are released.] I remember back in 1987 getting \$200.00. Well, it's 2017, wow, and still getting \$200.00? How does that work? Lots of us need the help, the support and the push from the outside on this urgent matter at hand. It's as simple as I got nobody and no clothes so I get charged for shirt and pants, boxers, socks, \$48.00. No buying extra! I'm in Ione CA and going to L.A. County CA so now that's about \$65.00 give or take. So now that about \$103 and while the bus makes stops, I'm getting hungry and want a smoke bad; all nervous, been down 10 years so maybe a soda, chips, a lighter and a cheap pack of smokes. So \$110.00 and maybe change, that leaves me with \$90.00 left!! Is that crazy? Again no family so what to do? If possible, cause it's cold, to a second hand store, a jacket, a beanie - \$77.00 left. Hey, need some hygiene or get a room to sleep? Good but not really cause I'm stressed out. Getting a room, \$65.00, so leaves me \$12.00 in the morning, buy some milk, a donut and get 1 Or 2 busses so I'm like maybe \$3.00 left. And the parole or probation tells me - Hey go to G.R. or G.A. That's my help. Isn't that fuckin crazy. Need answers, need help. *Joe Calderon #AH-3702, Mule Creek S.P. B-7-113Low, PO Box 409040, Ione CA 95640*



From our friends in Positive Actions Create Everything (PACE) in Vacaville

Discrimination at Dublin

I feel that the world needs to know what the Assistant Wardens [AWs] here at Dublin [CA] are doing to the inmates, especially the Native American community. I hope this is a call to action for any organization that can help us.

The AWs have taken our beads, our cloth, our regalia. We are supposed to have a pow-wow on the 22nd of October. How do you Jingle Dance without a Jingle dress? How do you Fancy Shawl Dance without a Fancy Shawl? Most of these items were donated by volunteers. It's 2017 and the government is still taking from the Native Americans. I hope someone out there can help us.

[Excerpted from email from Laura to AWs 10/3/17]. I am writing you today regarding the Native American regalia being taken ... for the first time in known history. Maybe you don't understand the significance of the pow-wow so I will try and explain.

Our pow-wow is a religious ceremony and requires the use of regalia. We open the ceremony with a prayer to the 4 directions and the Great Spirit or Creator. We have many songs and dances. For instance, the Jingle Dance which came to a young woman in her dream as her grandfather was suffering an illness. Upon awakening, the girl made the dress and danced the Jingle Dance and her grandfather was healed. So this Dance is for healing. The fans we use for this dance have Eagle feathers and the Eagle carries our prayers to the Great Spirit. We need our fans. The Fancy Shawl Dance is usually for the younger healthy women. We dance this dance for those who can no longer dance. This is more healing for the people. We cannot dance the Fancy Shawl Dance without a Fancy Shawl. The songs we sing are in memory and in honor of the ancestors. We come together as a community in love and celebration of life and we give thanks. This is very spiritual. Every prison I have been at, even higher security prisons, have allowed this.

The Free Exercise Clause protects a prisoner's right to practice his/her religion as long as doing so does not unduly burden the institution. (*Richards v White*, 957F.2nd 471, 474, 7th Cir. 1992). There is no burden placed upon the institution. We already have regalia - in your office. I understand that the prison has a compelling interest in maintaining security. However, this is a low security Camp and no one has ever escaped prison wearing brightly colored Native American regalia. Please consider our request. *Laura La Paz #30388-034, Satellite Prison Camp Dublin, 5675 8th St Camp Parks, Dublin CA 94568*

To the 'Free World'

Most people know that the word unity means to come together as one for one central reason, yet in this world of ours we are being taught that unity can be thought of as the inclusion of this group or that group. Nowhere is that more prevalent than in both state and federal prisons. In the Ass Backwards State of Arkansas I have lived in 5 separate prison units and the one commonality (other than the rank homophobia and deplorable living conditions) is the seemingly willing separation and compartmentalization of the LG-BTQIA groups. I hesitate to call them communities because there is very little common about them. We've become so complacent with connecting with only one group of people that we freely treat the other non-hetero groups with the very same contempt that we as a community have been shown.

People; Wake the Hell Up! We have enough to worry and deal with without protecting our asses from our own! Are we really so self-destructive that we are willing to throw away decades of progress and sabotage ourselves? Well, I assure you that I am not! My love and caring is for everyone; Gay, Hertero, Trans, Les, and every other letter in the alphabet!

That being said, I offer up a challenge to those in the "free world" (and I use that term loosely), to prove not only to others but to yourselves that the LGBT community is still a community, i.e. focus on those currently imprisoned. For so many of us, the very personal choice we've made about our sexuality and/or gender has left us without the most basic support that our so called family and friends should've provided. Yes, we are in prison. But does that mean we should be left without the very connections that come with mail. Visitations, care packages etc? Some of us suffer pain that changes us from the people who care about others to the bitter, angry, poisonous souls whose hearts have all but turned to stone.

My challenge to you is to be someone's pen-pal, someone's visitor who has none, start a collection for those who are indigent, for those who are truly forgotten. Organizations like Black and Pink, LAGAI, GLAD and the like are massively overwhelmed and can only do so much. Everything I've spoke of I've witnessed firsthand. We need the compassion, who will be the first to show some true solidarity? James Owens AKA Elaine #139166, PO Box 1630, Malvern AR 72109

Shorts from Inside

On behalf of the PACE (Positive Actions Create Everything) LGBT group, I want to say thank you for your support. I continue to get so much mail from the articles you have published. We are all in transition each day so we must embrace the changes in everyone. It is for us to have faith, hope, tolerance and equality for everyone in the New year. The PACE group will celebrate 1 year together in January. We are all so proud of this group and what we stand for. We love you all. *PACE c/o Lisa Strawn #D01271, V-240, Box 2000, Vacaville CA 95646*

Hey! What's up, family? I just want to inform some of the people I'm in contact with that I'm sorry for not writing back sooner (Mark Kelley, Sister Eva). A lot of my support network was in Puerto Rico and right now, they are not doing so good. So you're welcome to contact me direct. Much love, *Alfredo Arvelo, 9005 Old River Rd. Marcy NY 13403*

