

ULTRAVIOLET

Newsletter of LAGAI -- Queer Insurrection

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Davis: We Shall Not Be Moved Pope Unwelcome in Kentucky



Rowan County--County clerk and newly crowned King-impersonator Kim Davis has scuttled a planned visit to Kentucky by Pope Francis, saying that she will not sign a visa for the papal fly-in.

"He is planning to make it easier for Catholic couples to get marriages annulled," said three-time-divorcee Davis, "and some of those people may go on to have gay marriages." Davis's announcement thwarted a plan by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence to conduct a Mass divorce outside the cathedral where Francis was to perform the first of his saint-qualifying miracles – turning neoliberals into democratic socialists. San Francisco had intended to offer Mayor Ed Lee as one of the beneficiaries of the papal transformation.

Local Grand Wizard Ronald Frump embraced Davis's resolve, saying, "We don't want no Spanish-talking papists round here." Imperial Dragon Pike Suckame went Frump one better by embracing Davis as she gave the God salute on the courthouse steps.

Response from the Vatican was subdued.

"Return will we," said His Holiness, "spaceship soon have as we."

Activist fiction coming this Fall

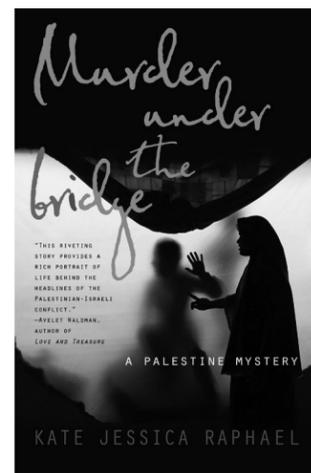
Consequence by Steve Masover

A shadowy eco-saboteur proposes an attack in the heart of genetically-modified corn country. A San Francisco activist, losing faith in the impact of non-violent protest, is ripe to be drawn into a more dangerous game.

"I couldn't put Consequence down! Masover ... asks thorny, essential questions about personal responsibility and the role of violence in movements for social change." – Sam Green, Academy Award-nominated director of *The Weather Underground*

Launch Party
Sunday, 18 Oct 2015, 3:00 pm
Diesel Books, Oakland
Champagne will flow

For more info www.SteveMasover.com



Murder Under The Bridge: A Palestine Mystery by Kate Raphael

Rania is the only female Palestinian police detective in the northern West Bank. Chloe is a Jewish American peace worker with a camera and a big attitude. When Rania finds the body of a young foreign woman in an olive grove, she and Chloe must team up to track down the murderer, uncovering secrets about Israeli war crimes and Israel's thriving sex trafficking trade.

"A stunning mystery novel by a talented new writer. Anyone picking up the book will be drawn in by Rania and Chloe, a dynamic, realistic, pair of women sleuths who bridge cultural divide and distrust to investigate a death on the Israeli-Palestinian border." – Sujata Massey, author of *The Sleeping Dictionary* and other Rei Shimura mysteries

Book Release Celebration
Thursday Nov. 19, 7:30 pm
La Pena Cultural Center,
3105 Shattuck, Berkeley
**\$5, no one turned away; a benefit for
Middle East Children's Alliance**
Wheelchair accessible
There will be cupcakes

Book Reading & Signing:
Friday, November 20, 6:00 pm
Book Passage
San Francisco Ferry Building

info: www.kateraphael.com

**Join QUIT! (Queers Undermining Israeli Terrorism) for
Pop-ups Against Pinkwashing
Can't Pinkwash Displacement & Eviction
in Palestine, San Francisco or anywhere else!**

WHAT: Roving Political Theater at the Castro Street Fair
WHEN: Sunday, October 4, noon - 2 pm
WHERE: Meet at noon outside Starbucks (18th/btw Castro & Noe)
If you miss us there, look for us between 17th & 19th on Castro
We'll be the ones with the Wall and lots of pink

We hope to see you there!
#BDS #FreePalestine

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Therese Coupez

Therese Coupez died September 8th of pancreatic cancer, at the age of 62. Therese was a healer, an acupuncturist who lived in the Mission District for 31 years. Therese came to SF after being paroled from the federal prison in 1984. She had served almost 7 years for political activities in the 1970s as part of the George Jackson Brigade.

The second time I met Therese was when I saw a woman outside of my next door neighbor Elaine's apartment smoking a cigarette and looking like she belonged there. That was when I found out I was to have a new neighbor and Elaine was to have a new girlfriend. The first time we met was when I got a very heavy sofa sleeper from her during one of the women political prisoner garage sales. Thompson's map guides were very handy before google maps. I used them to get from job to job. One day I offered to lend her a copy of one as she drove from one accounting job to another. Her response: "Oh yeah, we used those when we were planning bank robberies."

As Therese described her life, "I did go on to become a healer [acupuncture], and in many ways, true activists are healers. That if you're an activist in the world, you're working to make the world a better place. You're working to see that people have a home. To see that people have healthy food, to see that people have access to healthy lifestyles, parks, and places to walk, run. That people have access to good, solid, healthy education. All of those things.

"And then I was lucky enough to have done time with Ide Torres from the Puerto Rican movement, and with Judy Siff, who was in one of the Weather Underground related



groups and with Carmen Valentine and Dylcia Pagan from the Puerto Rican Independence Movement... A lot of people were willing to risk a lot in order to make that change, to try to make the world a fairer and better place.

"There are still close to 100 political prisoners in the United States today either part of or related to the Black Panther Party; and Leonard Peltier—the American Indian Movement; Oscar Lopez—the Puerto Rican independence Movement. People still to this day are locked up for, in most cases, nothing more than a conviction to conspire – not even for actual acts. We must not forget them."

Therese was our friend, neighbor, comrade. We'll miss her. -- Daniel

Bay Area Rents Out of Control

by Deeg

In August, the Urban Displacement Project of UC Berkeley published a series of maps showing that most low income communities in the Bay Area are at risk of gentrification, and lower income households are being displaced from middle and high income areas.

(The Urban Displacement Project of UCB should not be confused with the UCB Berkeley urban displacement program, which has involved evicting Berkeley residents and small businesses in order to expand off-campus university facilities such as conference centers. In 1963 James Baldwin famously said that "urban renewal" means "Negro removal.")

Communities organizing against gentrification have once again turned to "rent stabilization", the term used to include rent control and eviction protection. East Palo Alto, a historically Black and now predominantly Latino community, has seen much of its land literally terraformed, through bulldozing of housing, superficial remediation of hazardous waste sites, and construction of big-box stores and brand new housing for university and tech professionals. In 2010, 79 percent of East Palo Alto voters passed the Rent Stabilization and Just Cause for Eviction Ordinance, which expanded an existing law covering mobile homes to cover apartments, and created a Rent Stabilization Board to control rent increases and prevent evictions for the purpose of evading rent control. In 2014, the City contracted with Dr. Stephen Barton of UCB to conduct a study of the effectiveness of this program, and the report he provided this July is available from the East Palo Alto website.