Dear New Friends - I just received the first edition of your UltraViolet paper. Thank you again so much. It is the first mail I've gotten in a very long time. Years! I have read your paper front to back and really enjoyed your articles. Especially the Lin Zenki/Hillary Parsons. Very touching and sad. Made me cry! I hope they are in a much better place as I like to believe. I also enjoyed your inside articles especially. My heartfelt best to everyone in this inside struggle. Much luv *Bradford, Cumberland MD*

Greetings: I just received your latest issue of UV. Thank you. I was saddened to read of the recent passing of the feminist-warrior women (there were several this time). They were Titans of the cause for freedom and stood for right and wrong! I grew up with a mother who is still a hippie at 69. Her health is beginning to fade also. And I do see it is time this next generation, including mine, step-up and do our part. It's like walking in the footsteps of giants! I was born male, however I see myself as "two-spirit". Keep up the fight! I'm proud of all of you and send you my love and my light. Namaste, *Erika. Livingston TX*

Shout out to my LGBTQ family world-wide. This is Seaneal from Missouri. I am a Transgender MTF. Anyway I am writing to share the issues going on here in the DOC. When a Transgender inmate gets diagnosed with having Gen-

der Dysphoria by the MODOC's own employees, we are still denied Hormone Therapy just because of us not having them before we came to prison. This is cruel and unusual punishment as well as deliberate indifference to our medical needs, which is in violation of the constitution - specifically the 8th amendment. Since the staff are targeting the LGBTQ Community, I say we give resistance to everything the staff are not supposed to do. Do not be afraid to file grievances. With enough effort, we can accomplish a lot with the link in our pens. With love, *Seaneal, Cameron MO*

Dear Friends. I just wanted to say thank you. I love the UV paper. When I read it I get the feeling that my friends wrote it. I am just an old school anarchist. I hope that all is well. Of course it never is but ... I have found that no matter how horrible the conditions are, if you have the company of a decent person those horrible conditions just become part of the scenery. *Nathan, Pacific MO*

I wrote you under the name Ally-Cat. I was fighting policy for transgenders and for myself. I have since lost that fight. They have denied me transgender paperwork and say "I'm just gay". I don't understand it cause I look like a girl and even cry like one. I've followed the entire grievance process and lost completely. Finally to GEO Corporation who runs this prison. I want you to know that you have been mean, cruel and relentless on me and my transgender ass. I've kept a log and all my paperwork. I will show the world how mean you are and just how "great" you are. You've done nothing but make fun of me and abuse me in the sickest way. But I've been strong, fierce and feminine, believe that. I wear dresses (out of sheets, dance like a princess and love like a goddess. I look sexy in make up (markers) and stuff my homemade bra. I've been reborn, my name is *Ashley Paris. New Castile IN*

Dearest LAGAI. I'm just writing to say thank you for sending me the Fall issue of UV. I thought that LAGAI was just about fighting for LGBTQI+ rights. But, based on what I've read in UV I see that you have a much broader leftist agenda. I'm also delighted by the fact that you wonderful people at UV appear to be part of the ANTIFA movement. That is so cool! So I realize how important LAGAI and the ANTIFA crusade are to saving the world from right-wing oppression. Yours in solidarity, *Alfred, Suffield CT*

ICE OFF BART

by Deeg

On December 8 the Northern California Regional Response Network (norcal) reported that three or four ICE agents in full gear were standing next to about 3 BART cops on the upper platform of the Embarcadero BART station. No arrests were observed, but this was both intimidating, and obvious evidence of cooperation between ICE and local police. An attorney from Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus, tweeted BART who responded, ““It’s their VIPER team (Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response team) and they routinely help provide visible patrols at our Downtown SF stations. It’s routine.”

San Francisco is a “sanctuary city”, and in June the BART board adopted a “safe transit policy which includes commitments to:

- Make BART an inviting, equitable, and safe community for everyone who uses the system or works for the District
- Stand together with the people of the Bay Area in opposing hate, violence, and acts of intolerance committed against our riding community and employees.
- Continue to work to reach out to and connect with our community and our employees to ensure the system is “accessible, inviting, and open to all individuals.”
- It then goes on to prohibit the use of BART funds or resources to assist in the enforcement of federal immigration law.



True, the policy doesn’t specifically prohibit BART police from hanging around with ICE agents in full military gear, in order to intimidate riders. Also true, BART remains nationally famous for their lack of accountability, dating before and after the police murder of Oscar Grant. Since September there have been several other sightings of armed ICE agents riding BART. (What happened to ICE’s SUV’s? Is this the administration’s attempt to combat climate change?)

Norcal also reported that “anti-immigrant agitators have been posing as an undocumented family seeking help in SF, with another agitator posing as their family friend and/or as a person making a documentary about their plight.” According to Norcal, these agitators live-streamed from the First Unitarian Universalist Society from the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, and broadcast phone conversations with two immigration attorneys. (Recording an audio conversation without someone’s knowledge is a crime in California.)

The videos showed a person described as a family friend, or as a documentarian, who claimed to be seeking help for an undocumented immigrant named Elsa, and her mother. “Based on publicly available Facebook information, Elsa appears to be Elsa Aldeguer, who identifies as a founder of Latinos for Trump.” This is the same type of tactics used to discredit ACORN during the Obama campaign, and to discredit the recent Washington Post reports of sexual violence and intimidation by Roy Moore. Norcal asks that people NOT visit the facebook pages or send out the links, in order to avoid creating more buzz.

And from LA

In September, ICE conducted an armed invasion of an auto repair shop in Los Angeles, part of their targeting of sanctuary cities. They pointed shotguns and handcuffed and arrested several people. They wore vests labelled “police,” which they are not, but they have not been charged with impersonating a police officer. They arrested Juan Hernandez, although they did not have a warrant or probable cause for his arrest. The action was recorded by security cameras at the shop. He wasn’t even informed that he had been arrested by ICE until he was put in the back of an SUV along with two other mechanics, and brought to a detention center in downtown LA. He spent 5 weeks at the Adelanto Detention Facility, before he was able to post a \$5000 bond. The ACLU

is now trying to get the deportation proceedings stopped. The video is at: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/news/video-ice-wishes-was-never-made-public>.

Between January 20 and September 30, immigration and customs enforcement (ICE) arrested close to 111,000 people for immigration violations, an increase of 42 percent over the same period in 2016. Two hundred and twenty-six thousand people were deported during the 2017 fiscal year (which ended September 30), a decrease of 6 percent from the previous year. (The decrease is attributed to fewer people detained while attempting to cross the border, and therefore subject to immediate deportation.) Juan Hernandez was one of the almost 9,000 people who were considered “collateral” arrests, that is people for whom there was no warrant, and who just happened to be there when ICE showed up.

DACA

On September 5, 2017 the administration announced that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program would end on March 5, and that they would accept no new applications. People whose status was up for renewal before March 5 were given until October 5 to apply for a one-time extension. California has 242,339 dreamers, out of 800,000 nationwide. Attorney general sessions claimed the DACA program must end because it was not properly enacted by congress, which had refused for years to provide humane immigration policies.

Although both republican and democratic legislators have said they would do something for the dreamers, nothing has been done. Most recently, democrats said they would require a DACA bill prior to supporting the continuing resolution to fund the government past December 22, but in fact the resolution passed both houses with additional military spending but no DACA.

Meanwhile there are many cases in federal courts to prevent the end of DACA. Two lawsuits were filed in September in Brooklyn, one by a coalition of lawyers, and the other by 15 state attorneys general. Separate lawsuits were filed by the university of California and by the California attorney general. In the beginning of December, the supreme court said that the refusal of the government to provide requested documents in the lawsuit must be considered in the context of each separate case, before the supreme court would act on the issues. On December 20, San Francisco federal district judge William Alsup heard arguments in 5 cases, including the UC and California cases, but no decision was issued at that time. Every day more and more dreamers are at risk for deportation.

Sanctuary Cities

On July 1, 2015, Kathryn (Kate) Steinle, a 32-year old white suburban woman, was hit by a bullet allegedly from a gun being held by Jose Ines Garcia Zarate, an undocumented immigrant who had been previously deported several times, while she walked with her father near Pier 14 in San Francisco. Zarate said he had found the gun under a bench, and it had accidentally fired when he was holding it. The gun was eventually identified as a “secondary” weapon stolen from the vehicle of a federal bureau of land management ranger.

The republican presidential campaign made Steinle the poster child for its war against immigrants. In June, the house of representatives passed “Kate’s Law”, HR 3004, increasing criminal penalties for people who enter without documentation after having been previously deported. Twenty-four democrats joined republicans in voting for the bill, including Jackie Speier who “represents” San Mateo County and part of San Francisco. (A companion bill denying federal funds to cities that do not cooperate with immigration authorities also passed the house with a narrower margin. Three democrats voted with the republicans, but seven republicans voted against it.) The bills have not yet been voted on in the senate.

On November 30, 2017, Jose Ines Garcia Zarate was acquitted of the murder and manslaughter charges, with the jury finding that the prosecution had not proven that Zerate had intentionally fired the weapon or committed a crime justifying the charge of involuntary manslaughter. Let’s be clear – whatever the jury verdict was, trump, sessions, and the rest would claim it supported anti-immigrant policies and attempts to destroy sanctuary cities. If Zerate had been found guilty, it would have proved that as an undocumented immigrant he was a murderer. Since he wasn’t found guilty, it proved that the soft-hearted soft-headed fools in San Francisco couldn’t recognize an undocumented immigrant murderer. The verdict is expected to be used to bring the anti-immigrant bills up in the senate.

Zerate was convicted only of being a “felon” in possession of a firearm, and faces a maximum sentence of three years, which may be reduced due to the over two years he has spent in the county jail. The day after the verdict the u.s. department of justice issued an arrest warrant for Zerate for an alleged violation of the conditions of his supervised release.

And in Oakland

Oakland has long been a sanctuary city, and has an ordinance specifically prohibiting police cooperation with ICE. However, on August 16, the OPD provided support

for an ICE raid of a Guatemalan family in west Oakland. Initially, police chief Kirkpatrick said that the raid had been conducted by homeland security investigations for human trafficking. However, the raid did not result in any arrests for trafficking, but did result in ICE’s arrest of an immigrant on a civil immigration matter. The person arrested was not the subject of any criminal warrant. The OPD was then forced to admit that it had provided support (in the form of blocking off traffic to the area) to ICE.

In October, the chair of Oakland’s privacy advisory commission, Brian Hofer, and seven other people filed a complaint alleging that Kirkpatrick had made false statements. A hearing on this was postponed several times, but city council members Rebecca Kaplan and Desley Brooks continued to push the issue, and on November 29, a four-hour informational report was heard by the council. Kaplan and Brooks have said that they will push for a stronger policy/ordinance that would clearly prohibit any cooperation with ICE.

Meanwhile in Pacifica

In October, Pacifica finally passed a sanctuary city ordinance, which became fully effective November 9. This ordinance prohibits the Pacifica police from cooperating with ICE (unless there is a criminal warrant signed by a judge), requires the city to post that services will be provided without regard to immigration status, prohibits the city from collecting individual information about immigration status unless required by federal or state law, protects people’s data privacy, and prohibits cooperation with any federal registry based on person’s race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, immigration status, or national or ethnic origin. On November 7, having seen no evidence that the city management was implementing the ordinance, Pacifica Social Justice emailed city manager Kevin Woodhouse asking for a meeting to discuss implementing the ordinance. He ignored this email, as he ignored a subsequent phone call. He responded to our second email, saying that the police chief had informed him he didn’t need any help in following either the ordinance or SB 54 (California’s “sanctuary state” bill). When we informed Woodhouse that the ordinance affects all the city departments, he waited a couple of hours before responding that he had now read the full ordinance, and still wouldn’t meet with us, but we could submit questions, which we did, 14 of them. Maybe he’s hoping Pacifica will be a stepping stone to a big career at BART?



WE.WILL.NOT.COMPLY.

96 Hours of Non-Compliance
Over King Day Weekend

For the fourth year in a row, for #96hours over the King Day Weekend, the Anti Police-Terror Project calls our comrades into the streets to stand in solidarity and say no to white supremacy, say no to state sponsored terror, say no to development over people, say no to misogyny, say no to homophobia and transphobia, say no to the targeting of immigrants, say no to the targeting of Muslims. Join and show the Trump-Schaff-Breed Regimes that WE WILL NOT COMPLY.

We call upon groups large and small, well-established or brand new, to plan your own action(s) within a common framework:

Friday, January 12, 2018, State-Sponsored Violence.

Saturday, January 13, 2018, Housing.

Sunday January 14, 2018, Healthcare.