According to the UCB gentrification maps, all of the Richmond low income communities are at some risk of gentrification, and many of the areas are rated at the highest level of "advanced gentrification." This July, the Richmond City Council passed a rent stabilization ordinance, scheduled to take effect on September 4. But the California Apartment Association sponsored a referendum campaign, reportedly paying signature gatherers anywhere from \$12.50 to \$20 per signature. There are videos of signature gatherers lying to potential signers, saying that the referendum would create or expand rent control. The CAA submitted 7100 signatures, which if certified by the contra costa county clerk, will put the ordinance on hold until the general election in November 2016. Without the protection of just cause eviction, many tenants may find themselves without a home by then.

In 1995, the California legislature, under the leadership of willie brown, gave landlords in Santa Monica, West Hollywood, Berkeley, East Palo Alto, and Cotati (which all had vacancy control) and San Francisco (whose rent control applied to single family units) a big gift. The law prohibited any city from controlling rents on units constructed in 1995 or later, and prohibited rent control on single family housing. It also mandated vacancy decontrol, which means that a landlord can charge whatever rent they want on a vacant unit. (If the unit is otherwise subject to rent control, the new rent would become the base for that unit.) Landlords have made millions (or is it billions) by now off this Costa-Hawkins

Rental Housing Act. By requiring vacancy decontrol, this act also gives landlords a big incentive to evict existing tenants. (This happened to me in when I was evicted from my apartment on 40th Street, after the Oakland fires gave landlords the opportunity to double or triple rents in north Oakland, and get a better class of tenants, at the same time.)

When a local government passes a just cause eviction law, it provides a basis for tenants to fight evictions. Unlike rent control, it can apply to all rental units, regardless of when they are constructed. Unfortunately, state law still would permit owner-move-in evictions. (This happened to me in the Sunset in San Francisco when the landlord said that his son was going to move in, which he still hadn't done 3 years later.)

Don't cry for me, California, because unlike many multiply-evicted people I was able to get a down payment together and buy a house in east Oakland. That provided both eviction protection and rent stabilization. That is what property owners get. Shouldn't tenants get the same?

In Pacifica, where I now live, tenants have been receiving 60 day notices of evictions, or of increases in rents of 50 percent or greater. Some rents have doubled. The problem for Pacifica is that we are less than 50 miles from Silicon Valley, and less than 20 miles from San Francisco. A group has formed, Fair Rents for Pacifica (fairrents4pacific.org), and are marching in the fog-fest parade on September 26. The cities of San Mateo and Burlingame are also considering rent stabilization. Although a strong rent stabilization law is needed on a state level, most activists don't have much hope for that any time soon. So much for the democratic governor and legislature.

RCP, remind me – who won the last election? Oh yeah, the bourgeoisie.



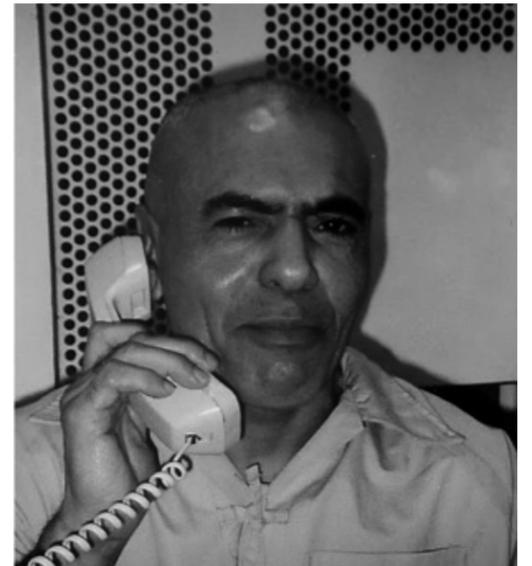
Hugo Pinell Murdered

Hugo Pinell, the last jailed member of the San Quentin Six, was murdered August 12 at California State Prison, Sacramento, a maximum-security prison adjacent to Folsom State Prison. Officials allege that two inmates stabbed the 71 year old Pinell.

The attack sparked a riot involving some 70 inmates. Prison guards engulfed the area with pepper spray, and warning shots. In total, 29 inmates were injured. One remains in critical condition suffering from a severe head injury and multiple stab wounds.

The date of the stabbing, August 12 is 39 years to the day after Pinell's conviction as one of the San Quentin Six. It is also 3 years after an agreement between representatives of white, Black and Latino prisoners aimed at stopping inter-racial violence. Hugo Pinell was one of the prime movers of this agreement.

The San Quentin Six -- Hugo Pinell, Johnny Spain, David Johnson, Willie Tate, Fleeta Drumgo, Luis Talamantez -- were tried in 1971 on frame-up charges that stemmed from an alleged prison break in which prison guards murdered George Jackson. As the *Bulletin* wrote at the time of the trial, "The six men were picked out because they had been active in prison political organizing, had denounced police murders inside the prison, or had refused to turn informer." The trial, lasted 507 days, covered 20,000 pages of testimony and cost over \$2 million. Tate, Drumgo, Talamantez, Spain and Johnson have been released in the past 20 years. Hugo Pinell was the longest-serving inmate in prison isolation units in California's history until he was transferred to Folsom and put in general prison population on July 29. He had spent more than 43 years in solitary confinement, and had been denied parole 10 times before his death, most recently in May 2014. His family and his attorney, assert that prison officials knew that he would be targeted once he was transferred and to our sorrow, he was.



Stop Murders of Transwomen

By August 2015 more transwomen have been reported murdered than throughout the whole of 2014. The vast, vast majority of transwomen reported to have been murdered are transwomen of color. And what would happen if the real numbers were reported? This genocide isn't being reported in the national-level press.

"Transgender people are four times more likely... to report living in extreme poverty, making less than \$10,000 per year..." Most transgender women don't go out in Versace. Ten of the 11 transgender women reported murdered in 2013 in this country were transgender women of color. In 2014 there were reported 12 hate motivated murders of transgender women. All of them people of color. Somewhere in the world a transgender person is reported murdered every day. And how many more people are murdered that we do not read about?

Where is the national attention? Where is the spotlight?

November 20 is the Transgender Day of Remembrance. Please check the TGI Justice website (www.tgijp.org) for information about Bay Area actions.

Victory in California Solitary Confinement Case

continued from page 3

80,000 people a day are in isolation in some form in u.s. prisons both state and federal, jails, deportation detention centers, juvenile facilities, military prisons and mental institutions. Isolation is a political tool to control those seen as political threats. This practice is broadly implemented to control people of color, the poor and oppressed, and people with addiction and mental illness, who increasingly comprise the bulk of the prison population.