Monday, January 15, 2018, reclaim MLK Day.

Our #96hours culminates with a mass mobilization, and we ask everyone to come together for the Reclaiming King’s Radical Legacy March through the streets of Oakland.

Go to facebook.com/APTPAction for a schedule of spokescouncils

The MOCHA Column

By Chaya and Deni

MOVIE REVIEWS

GOD'S OWN COUNTRY (review by Chaya): Set in the beautiful but desolate moors of Northern England's Yorkshire, this film tells the story of Johnny (Josh O'Connor), a very unhappy and repressed young gay man who lives on his family's sheep farm with his father (Ian Hart) and grandmother (Gemma Jones). Dad had a stroke and can't work anymore, and Grandma is not very nice. The sheep seem pretty happy. Johnny works long, difficult days and spends his evenings drinking and having sex in the bathroom of the local pub. Enter Gheorghe (Alec Secareanu), a Romanian laborer brought on to help, and gosh darned if he isn't gay, too! You can pretty much guess the rest of the plot, but director-writer Francis Lee, himself gay and from a Yorkshire farm, keeps it interesting with excellent performances from the actors, and showing the landscape's effect on the characters. Everything about this film is stark and spare – the landscape, the relationships, the dialogue, but once Georghie arrives, Johnny gets a chance to find himself. Lee, a former actor, won best director at Sundance for his debut film. We liked it.



LADY BIRD (review by Deni) : Great acting by all, including the fabulous Laurie Metcalf as the mom, Saoirse Ronan as her daughter Lady Bird, and Tracy Letts as the dad, and nice scenic shots of Sacramento that flattered the city. This loosely autobiographical coming-of-age film written and directed by actor Greta Gerwig was about a girl, so that's something. There was some interesting plot and character development that included class issues and a lightweight nod to lgbtq, but the movie was too long and needed editing. Some of the film's stereotyping and clichés diminished its impact. The conflicted mother/daughter relationship was primary but it - along with many other "problems" in the film - got either resolved or accepted. Worth seeing but not worth the over-the-top reviews it got.

3 BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE EBBING MISSOURI : In this film written and directed by academy winner Martin McDonagh, Frances McDormand gives a sterling performance as a mother dealing with and acting out her rage over her daughter's unsolved brutal murder. But the racism and racist caricatures in this film destroys much of its impact and detracts even from its plot believability. Touted for a nuanced look at grief, anger, and forgiveness, the film uses Black people as foils, victims, and plot devices. It incorporates a "comedy thread" about a white cop (Sam Rockwell) torturing Black people that is supposed to show how hard it is for white police chief Woody Harrelson to do his best dealing with racist cops (with a throw-away anti-gay line also supposed to induce a chuckle.) By the film's end with its many unnecessary plot twists, the racist cop ends up redeemed without ever having to acknowledge, much less apologize for, his racism. In an excellent review of this film by Hanif Abdurraqib, who describes himself as "the only black person in the theater," he says, "The movie didn't need racial provocation to get its point across, and McDonagh clearly wasn't the writer to handle it anyway. In this instance, I would have gladly bowed to a landscape bereft of black." The film's racism overwhelms it, but hardly any film reviews mention it at all.

THE PROBLEM WITH APU (review by Chaya): Comedian Hari Kondabolu wrote and stars in *The Problem With Apu*, a documentary we saw on TV that looks at the South Asian cartoon character Apu from "The Simpsons." As a kid, Kondabolu liked Apu, the only representation of his Indian culture that he saw on tv on a regular basis. But eventually Kondabolu realized that Apu was a racist caricature played for stereotypical laughs about Indians and other South Asian people. Kondabolu interviews other performers of South Asian backgrounds about the effect that Apu's characterization had on their lives. He also talks about trying to interview Hank Azaria, the voice of Apu, who refused to be in the documentary. In a 2015 interview with Azaria on *Archive of American Television*, Azaria acknowledged Apu's "impact as fodder for widespread racially-motivated bullying that targets children with South Asian heritage." Apparently that hasn't stopped him from voicing Apu! The film's interviews were insightful and there was comedy throughout. See it if you can (you may be able to stream it online).

COCO (review by Deni): This visually stunning animated Disney Pixar film has an excellent mostly-Latinx cast including Benjamin Bratt and Gael Garcia Bernal, great music and of course a heartwarming story about the struggle to hold onto and be held by your family while following your dreams.

The complex and layered plot centers on a boy's longing to be a musician in a family that has forbidden music and weaves it in with the Mexican holiday of Dia de los Muertos/Day of the Dead and its themes of remembering, honoring and forgiveness. Spoiler: everything ultimately works out for the boy Miguel and all his relatives alive and dead. The film's predictability flattens some of its emotional arcs. Sometimes light and humorous moments of the film work better, when Disney isn't flashing the "dramatic moment" sign.

Disney had a lot of backpedaling to do with this film project after it tried to trademark the phrase Dia de los Muertos back in 2013, filing 10 applications with the US Patent and Trademark Office, including applications for toys, cereals and jewelry. This brought a strong backlash from the Latino community, including Bay Area political cartoonist Lalo Alcaraz who created a poster with a giant, vicious skeletal "Muerto Mouse" and claimed Disney was coming to "trademark your cultura." Ultimately, Alcaraz was hired by Disney to become a cultural adviser on *Coco*, along with a number of other Latinos. The film has gotten glowing reviews, including from Latino critics. Vanessa Erazo says "It's a blissful hug of acceptance in a time when the very existence of Latinos in this country is criminalized." Critic Claudia Puig says, "The movie's message about family, forgiveness, and unconditional love is poignant and profound, flying in the face of presidential proclamations about rapists, murderers, and drug traffickers." I say see it, enjoy it for all that it is, try to forget the Muerto Mouse.

BITS AND PIECES

BEWARE THE MOUSE Disney, the company built by a rabid anti-communist into a vast empire, wants to be more competitive with Netflix. By buying most of 21st Century Fox's assets for \$52 billion, Disney will own the Fox film and TV studios, cable networks including FX, and can consolidate production with global distribution streams. Whoohoo! Disney will add to its ownership of ABC, ESPN, Pixar and Star Wars with lucrative film franchises (*Avatar*, *Planet of the Apes*, *X-Men*) and a controlling interest in Hulu. Upcoming projects: online subscription TV and streaming sports and entertainment services including ESPN and Disney movies. In 2019 Disney will pull many of its movies/TV shows from Netflix.