Some systems make a distinction between the various reasons for solitary confinement. "Disciplinary segregation" is time spent in solitary as punishment for violating prison rules, and usually lasts from several weeks to several years. "Administrative segregation" relies on a system of classification rather than actual behavior, and often constitutes a permanent placement, extending from years to decades. "Involuntary protective custody" is especially common for children held in adult prisons, LGBTQ individuals, and other "at-risk" prisoners who live in indefinite isolation despite having done nothing wrong. Transgender people are disproportionately placed in isolation.

Some people are held in solitary confinement in special "supermax" prisons, such as California's Pelican Bay, Virginia's Red Onion, and the federal government's ADX in Florence, Colorado. At least 44 states and the federal system now have supermax prisons, which are often composed only of solitary confinement cells.

Enough is enough

While we applaud the victory in California, the widespread use of torture in US prisons in the form of isolation and segregation is still a pervasive practice. New psychological studies only mirror what has been known for centuries. In 1790 when the first penitentiary was built in Philadelphia a report stated that the use of solitary confinement "causes a psychosis that leads to terror, self-mutilation, and suicide."

In 1890 a man convicted of murder and sentenced to death was held in lockdown for one month. He brought a suit before the Supreme Court who ruled in his favor and released him. The justices wrote that "...experience demonstrated that ...a considerable number of prisoners fell, after even short confinement, into a semi-fatuous condition, from which it was next to impossible to arouse them, and others became violently insane; others, still, committed suicide; while those who stood the ordeal better were not generally reformed and in most cases did not recover sufficient mental activity to be of any subsequent service to the community."

Experiments in solitary confinement, AKA administra-

tive detention, isolation, segregation, lockdown or the hole, have developed into the torture techniques used against people involved in various social and political movements. There are still members of the Black Panther Party in prison and in solitary confinement; some have served more than 4 decades. The Angola 3 in Louisiana are an example of the excessive use of solitary confinement for political reasons. Robert King was released after 29 years. Herman Wallace was finally released after 40 and died a few days later of cancer. Alfred Woodfox remains in prison even though his conviction has been overturned three times.

Chelsea Manning was threatened with lockdown when an expired tube of toothpaste was found in her cell. Rastafarians have been put in solitary confinement for refusing to cut their hair. Prisoners with mental illnesses are often kept in isolation where they are refused treatment and prescription medication. Children in juvenile and adult facilities are placed in solitary confinement for punishment and/or protection where they are 19 times more likely to commit suicide. Evie Litwok spent 7 weeks in the hole in Tallahassee for sending an email about the death of another inmate.

Angela Davis told Amy Goodman on Democracy Now! last year that "...we have to think about what in the long run will produce decarceration, fewer people behind bars, and hopefully, eventually, in the future, the possibility of imagining a landscape without prisons, where other means are used to address issues of harm, where social problems, such as illiteracy and poverty, do not lead vast numbers of people along a trajectory that leads to prison."

What Can Be Done – Groups Working to End Solitary Confinement

#AbolishSolitary, a Twitter campaign by Critical Resistance to abolish prisons.

National Religious Campaign Against Torture has a state by state petition to end prolonged solitary confinement. www.nrcat.org or NRCAT, 110 Maryland Ave NE, Suite 502, Washington DC 20002

American Friends Service Committee www.afsc.org or 65 Ninth St. San Francisco, CA 94103

ACLU www.aclu.org

LSPC www.prisonerswithchildren.org or Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, 1540 Market St., Suite 490, San Francisco, CA 94102

Women and Trans Prisoners Defense Committee <https://womeninprisondefensecommittee.wordpress.com/> or call : 412 - 932 - 7786

Private Prisons Need to Go

Shouts out to all of those out there currently in the confines of the prison industrial complex in whatever state that they may rest their heads. I am hailing from the Midwestern state of Indiana and I am letting the world know about the GeoGroup, Inc.'s strangle hold on the offenders in their Annex Facility in New Castle IN.

Although this is a PC unit (Don't judge me!) it is still part of the evils of the privatized prison industry. Currently at this "minimum" security facility we have the pain of being on supermax like conditions: fed in our cells, no window, 22.5 hours a day with a cellmate, with no window... And if we file a grievance...

Well let me tell you about the grievance process. The grievances have to be submitted to...you guessed it, the officers. They are our access to the grievance box. And it's not like they have a reputation for the highest caliber of employees here at GeoGroup.

Let's not forget that they have the ability to censor our mail, and to throw it away if it tickles their fancy. There have been several letters that I have mailed out that never arrived at their destination... The postal service is not that unreliable.

They also force us queers to be housed with gay bashing homophobes or worse white supremacists that want nothing more than to threaten us and make our lives miserable. Currently I am housed with one who also has robbed many of our brothers and sisters. When I reported this to the facility they informed me – nothing – they did not even answer my mail. They have left me here to endure torture. But I am doing something about it now. I am calling out to all of you out here reading this. The private prison industry is forcing the rights of prisoners to be oppressed. We need your voices, emails and as much noise on social media that you can make. We need our voices heard. The GeoGroup Inc. should not be allowed to continue to oppress us, prisoners, queer and the like. We need the voices out there to force them to be accountable.

Kenneth W. McKelvey, #911662, Newcastle Correctional Annex, PO Box A, Newcastle IN 47362



Hello from Black & Pink!

For those who don't know us, Black & Pink is an open family of LGBTQ prisoners and "free world" allies who support each other. Our work toward the abolition of the prison industrial complex is rooted in the experience of currently and formerly incarcerated people. We are outraged by the violence of the prison industrial complex against LGBTQ people, and respond through advocacy, education, and organizing. We send out a newsletter to our LGBTQ members and maintain a national list of incarcerated LGBTQ members whom we support in finding free world pen pals. If you are LGBTQ and want to be on our list, you can write to us at: **Black and Pink | 614 Columbia Ave | Dorchester, MA 02125**

In the last two years, Black & Pink has been developing chapters across the country - including Boise, Chicago, Denver, New York City, and San Francisco. Each of these local chapters has been working locally and in connection to each other to bring in new free world pen pals and do other projects, including study groups, workshops, support for recently released members, organizing more winter holiday card parties than ever before, participation in the Black Lives Matter movement, fighting prison censorship rules and advocating for our members in various ways. We also did a survey of our incarcerated members and received over 1,500 responses.

We are currently entering and analyzing all the results.

We are excited to be celebrating the 10 year anniversary of Black & Pink this year with a weekend of celebration, community building, healing, skills sharing, and planning for the future. It will take place in Boston, MA from October 16-18, 2015 and we will be offering stipends to support formerly incarcerated members to attend. Please get in touch with us if you are being released soon and want to attend.