Disney has a long, sordid past and present. Walt Disney felt particularly vulnerable to the 1940s Red Menace, believing that "Communist agitation" was behind a strike of cartoonists and animators that Disney's actions caused, and he issued a pamphlet to producers on how to avoid "subtle communistic touches" in their films. Walt's advice? Don't smear wealth or the free-enterprise system, don't deify the 'common man,' and for gosh sakes don't glorify the collective! But poor vulnerable Walt got some comfort from his long-time practices of offshoring whatever he could, using sweatshops and abusing workers (see *Mickey Mouse Goes to Haiti* on Youtube), not to mention decades of movies starring racism, sexism and a galaxy of stereotypes. Don't be surprised if you wake up some day and find "property of Walt Disney Company" stamped on you. 247

Z IS FOR CENSORSHIP PART 1 This past fall, a group at a Unitarian Church outside Boston set up a showing of a 2016 documentary film "The Occupation of the American Mind: Israel's Public Relations War in the United States." Narrated by Pink Floyd's Roger Waters (a strong BDS advocate), the documentary explores how the Israeli government, the US government, and the pro-Israel lobby have joined forces, often with very different motives, to shape American media coverage of the conflict in Israel's favor. The film has had hundreds of showings nationally (though it's never been accepted into any major film festivals), but for some reason a few hundred Zionists in Marblehead MA decided to clamp down and try to stop it by calling it – guess what – anti-Semitic. Free speech (such as it is) prevailed and the film was shown. Only about 30 Zs showed up to protest the showing. A win!

Z PART 2 Using a familiar alphabet format a children's book called P is for Palestine, launched by author Goldbarg Bashi in November has artistic representations of cultural and geographic objects relating to Palestine. When Book Culture (an independent bookstore in NYC) announced a book reading by author Bashi, all Zionist hell broke loose and

Is Puerto Rico Getting Better?

continued from page 1

message is that the lives of Puerto Ricans are not equal to other lives."

Before Maria there were massive protests against the Junta, privatization, and conditions on the island. Now just the act of staying and surviving is an act of protest. We must support Boricua on the island to survive, rebuild, and thrive. There are millions of people who want to stay on their Isla although there will be many forces seeking to use Maria as a means to seize land, lower the already abysmal salaries and standards of living. Schools, hospitals, clinics, the university are targets...privatize it all.

Please support the grass roots folks on the ground. Keep



the book was called – guess what – Anti-Semitic. A local synagogue Stephen Wise Free Synagogue threatened to dis-allow the Book Culture's participation in the synagogue's book fair unless it stopped carrying the book. (Particularly objectionable to the Zs was the line "I is for Intifada, Arabic for rising up for what is right, if you are a kid or grownup!") After "negotiations" (strong-arming) between the store and the

Zs, the bookstore was allowed back into the fold but only by agreeing to a statement (proposed and written by the synagogue) which stressed that the store opposed terrorism and "other forms of violence perpetrated against Israeli civilians during the intifada or thereafter. Any impression from the book to the contrary is not our view." This appalling apologist statement was put on the synagogue's website. But a pro-Palestinian student group has launched an online petition demanding that the Columbia University community boycott Book Culture until the store owners retract the statement. This book sounds like a great one to get for a classroom, or as a present for a local school. But just make sure it stays on the library shelves!

POWERFUL MISS PERU CHANGE OF SCRIPT

In October, Peru held its competition to select Miss Peru for the Miss Universe Pageant. This year, violence against women in Peru reached horrible new highs. The week before the pageant, the hashtag #PeruPaisdeVioladores (Peru Country of Rapists) was trending. Live on Peruvian tv, the women pulled off a daring change in script, replacing their physical measurement statistics with statistics about violence, assault and oppression of Peruvian women. The first contestant stepped up to the mic and said, "My name is Camila Canicoba, My measurements are 2,202 cases of murdered women in the last nine years." She was followed by Belgica Guerra who introduced herself and said, "My measurements are 65% of university women are assaulted by their partners." Next, Romina Lozano said, "My measurements are 3,114 female victims of trafficking until 2014." Melina Machuca said, "My measurements are: more than 80% of women in my city suffer from violence." Karen Cueto said, "My measurements are: 82 femicides and 156 attempted femicides so far this year." One by one, every contestant fiercely followed. The hashtag #MisMedidasSon (My measurements are) immediately started to trend across Peru. Other script changes: at times during the pageant, news stories and photos of violence against women appeared behind the contestants, and the traditional interview questions were changed to ask what laws the women recommended to fight the violence. We wish we knew the backstory on how the pageant rescripting came about. The Mocha Column salutes all the women involved.

MOVIE RATINGS SOAR, PRINCIPLES TAKE A DIVE In July 2017, Gerwig was among over 60 artists who signed an open letter to Lincoln Center organized by the New York group Adalah-NY. The letter called on Lincoln Center to cancel performances of an Israeli play staged "with support of the Israel's Office of Cultural Affairs in North America," in support of the BDS Boycott Divestment Sanctions movement. But in September 2017 Gerwig apologized for signing, saying signing had been "a mistake. I was unfamiliar with the complexities of the letter and I did not take the time to study them...because the letter had been signed by many other friends and collaborators I know to be thoughtful and honorable people, I agreed to add my name." We Mocha Column detectives surmise that Zionists went to Gerwig and said, "What????! No way your career is going forward if you sign onto this letter." So off went her name. Interestingly, another signer of the letter is playwright/actor Tracy Letts, who plays the dad in *Lady Bird*, and is apparently a BDS supporter. One critical review of the film *Lady Bird* said "Lady Bird doesn't have the courage of her convictions after all." Apparently neither does Gerwig.

WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF

Puerto Rico in the news. Demand US aid for Puerto Rico and an end to the Jones Act which makes everything more expensive in PR. Demand an end to the "PROMESA" law which created the Junta; cancel the debt. No more colonies.

See PRontheMap.com to keep updated about the situation and DefendPR.com for action items. Both of those sites need donations to keep going. Other good organizations to donate to are Centro para el Desarrollo Político Educativo y Cultura (community kitchens), Organización Boricúa de Agricultura Ecológica de Puerto Rico (sustainable farming), Colectivo Ilé (anti-racist work in PR), Maria Fund, Rebuild Comerio (rebuilding homes in Comerio), Vieques en Rescate, Inc. (support to people on Vieques).