On a local level, in the SF Bay Area, we call our chapter "Flying Over Walls" and our logo is a picture of a unicorn jumping over a prison wall. We have already recruited members and are about to start the 3rd round of our Queer & Trans Prison Abolition Study Group – which will include both incarcerated and free world members discussing readings through penpal letters.

If you have internet access, you can find out more about Black & Pink at blackandpink.org and you can find out more about our SF Bay Area chapter at flyingoverwalls.wordpress.org

Petals

I am a 36 year old Afro-American male has been in prison for 18 years now with 2 more to go.

I am writing you today in hope you may be able to assist me in getting some of my future goals underway.

As a bisexual male I have always felt the backlash of dealing with LGBTQ issues. It is more accepted here in prison as a way of life, to some degree.

But what gets me (which I fully understand/but don't at the same time) is why the LGBTQ community is getting upset because people refuse them service. As Americans, everybody has the right to freedom of religious beliefs, we can't change that. But what we can do is CREATE OUR OWN! Why can't we have hotels, clubs, restaurants, apartment buildings etc that are owned by the L/G community that is strictly for us?

As a Black man I understand oppression so sometimes we have to do for self first. The reason I'm writing you is because [there is] an organization I would like to start:

PETALS – Lesbians, Bisexuals, Queers, Gays and Transgenders Ensuring Progress – is both an activist organization and a fraternal society, whose focus is on the continuous establishment of the LGBTQ community in the fields of economics, politics and social. It is this Order's goals to establish businesses in which "our" community can feel comfortable, establish more LGBTQ tolerance throughout the world, establish ourselves as pillars in which all can rely.

Please contact me: Mr. Larry Quarles #1015077, P.C.C. 11593 State Highway – O, Mineral Point MI 63660

Huddled Masses Yearning for SodaStream Jobs

-- Or, Capitalism is hell

by Kate

I grew up on stories of refugees scrounging and clawing their ways through Europe: Walter Benjamin, the great German philosopher, committing suicide when the Spanish government cancelled his transit visa; his friend, Hannah Arendt, imprisoned in France before escaping with illegal documents; and of course the MS St. Louis on its voyage from port to port, 908 Jewish refugees turned away from Cuba, United States and Canada, before returning to Europe.

When these stories were told, there was an implicit subtext -- We would never allow that to happen again. In the 1980s, liberal churches and synagogues invoked that history to justify participating in the sanctuary movement, offering refuge to people fleeing u.s.-backed dictatorships and wars in Central America without asking how they got here. We didn't know it then, but those reagan years were the good ol' days. Today the thousands of women and children held in "family detention centers" -- i.e., private prisons in Texas and Pennsylvania, can watch on television as hundreds of thousands of people described alternately as "migrants," "refugees," "refugees and migrants" and "asylum seekers" teem onto the beaches of southern Europe, some not making it, and try to make their way through Macedonia and Serbia, Hungary and Lesbos, to reach the golden shores of Berlin. A friend just back from vacation in Istanbul talked about seeing obviously middle-class, healthy young Syrians with children sleeping on the streets, surrounded by all their possessions, with nowhere to go. Today's New York Times talked about a man among the many trapped in a Croatian border town, as Serbia closed its border, asking for directions to walk back to Belgrade to head back to Iraq.

u.s. media write sanctimonious op-eds about how Europe needs to step up to handle its refugee crisis humanely, while donald trump gets more popular as he adds Muslim-bashing to his Latino-bashing repertoire. The obama administration argues that it doesn't need to follow a judge's ruling ordering the release of families from detention because it had already sped up the process of releasing or deporting them. The U.S. Civil Rights Commission just released a report documenting the harsh conditions under which refugees are being held, including bad food, repressive discipline, negligent medical care and sexual abuse. "The federal government apprehends and detains these individuals in conditions that are similar, if not worse, than the conditions they faced from their home countries," the report concluded.

The *San Diego Union-Tribune* reminds us that one year ago, 100 protesters swarmed a bus carrying refugees, many of them unaccompanied children, through the town of Murietta, California, demanding they not be released in their community (they were not). Now right-wing nationalists protest Syrian refugees in Germany, Slovakia, Bulgaria and Serbia. The president of Hungary says his country will not accept Muslim refugees. The president of Slovakia says it would be unfair to let them into his country because it has no mosques. Macedonian police fire tear gas and Slovenian police use pepper spray to keep the refugees out of their countries. Months ago, the UN Food Program cut off aid to Syrian refugees in Turkey because it ran out of money.

No one's political image has benefited as much from the refugee surge as angela merkkkel. Just a few months ago the punishing Nurse Ratched, she has presto-change-o become the nurturing mother (only now withholding a breast). It's great that she has denounced the right-wing backlash against refugees and wants to welcome hundreds of thousands -- Germany, with a low birthrate and low unemployment, needs a labor force, says Business Insider (Sept. 7, 2015 -- "The healthcare and leisure sectors are also wringing their hands for qualified workers."). It was the policies she pushed, though, that set the conditions for refugees to be hounded and unfed in Greece. The Syrians who end up in Germany might want to keep in mind that the Jews were once comfortable there too.

So Many Wars, So Little Time

While Syrians are the largest group of refugees, many of the people risking (and often losing) their lives crossing the Mediterranean in makeshift or overloaded vessels this summer have been from Yemen, Libya, Sudan, Bangladesh, Rwanda, Iraq, Eritrea, Nigeria, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Palestine, Somalia, Egypt.... According to the UN High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR), 34% of those who arrived in Europe by sea this year are Syrian, followed by 12% each from Afghanistan and Eritrea and 5% from Somalia and Nigeria. UNHCR says over 366,000 have made the crossing so far this year, and more than 2800 have died (last year's death toll was at least 3500).

A few months ago, the second largest group of new refugees (the Palestinians are still the largest refugee population) -- after Syrians -- was from Burundi. I had a vague idea of where Burundi is (in East Africa, between Rwanda and Tanzania) and had read something about protests over the president wanting to run for a third term. That really



doesn't begin to explain why 30,000 people had crowded into a fishing village in Tanzania, waiting to be ferried to a cholera-infested UN camp (though the UN volunteers, the article told me, did not want to utter the word "cholera" so they just said people were dying of complications from "watery diarrhea").

Governments and super-governments want to divide up the people fleeing into "political refugees" and "economic migrants," but of course they are all refugees, seeking refuge from the catastrophes created by centuries of colonialism followed by decades of neocolonialism and neoliberalism. Then there are the climate refugees, who cannot be so easily distinguished from all the others -- a number of researchers and activists have documented the role of a 5-year drought in creating the conditions for the Syrian uprising and civil war. (See "Did Climate Change Cause the Syrian Uprising?" *Christian Science Monitor*, March 25, 2013.)