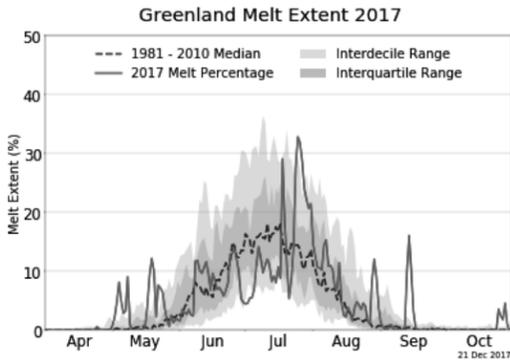
Que viva Puerto Rico!

Fire and Ice: This is the Future?

by Lisa

Starting with the ice, arctic ice sheets have both thinned and reduced in extent. Our northern hemisphere winter is just getting started, but the sea ice extent remains lower than average with a particularly low extent in the Chukchi Sea (yes, the ocean home of whales, seals, polar bears and walrus). The oil companies were finally pulling out of leases for deep water drilling in this area off the coast of Alaska after the last administration withdrew new oil and gas leasing there, but now that that action has been reversed under T, the companies are again pressing to reduce regulations and hoping to drill more oil and gas wells in this area to fuel even more global warming.

And, not surprising, Greenland's glaciers are melting more each year and later in the year-- a melt spike in September 2017 that was the largest ever recorded so late in the year. Good info on Greenland and great graphics at <https://nsidc.org/greenland-today/>



NSIDC / Thomas Mote, University of Georgia

On the other hand, it turns out that at least some of that water is being retained for some time in streams and lakes within the ice. Since it is not ALL flowing directly into the sea right away, sea level rise might be a bit slower than predicted... unless it isn't. Really great photos at <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/12/05/climate/greenland-ice-melting.html> (I recommend a look if you have access to a computer)

While the Antarctic is also experiencing lower sea ice and faster melting than normal, with an unexpectedly large new opening the sea ice cover in the Weddell Sea, called the Maud Rise Polynya (a Polynya is defined as a stretch of open water surrounded by ice), and as the sea ice retreats in the southern summer it is now a large embayment in the ice. This is the lowest ice extent seen in that area of the Antarctic.

Then there are the fires you have probably all been following more closely, particularly those of you in California with one of our largest historic fires ever still burning in Ventura/Santa Barbara (just 65% contained as of Dec. 22) and the devastating fires in Sonoma and nearby counties in October. Certainly wildfires have always occurred but these

are far worse due in part to the prolonged drought which killed trees and other vegetation providing even more fuel to the fire. And some local activists are trying to track the impact of the fires on all the oil and gas wells and seeps in the area... smoldering oil seeps make for dirty air indeed. http://www.cfrog.org/cfrog_blog Meanwhile the governor throws around catchy phrases like "the new normal" – although he seems to understand that climate change is making this all much worse, he continues to support more and more oil and gas drilling and fracking throughout the state.... As of course does the new administration in DC. Is this just hypocrisy mixed with greed? Or some more insidious form of greed+ denial – which lead us onto this path back with the start of the industrial revolution? Too late to change that now, but I can't help thinking it is too bad the saboteurs (who threw their shoes into the machinery to destroy and protest this inhuman forced labor) did not win the day.

A little bit of good news to end the year, on the water front (AKA "melted ice"): The California water board investigation into bottled water giant Nestle/Arrowhead found the corporation is taking water it doesn't have rights to, therefore it is unlawfully draining forest lands of needed water. This long and detailed article laying out the history of this particular issue is worth a read. <http://www.desertsun.com/story/news/environment/2017/12/21/california-regulators-tell-bottled-water-maker-nestle-halt-unauthorized-water-diversions-national-fo/928071001/> While this investigation is not the last word on the subject it is a hopeful step in the right direction. We need clean water for our ecosystems and no more plastic bottles!



L.I.G.H.T.

We are the Learning Initiative for Gay, Heterosexual and Transgender folks (L.I.G.H.T.). We were created in the bowels of the slave ships known as the Prison Industrial Complex (PIC) and are currently focused on Trans and Gender Variant issues within prisons. We publish a quarterly newsletter called *Hearts on a Wire/On the Inside Out* which is a collaborative with our outside collective. We have about 400+ members in PA and a few elsewhere. We are beginning a large scale project called the Resourceful LIGHT which will be a large and hopefully a complete resource guide with state by state directories of services for folks who are incarcerated.

Are you incarcerated and interested in helping? We would love to hear about experiences you and other have had with organizations, good or bad. Also, do you have ideas that you think we should add or consider? We are also interested in articles, particularly How-To's and important court decisions. We will consider all articles but be mindful that we can't promise to publish your article. When you send artwork or articles, please include your name, address and your signed permission to publish your work. Please try to keep submissions to a reasonable size. Lastly for those of us on the inside of the PIC, we need your help getting folks involved. Tell your friends and family about our project, feel free to circulate my info and our collective address in Philadelphia. We welcome any and all thoughts, criticism, advice, ideas etc. that you have to offer and also, any help you can spare. We need funding too to print and pay for postage so if you or someone you know wants to contribute, they can send donations to our outside collective: *Caitlyn Barry, Hearts on a Wire 1315 Spruce St. Phila.PA 19107, heartsonawire@gmail.com*

In closing, I just want you all to know that I/We are doing all that we can do to bring us all a little bit of hope in this dark corrupt setting. We will never stop fighting for true justice reform and equality. *Chris Calix (Mrs GeGe) #JY4937, SCI Rockview, PO Box A, Bellefonte PA 16823*



Same Old Song – Honduras Elections

by Blue

Thousands of protestors poured into the streets in 200 actions across Honduras in December in response to the government's takeover of the presidential election. Hondurans ignored curfews and risked violent attacks from the National Police to tell the world and their government that they are sick of the fraudulent elections, drug trafficking, violence, poverty and repression that had run rampant since the 2009 coup and they wanted a change. The coup in 2009, backed by the US, ousted democratically-elected President Manuel Zelaya Rosales because the right wing feared he would try to run for a second term.

The November election had ten people running for the presidency. The top contenders were the current president, Juan Orlando Hernández of the right-wing Nationalist Party and Salvador Nasralla of the Alliance Against the Dictatorship, a coalition of the Liberty and Refoundation Party (LIBRE), the Anti-Corruption Party (PAC), and the Innovation and Unity Party (PINU), along with other smaller parties formed after the 2009 coup. The election was riddled with fraud from the beginning. Hernández, elected in 2013, had the Supreme Court (appointed by him) override the constitution in order to run for a second term. Scare tactics, police intimidation, buying of votes were just some of the reported attempts to tilt the election in favor of Hernandez. With 60% of votes counted on election night and Nasralla clearly ahead, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) in charge of the voting procedures shut down the count, claimed an electronic break down and refused to announce any more results.

Honduras has a population of less than 8 million people. They have a literacy rate of 80%. They have the highest murder rate in the world. A woman is murdered every 16 hours in Honduras and 96% of these murders go unsolved. Birth control and abortion are illegal. Contrary to U.S. State Department claims, human rights abuses are worsening. Hernández and his party have shown that they have total impunity as they oversee continued murders of women, campesinos, LGBTQI people, Indigenous peoples, journalists, and human rights defenders. In March, 2016 Berta Cáceres, a Honduran indigenous rights and environmental activist, was murdered in her home by gunmen probably hired by the Hernandez government.

The US government has always been involved in the corrupt wheeling and dealings of Honduras since the early 20th century when O. Henry nicknamed it "banana republic" to describe United Fruit Company and others' exploitation of Honduras. In the 1980's the US established a military base there to train militants to fight against the revolutionary forces in El Salvador and to train the Contras to destroy the Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua. Now, under the guise of the U.S. War on Drugs, the Honduran police and military are trained by the U.S., Israel, and Colombia and funded by millions of U.S. dollars annually. It's no wonder violence is so widespread and endemic in Honduras. Decades of U.S. supported corruption and US foreign policy has bled the soul of Honduras.

Finally, on December 17th and supported by the US, the TSE announced that Hernandez won the election. Even the Organization of American States (OAS) disagrees with this decree and is calling for a new vote. On Dec. 22nd many protests in the form of community organized barricades sprang up. According to Witness for Peace, people at the barricades want us in the U.S. to know that our tax dollars are misspent due to corruption. What they seek is to have their basic human rights respected and to be able to earn a decent living. They are sure that under a dictatorial regime that will not happen. The protests are continuing and there is no indication that the people in the streets are willing to concede.



courtesy AROC

Jerusalem is Palestine

On December 6, the u.s. government announced that it would move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, a city which Israel illegally occupied in 1967 and later annexed. The u.s. blocked a UN security council vote against the move, although the vote was 14-1. Despite us threats to cut off aid to any country which voted for the general assembly resolution to condemn the move, the resolution passed by a vote of 128 to 9, with 35 abstentions. Hundreds of thousands of people around the world protested the u.s. announcement.

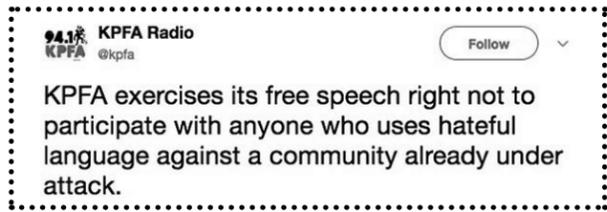


Progressives Should Not Have Demanded Dawkins Cancellation

by Tinku Ishtiaq

As a long-time supporter of my local radio station, KPFA, I was saddened to read that this progressive station had decided to cancel its sponsorship of an event to promote Richard Dawkins recent memoir. Apparently, my fellow progressive listeners lobbied to cancel the event and the listener-supported station felt compelled to comply. It is frustrating that in a knee-jerk reaction to attacks against Islam, leftists are coming in defense of an extremely conservative religious ideology, rather than criticizing its contemporary practices.

Richard Dawkins' comments against Muslims (if indeed these are true) are reprehensible and his apparent animosity against Islam stands out among his comments against all religions. But there is much more to Dawkins than his focus on Islam. His contributions to evolutionary biology, atheist thoughts and helping to popularize scientific/rational inquiry are extremely laudable. Besides his evolutionary book, *The Selfish Gene*, which is considered to be the most influential science book of all times, I found the "God Delusion" to be as engrossing as it is important for theological studies. While Dawkins' particular antagonism towards Islam can be difficult to swallow it is important to keep in mind that Islam does stand out as the most conservative among the major religions of the world. It is not only the so-called "extremist Islam" that is the problem but the current practices of Islam in most of the Muslim world has increasingly become more conservative, homophobic and sexist – all due to the particular fundamentalist interpretations of Islamic texts that are favored by the powerful and wealthy Saudi family.



As someone who grew up in an Islamic country in Asia I have seen the changes over the last few decades; from women walking freely without covering their heads some years ago to almost every other woman wearing a hijab nowadays, religious texts replacing secular ones in education, laws being interpreted along religious lines, atheists and gays being murdered, minorities from other religions being routinely attacked, even the shrines of Sufi (an ascetic and mystic branch of Islam) saints are not spared. Indonesia, home to the largest Muslim population in the world, recently installed Islamic Sharia law in one of its provinces, quickly gaining notoriety for punishing gay men with public lashings, along with the institution of misogynistic laws. This is not extremist Islam, this is becoming the general face of that religion. The religion that I grew up in decades ago seems to have been downright progressive when compared to the version of it that is being practiced all over the world now.

Paradoxically, as a result of Islamophobia among Western conservatives, it seems that Islam is getting a free pass among liberals. Left activists have historically railed against the homophobia, sexism and other institutionally supported bigotries of the Catholic church and other religions. When it comes to Islam we become defensive. Given the increasing attacks against Muslims in the West this defensiveness is somewhat understandable. *But we have to distinguish between support for Muslims, which is essential, and support for Islam, which is unwarranted. We should subject Islam to the same scrutiny, criticism and condemnation that we reserve for other religions.*

After the Orlando massacre last year I remember scouring the newspapers for Islamic organizations or mosques which stated that they stand in solidarity with the LGBT community in condemning the horrific violence against our own. Other than CAIR (Council on America-Islamic Relations) I couldn't find any other Islamic group which came out in support of the LGBT community. Curiously, prominent liberal columnists in the New York Times were roundly condemning some Christian churches which did not publicly state their support for the LGBT community while condemning these killings. But similarly silent mosques were spared such criticism. Such a patronizing attitude merely serves to further the agenda of the conservative mosques.