Syrians point out that the tide of refugees from their country is not new, although it is getting worse. The west just ignored it until it outgrew the capacity of the neighboring countries: Turkey (home to 1.8 million Syrian refugees), Lebanon (1.2 million), Jordan (630,000), Iraq (250,000 -- think about what it means to take refuge in Iraq!), and Egypt (132,000). In addition to this 4+ million, an estimated 7.6 million are "internally displaced," in camps or other temporary shelter inside Syria. Some of the internally displaced early on went to the Palestinian refugee camps, such as Yarmouk near Damascus.

Half of the 560,000 Palestinian refugees in Syria registered with UNRWA (UN Refugee Welfare Agency) are now internally displaced. A few fled to Gaza, some in time to withstand last year's brutal assault by israel. At the beginning of September, the UN released a report saying that Gaza "may become uninhabitable" in five years, due to the israeli blockade. In March they reported that "Not a single house has been rebuilt," since last year's devastating war.

Some of the Palestinian refugees in Syria have now been refugees three times, expelled from their homes in 1948, driven out of historic Palestine in 1967 and now forced to leave their homes in Syria. Syria has been relatively generous to the Palestinian refugees, granting them all rights *except* for citizenship. The half million Palestinians in Lebanon are barred from 20 professions and ineligible for social services. Kuwait expelled all Palestinians during the Gulf War in 1990, in retaliation for the Palestinian Authority's statement of support for Iraq. Of Middle Eastern countries, Jordan is the only one where Palestinian refugees and their descendents were able to become citizens. In 2010, Jordan started revoking citizenship of Palestinians who did not have West Bank ID from israel. Nearly half of the population of Jordan is of Palestinian origin.

The Palestinian experience stands as a stark warning for what can happen to the Syrians and many other people on the heartbreaking trek through Europe. "Birthright citizenship," now under attack by republikkan presidential candidates in this country, is less of a norm than we assume, and the rise of nationalism in Europe could make life precarious even for those refugees allowed to stay.

israel is, not surprisingly, the only one of Syria's neighbors who has accepted 0 of the refugees, though IsraAid, a humanitarian organization, has been "quietly" sending food and other supplies to Jordanian relief agencies. "My main agenda is to put Israelis on the ground around the world and show the world that Israel cares about them," the IsraAid director was quoted as saying.

SodaStream, which finally closed its factory in the illegal settlement of Mishor Adumim after years of boycott and tanking stock prices, is now offering to provide jobs and housing for 1000 Syrians in the Bedouin town where its new factory is located. The Bedouin mayor joined the call. All that is pending approval by the netanyahu government, which has made it clear it has no intention of allowing Syrians into the country, so SodaStream could in fact offer to employ a million refugees. There's no evidence, by the way, that moving out of the settlement has helped SodaStream's falling stock. Might be that the product is just lousy. We are continuing to boycott SodaStream, if anyone is interested, since they have not come out for an end to apartheid and

occupation and it's unclear where the land for their new factory is coming from.

What's Our Line?

As u.s. leftists, it's pretty hard to know how to be useful in this situation, but it is clear that we need to do more than we are doing (essentially nothing). The only people on the left saying much of anything about Syria right now, other than a few Syrians (Mohja Kahf is always great to read), seem to be supporting Bashar al-Assad's government -- which of course the obama administration is coming close to doing too. True, the u.s. idea about creating some mythical moderate fighting force (MMFF) capable of defeating both the Islamic State (IS) and the regime has been a spectacular failure--the *New York Times* reported last week that "four or five" of the 5000 it promised to train and equip this year are actually fighting. But throwing up our hands and deciding that Assad is not so bad after all, or defending him as a socialist hero, like some on the left, is also not an option. A genuine political solution which includes various elements of the Syrian Nonviolence Movement (<https://www.facebook.com/SyrianNonviolence>) such as the Coordination Committees and the Revolution Supporters Assembly, is the only answer.

A good start for us would be to demand the u.s. take our fair share of the refugees from the wars we have started or helped perpetuate. john kerry announced last week that the u.s. would take 85,000 Syrians in 2016 and 100,000 in 2017, which at least is up from the 10,000 they agreed to a week earlier, so presumably the pressure from former administration officials is having some impact. But under president trump, who knows what will happen to any of those 85,000, who may or may not ever actually get through the glacial process of being deemed not-a-terrorist. As of now, a massive 1500 have been cleared to move here in the past five years.

A *New York Times* op-ed by two immigration policy experts a few months ago made the case for settling large numbers of Syrians in Detroit. "Its population has fallen to around 700,000 from nearly 1.9 million in 1950. The city is estimated to have more than 70,000 abandoned buildings and 90,000 vacant lots.... Arab-Americans are already a vibrant and successful presence in the Detroit metropolitan area." I have to note here that neither of the authors lives in or seems to have any connection to Detroit.

Bottom line: Capitalism sucks and global capitalism sucks worse and what's a non-homophobic equivalent for sucks?



Mumia Needs Support

Mumia Abu Jamal is facing a possible transfer to another prison. Mumia's attorneys have filed a lawsuit charging the PA Department of Corrections with medical neglect, i.e. with failure to diagnose his disease in a timely way and with continuing to deny him adequate treatment of his debilitating and life-threatening Hepatitis C condition. A transfer to another prison, without giving him fully professional healthcare, would be in retaliation to his lawsuit and would put his life in more danger.

In prisons all over the u.s. people with Hepatitis C are being denied treatment with the new and effective drugs, Solvadi and Harvoni, that came out a year and a half ago. Gilead, the company that makes this drug charges over \$90,000/treatment. The 12 week process is 90-95% effective but prison authorities claim the cost is prohibitive and are refusing to use it. Both the Veteran's Administration and Kaiser are already using it. There is a class action suit filed in Pennsylvania Court that claims the PA Department of Corrections is putting prisoners at substantial and unnecessary risk for severe illness, injury and death.

No transfer of Mumia should take place that does not take him to a quality medical center for cure of his very serious, but treatable, Hepatitis C condition. Keep up the fight for Mumia's life!

CALL the PA Department of Corrections and Mumia's prison. Stop Any Retaliatory Transfer! Treat-to-Cure Mumia's Hepatitis C Now!