The badly needed reformation of Islam, to cater to the needs of the 21st century instead of being stuck in the traditions of 7th century Arabia, may not be inspired by people like Dawkins - but we need to hear the voices of the critics. Curiously, Dawkins talk was focused on promoting his book, not on Islam. Even though such a talk could easily veer in any direction the author intends to take it, I would consider it a privilege for KPFA listeners to hear him speak. The blanket denunciations of people we don't agree with on some issues, despite their lifelong contributions on other important topics, make it easy to deny platforms to these people. For me it is not primarily an issue of free speech as Dawkins is free to speak in many forums. But, as progres-



KPFA Shouldn't be a Forum for Dawkins

by Deeg

I supported KPFA in cancelling the Richard Dawkins event. I have been a listener/supporter of KPFA for decades. I demonstrated outside the station when Pacifica tried to oust local programmers. My support for KPFA is not based on it being an equal platform for all speech. In fact, I listen to KPFA because I don't want to hear the right-wing's point of view, which I can hear any time I want (or don't want) on CBS, NBC, or other mainstream media.

I believe KPFA should provide a broad platform for progressives. And by progressives, I mean people who are not racist, anti-immigrant, pro-war, sexist, homophobic, anti-queer, etc. And that's why I think KPFA was right in cancelling Dawkins' event last summer.

Dawkins is a well known evolutionary biologist, who has published several popular science books including "The Selfish Gene." He is also a public atheist.

Unfortunately, like the beloved trump, Dawkins has used twitter to spread hate. For example, he was disinvented from being a keynote speaker at the 2016 Northeast Conference on Science and Skepticism for promoting the [incredibly awful] video "Feminists Love Islamists," on his twitter feed. Some of Dawkins statements include, "I think Islam is the greatest force for evil in the world today. I've said so, often and loudly."

I am a secularist and atheist, and I agree with the statements Tinku has made, both in his current and previous articles, that it is important to support Muslims against state repression, discrimination, and violence. And that supporting Muslims does not mean supporting Islam as a religion, or the interpretation of Islam given by anti-woman, anti-queer and sometimes genocidal ruling cliques or militias. I agree that the left often gives a pass to forces we have no business supporting, such as the recent assertions that opposition to Putin/Russia is a new "red scare", or "McCarthyism," somehow ignoring that Putin and Russia are neither red, nor communist, and they have, with the Russian Orthodox Church physically attacked, jailed, and persecuted feminists and queers. Slobodan Malosevic (of the former Yugoslavia) was not the "peoples' hero," and the ayatollah Khomeini regime killed thousands of secular Iranian radicals, who had risked their lives organizing against the Shah.

Some long time UV readers will remember LAGAI's long dispute with the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP)

sives we do ourselves a disfavor when we attempt to deprive our community of alternative opinions, particularly from people who are otherwise reasonable and even enlightening. Are we so confident in our beliefs that we don't need to listen to the opposition or are we too fragile that we dare not challenge our own assumptions? We should be aware that our attempts to insulate ourselves in the echo chamber of friendly opinions and perspectives leave us unprepared to effectively participate in social/political debates; we risk making ourselves politically vulnerable and irrelevant

which until 2001 had an explicitly anti-gay program, typified by statements such as, the RCP considers "homosexuality, especially male homosexuality, to be a product of bourgeois decadence." It was for this reason that LAGAI refused to participate in any coalitions with the RCP, including the 500 Years is Enough Coalition against the planned anniversary celebrations of the 1492 Spanish imperialist expedition to the Americas. Our position has always been that any progressive organization has to oppose homophobia and all forms of oppression. If there is an organization that supports the oppression of LGBTQIA people, we are not in coalition with them. In fact, it is only coincidence when we happen to have similar positions on, for example, the imperialist conquest.

There are other times when we have coincidentally ended up with similar positions to other groups, but that doesn't mean they are our allies. For example, there are many white anti-Semites who oppose Israel. One such man came to a QUIT! meeting. We told him that we oppose Israel, we oppose anti-semitism, and he was not welcome to join QUIT!

Richard Dawkins is not in our secularist progressive movement. When he tweets out anti-feminist, and anti-Muslim statements and videos, or when he claims that Islam is somehow worse than militant xtianity, he is not being a progressive, he's being a sexist and a racist. Who is the greatest evil, or even who is the greatest evil religion probably depends on who is persecuting you at a given moment. The gays being killed in Uganda might nominate the xtians, the Rohingya in Myanmar (Burma) might nominate the Buddhists, the Muslims in India the current militant Hindu regime, and the Palestinians might vote for the Zionists claiming to represent Jews.

QUIT! and LAGAI have a long history of challenging the misogynist, imperialist, and anti-queer statements and actions of all religions. We have taken action against the Catholic Church which has, in our short life-times in SF, opposed domestic partners, gay marriage (coincidental agreement?) abortion rights, and birth control, and recently canonized the murderous Junipero Serra. In the Central America movement, we tried to have events held in places other than Catholic Churches. We have opposed attempts by Zionists to link the dispossession and genocide of Palestinians to the Jewish religion. We have protested against the oppression of LGBTQIA people in many countries, and more recently against the Putin/Russian Orthodox attacks on queers and women.

The right to free speech is a right against government restrictions of speech. Newspapers, TV, radio, internet sites, etc. put on whoever they choose. As radical secularists, some of us atheists, we also have a right to choose who speaks in our name. And for me, isn't the anti-woman, anti-Muslim Richard Dawkins.

There are currently almost 3000 people on the UltraViolet mailing list. We do not share any part of our list with any other group or individual.

Don't put down the newsletter, you haven't finished reading it yet! We left out the results of our egg nog taste test (Clover, Bud's Mitchell's), so we could put this coupon in. So please don't forget to send us your address changes, subscribe your friends and send us any spare money you haven't already sent to Indivisible.

Name: _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

I moved, so please change my address to: _____

This person no longer lives here: _____. Here is a donation of \$ _____.
 Please send a copy to my friend: _____

Return to: LAGAI, 3543 - 18th Street #26, San Francisco, CA 94110 (510)434-1304, info@lagai.org