John Wetzel, Secretary of Corrections, Pennsylvania: (717) 728-2573 and John Kerestes, Superintendent, SCI-Mahanoy prison: (570) 773-2158

THE MOCHA COLUMN

By Chaya and Deni

MOVIE REVIEWS

GRANDMA

Of course we wanted to see this Lily Tomlin vehicle, because it starred her and an almost all-female cast (how did that slip by Hollywood these days?). It revolves around Lily trying to borrow money so her granddaughter can get an abortion, and her character is a feisty out lesbian (just like Lily). Despite some good moments, (including the fact that it unapologetically supported a woman's right to choose abortion), we all felt, unfortunately, that it didn't do right by Lily (although most film critics disagree). It was too contrived, the characters were too narrowly drawn and didn't seem very real, and there were some ageist aspects to the grandma character. The subplot about Lily and her ex-husband was offensive, and we would have rather seen flashbacks of her and Violet, her longtime lover/partner who had recently died. A lot of the humor was good ("I cut up my credit cards and made a wind chime out of them"). But not all of it worked, despite the powerhouse cast that included Marcia Gay Harden as her daughter, Julia Greer as her granddaughter, and Elizabeth Pena as the cafe owner (sadly, after great roles in many films such as Lone Star, Pena died last fall). The film was directed by Paul Weitz who wrote the role specifically for Tomlin, who wore her own clothes and drove her own classic car (a 1955 Dodge Royal Lancer she has owned since 1975) in the movie. We wish the film had been better, but it's always great to see Lily.

TESTAMENT OF YOUTH (review by Deni)

Testament of Youth is based on a memoir by Vera Brittain, a writer, feminist, and pacifist. The book is a testimony of World War I from a woman's point of view and I've heard it's great. The movie, not so much. Ok, it was pretty awful. High on long romantic meaningful sappy looks between the main character Vera (played by Alicia Vikander) and the love of her life played by Kit Harrington (Jon Snow for you GoT fans), and low on political content and history of either WWI or the author's development as a pacifist. At over 2 hours, the movie felt interminable. The best part of the experience was the critical analysis Julie and I did of the film while stuck in a traffic jam afterwards.

STRAIGHT OUTTA COMPTON (review by Deni)

Most fortunately, feminist author Sikivu Hutchinson wrote a great article in HuffPo about this movie entitled "Straight Outta Rape Culture" because if you just read the many glowing reviews, you'd never know there was an iota of misogyny in the film. The movie – an adoring biopic of N.W.A and its meteoric rise in the late 1980s-90s – uncritically glorified the misogynist lyrics and attitudes that were an intrinsic part of the group and its message. I wanted to see the film for its treatment of police violence, and because so many people were seeing it (the theater was packed when I went.) The racist police violence and brutality were vividly shown in several scenes, and current police incidents reverberated in the theater as the audience called it out. But there was nothing in the film documenting the brutality of Dr. Dre when he viciously beat up Dee Barnes in 1991, which pretty much ended her rap career. It was disturbing to not sense a level of outrage at the misogynist lyrics, nor to read about it in reviews. Skip the film and read Hutchinson's forceful, insightful, and stunningly written article instead.

DIARY OF A TEENAGE GIRL (review by Deni)

This film was awful and disturbing on many levels. It was directed by Marielle Heller and based on a graphic novel by cartoonist-novelist-artist Phoebe Gloeckner. The book is referred to as semi-autobiographical but the author says she regards it as fiction. From the hype and the trailers, I knew the film had to do with a young woman, Minnie (excellently played by Bel Powley) getting sexually involved with her mother's lover. I was expecting the focus to be on a young woman's emerging sexuality and her embracing of it. It did start out this way, and Minnie's insights and artistic creativity add to her appeal. But call me naive – I was not prepared for the film's sexism, racism, anti-lesbianism, lack of moral judgment of the creepy male lover's role in the inappropriate adult/young woman sex, and blaming/excusing Minnie's mother in a variety of convoluted ways. The film soon became a story of Minnie's destructive, unhappy emotional/sexual path. At the end, Minnie is more asexual and childlike, frolicking with her younger sister on the beach. The subtext message is disturbing: that this young woman had to pay for/deny her enjoyment of sex in order to mature in a healthy way. There's a lot of really creepy stuff in this movie, as was the exchange I had with the ticket guy at the movie theater who loved the movie and said you couldn't criticize all the things I found objectionable because it was the author's own life. Eeewww. Skip it – I wish I had.

WHAT HAPPENED, MISS SIMONE?

"Alabama's gotten me so upset, Tennessee made me lose my rest

And everybody knows about Mississippi Goddam

Hound dogs on my trail, School children sitting in jail
Black cat cross my path, I think everyday's gonna be my last"

--From Mississippi Goddam, written and sung by Nina Simone

This documentary by Liz Garbus explores the career and personal life of extraordinary singer and activist Nina Simone. Strong archival footage includes Simone's powerful performances, civil rights and Black Power activists, and movement events. Comments by Simone's daughter, Lisa Simone Kelly (who also executive produced), and Simone's long-time guitarist Al Schackman, are insightful. Simone's daughter was best friends with Malcolm X and Betty Shabazz's daughter, Qubilah Shabazz, when the families lived next door to each other. Shabazz also contributes some illuminating observations. Simone trained from the age of 4 in classical piano, but racism prevented her from being a concert pianist, a lifelong loss for her. Hired to play piano in a bar, the owner told Simone she had to sing or be fired. Amazingly, this is what propelled Simone into a singing career (it's hard to imagine her incredible voice and style might never have been known publicly). She rose to stardom at the time of the civil rights movement, and songs she wrote and sang about the movement began to dominate her concerts. Simone's personal life was difficult. Her husband, who was also her manager, became abusive. As Simone got older, her mental instability worsened. Her daughter explained that Simone lived with rage 24/7. Nina Simone, a once-inforever singer, eventually moved to Africa and then Europe to get away from racism and discrimination in the US. She was rebuilding her life and career when she died of breast cancer in 2003 in France. There will never be anyone like her, ever. If you don't know her recordings, check them out.

THE WANTED 18

Tremendously creative, this animated documentary by co-directors Amer Shomali (Palestinian) and Paul Cowan (Canadian) uses humor, creativity, and historical analysis to portray the attempts of Palestinians in the village of Beit Sahour to start a small local dairy during the First Intifada in 1987. Angered at being forced to buy all their dairy products from Israel, a group decided to buy a herd of 18 cows from a sympathetic Israeli. It was an act of non-violent civil resistance, and locals called the milk from the cows "Intifada milk." Israel decided that the cows constituted a "threat to national security" and tried to find the cows and kill them. The story of the cows and Palestinian efforts to thwart the Israelis by hiding the cows is delightfully told from the cows' point of view with animation and claymation. There is also footage from the Intifada and past and present-day interviews with Intifada participants. But no, dear MC readers, there are no interviews with the actual cows. In an interview, Shomali said "Basically, I tried to convince these cows to do that [talk]. They refused. They kept saying 'moo.' So we tried animated cows." The award-winning film treats the seriousness of the occupation and the resistance with forthright anger and whimsy. The story of the cows in The Wanted 18 was one part of the resistance movement in Beit Sahour that included a well-organized tax-resistance, which was met with the usual harshness by the Israelis. The Israeli military had imposed taxes on Palestinians as collective punishment measures to discourage the Intifada: the glass tax (for broken windows), the stones tax (for damage done by stones), and a general Intifada tax.



Yitzak Rabin's response to the Beit Sahour tax strike was, "We will teach them there is a price for refusing the laws of Israel." The Israeli military authorities placed Beit Sahour under curfew for 42 days, blocked food shipments, cut telephone lines, tried to bar reporters, imprisoned residents, and seized millions of dollars in money and property in house-to-house raids. The UN Security Council tried to pass a resolution demanding that Israel return the property it confiscated during the Beit Sahour tax resistance, which was vetoed by the US. It was sobering to realize that almost 30 years have passed since the First Intifada and the events in the film. The commentary in the film by Intifada participants was equally sobering. The Wanted 18 has been submitted as the Palestinian entry for Best Foreign Language Film

for this year's Academy Awards. We'll know on January 14, 2016 if the cows will be competing for an Oscar. Think moo thoughts and see this mooovie if you can!

MR. ROBOT (tv show)



Season 1 of Mr. Robot, broadcast on USA network, ended a while ago, and was mysterious, weird, unclear about what was reality and what was fantasy, and who is really on which side. The cyber-action thriller centers on Elliot (Rami Malek), a cyber-security engineer who can – and does – hack into anything and anyone that offends his moral compass. He also hacks as a way of connecting with people. Elliott gets recruited by "Mr Robot" (Christian Slater) to join fsociety and hack the big, bad global E Corp (known by all as Evil Corp—it supposedly owns most of the global credit industry, including credit cards, mortgages and loans) to bring down corporate America and disrupt capitalism with a major wealth distribution. Even before meeting Mr Robot, Elliott hates Evil Corp. He's one smart but very damaged puppy, with a therapist played by Gloria Reuben (of ER).

The show's creator, Sam Esmail, insisted that the characters do realistic moves on their computers (rather than the typical "green screen" faux technique commonly used in filming), and thought it would be interesting to include queer characters to explore the tension between being out vs privacy issues in technology. Esmail is Egyptian, and it was a visit to his family in Egypt right after the Arab Spring that inspired the show. He wanted Elliot's character to reflect the revolutionary spirit he saw in his cousins. "These are young people who are tech-savvy, who use technology to their advantage to channel the anger against the status quo and try and make a change to better their lives," he said. "Look at the LGBT community. What massive changes have occurred in society just in terms of marriage and trans issues being more public and open." It's refreshing to hear capitalism referred to negatively, much less a band of cyber-hackers who want to bring it down. We also like the positive references to the Occupy movement, interesting quirky moments, and some good female characters (although the men dominate). It's pretty hard to know if the politics are just a device (especially with it getting such a high rating from Forbes magazine). But who cares? At times slightly tedious, but A for originality, strong acting, and some progressive politics.

BITS AND PIECES

MARXISM 101 In the calamitous attempt to destroy and defund Planned Parenthood, it's hard to know what bizarre statement will get uttered next. When speaking of the Tea Party's efforts to hijack the mainstream Republican Party, Rep. Devin Nunes (R-CA) said "The Tea Party is kind of like their own party. You can't really do anything about it because they're right-wing Marxists." Umm, yeah, with right-wing Marxist study groups? Nunes' statement gets a little clearer when you remember what that left-wing Marx once said: "The oppressed are allowed once every few years to decide which particular representatives of the oppressing class are to represent and repress them." Onward to the election!

UPDATE ON CANONIZATION OF FATHER JUNIPERO SERRA, aka "THE INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GENOCIDE OF NATIVE PEOPLE" Popester Francis went to Bolivia and made an awfully nice apology for the Roman Catholic Church's crimes against indigenous peoples, but some tribal officials are still complaining! The protesters, including Norma Flores of the Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians, Kizh Nation, said the pope's apology is meaningless if he doesn't stop the canonization of Serra on September 23. Perhaps she has not yet seen the Pope Francis Visit Store at store.popefrancisvisit.com. If the pope's detractors would only take a look at some of our favorite merchandise, such as the Pope Francis Lifesize Pop Up Standee for only \$160, or the Pope-in-the Box ("Pope Francis Embracing Child Commemorative Visit Keepsake Box") for only \$27.50, we're sure this whole brew-ha-ha could finally end. After all, what's genocide when weighed against a lifesize pope pop up?

WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF
WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF



JCRC is down... But don't count them out

by Deeg

In May, the San Francisco Board of Education agreed to develop Arabic and Vietnamese “language pathways” for the schools. The Resolution, #153-10A1, was passed unanimously, and specifically included partnering with the Arab Resource and Organizing Center (AROC) and the Vietnamese Youth Development Center.

Immediately, the anti-defamation league sent a letter to the school board complaining that AROC would use the program to “inject” their views about Palestine into the training. (Yes, that is that same adl that was caught spying on various progressive groups, including LAGAI, in the 1980s.) The Jewish community relations council joined in. (Yes, that is the same jcrc that attacked SF Women Against Rape in 2003, attacked Rainbow Grocery for deshelving Israeli products, attacked Oakland’s East Side Arts Alliance, and got the Oakland Museum of Children’s Art to cancel a show of children’s art from Gaza in 2012). They even got Glide church to write a letter criticizing AROC’s involvement. In July, according to Toshio Meronek’s article in Al Jazeera the Board wrote a letter to several pro-israel leaders, apologizing for any offense, and saying they would review their relationship with AROC in the coming weeks.

Readers of UltraViolet will remember that AROC led the Block the Boat campaign here last year, which contributed to the Israeli shipping line Zim deciding to stop unloading ships at U.S. ports. AROC has also been active in organizing against Urban Shield (war games for cops organized in cooperation with Israel), and many other campaigns in the Bay Area.

AROC also provides Arabic language and cultural resources to many Bay Area school districts, and so is an obvious partner for developing an in-depth curriculum for SF. A survey they conducted in 2012 found that 71 percent of Bay Area students had spent no time that year learning about Arab people, history or culture, and an additional 21% had only studied about Arabs for one class or one unit.

In many ways this struggle reminds us of the attempt to get an LGBT support program in SF’s schools in 1989-90, similar to what was then called Project 10 in LA. Catholics were mobilized by the Church and bused to the meeting, saying that it violated their religion and their culture. Fortunately, the school board carried through in developing what has become a broad and diverse program.

An ad-hoc coalition to support AROC’s involvement met in July, to prepare for any further attack by jcrc, including AROC, International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network (IJAN), Queers Undermining Israeli Terrorism (QUIT!), ANSWER, Teachers 4 Social Justice (T4SJ), and many other individual teachers and community members.

In August, there were signs that the school district was going to continue with the development of the language pathway in cooperation with AROC. Glide rescinded their letter. AROC collected signatures supporting their resolution. IJAN and Jewish Voice for Peace led a #JCRCDoesn’tSpeakForMe twitter storm, and QUIT! and Gay Shame circulated a letter for queer groups and individuals supporting the resolution and AROC. At its August meeting the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club also endorsed the letter.

Members of the coalition mobilized for the first school board meeting of the school year on August 11, in case jcrc showed up. Fortunately, the issue wasn’t on the Board’s agenda, and jcrc was not visible. Several people spoke at the public comment portion of the meeting thanking the Board and supporting the resolution. Soon after there was an initial meeting with SFUSD staff, AROC, and VYDC.

It appears that jcrc has backed off for now. However, it is likely that the program will need approvals by the Board during the process of implementation. For that reason, the coalition is asking people to continue to sign onto the letters, and to monitor the AROC website (www.araborganizing.com) for updates. You can find the queer letter at www.quitpalestine.org.

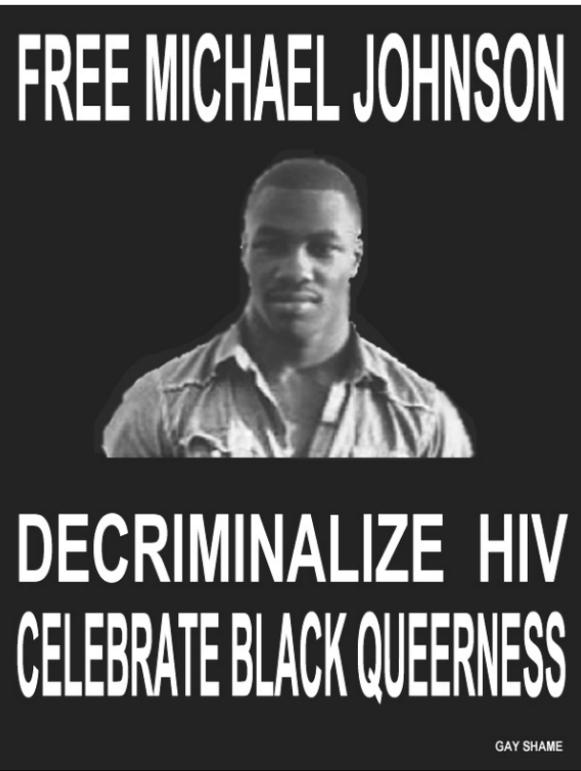
Violence And Accidental Rainbows

On June 29th, Turkish police used water cannon trucks, tear gas and rubber pellets as they stopped the Gay Pride Parade near Taksim Square in Istanbul. The water cannons inadvertently created a beautiful rainbow in the sky over the marchers diluting the efforts of the police to discourage people.

Police had told the crowd they would not be allowed to march even though there had been a peaceful Gay Pride Parade the year before. It has also been reported that the parade was interrupted due to it being Ramadan, but there was no such police action last year when Gay Pride was also during Ramadan.

Not to be stopped, by rainbows or by police, the crowds came back together, and a few thousand danced together and chanted against homophobia as the day went on.

Homosexuality is not illegal in Turkey. Homophobia, as we well know, exists everywhere.



Deception, Densification and Differencers

By Lisa

September 21, 2115 San Francisco, California- Equinox -3*

Looking back I can see that the turning point was the day after the Iowa caucuses in 2016. “the Donald” was leading the pack of Republican candidates when it was revealed he was being played by a Drag-King cis-woman, lesbian as a character from a piece of improvisational theater that had gotten out of hand. (“Jane Doe” was arrested briefly but released after the corporations realized she knew too much and a trial would be too confusing for the general public.) In the days that followed several republi-crat candidates had to drop out of the race because their only platform had been not being “the Donald.” By the 2020 race, the corporations had decided to stop hiding and started putting their logos on their candidates (just like those old fashioned racing cars!) It became a top fashion choice to put big corporate logos on all your clothes and possessions, thereby saving the corporations billions of dollars in advertising expenses—a real win-win!

Now, after nearly a century of the Age of Logos, for the next cycle in 2116 the corporations have decided to just choose the political leaders by lottery which is much more efficient and fair after all.

In part because of “the Donald” scandal, all “differencers” are now strictly protected worldwide to ensure all non-corporate persons are treated equally. It is of course illegal to advocate for any special treatment for any “difference group” or to meet or assemble in “difference groups” or express publically any “difference”. The earlier-born non-corporate persons complain about it and wax nostalgic about the fun they had being different and oppressed but we later-born non-corporate persons know it’s the best way to ensure everyone is treated equally. Another big win-win!

The ocean plastics crisis was finally solved when the massive military laser mounted on the space station was tested in a “war game” and surprisingly the entire Pacific gyre of trash plastic melted and reformed as a giant translucent bubble in the sea. While quite a lot of fish and whales were killed initially, many were fortuitously encased in the giant bubble and are now enjoying life in a pristine ecosys-

Can't Talk BDS in Berkeley

On September 16 the Berkeley Human Welfare and Community Action Commission failed to approve a resolution which, if it had passed the Berkeley City Council, would have required divestment from Israel.

The resolution was introduced by Commissioner Cheryl Davila, who has been on the commission since 2009. There are 15 seats on the commission, of which seven are appointed by the individual members of the Berkeley City Council. Cheryl Davila was appointed by Darryl Moore, and said that she drafted the resolution after Israel’s attack on Gaza in the summer of 2014 killed more than 2200 Palestinians. The night before the meeting Moore called Davila and threatened to remove her from the commission if she did not withdraw the resolution. According to Davila, she was informed when she walked into the meeting that she had been terminated.

The resolution would have instructed the city manager to investigate the feasibility of divesting the City from all companies complicit in ongoing human rights violations by Israel’s military occupation, would have had the Council send a letter to the state retirement system (CalPERS) encouraging them to divest, and add the Israeli military occupation of Palestinian territories to Berkeley’s “oppressive states list.” After the meeting, which was attended by more than 100 people, most of whom supported the resolution, the commission voted to set up a subcommittee to revise the resolution for consideration at the October meeting. An attorney for Palestine Legal is looking into whether Moore’s firing of Davila was legal.

This is not the first attempt to get Berkeley to divest from Israel. In 2000-2001 there was a broad coalition of Palestine supporters, including QUIT! which had several meetings to develop a resolution for the Berkeley City Council to add Israel to the oppressive states list. This list, established by Berkeley in 1999, prohibits the “expenditure of public funds for personal services, procurement of goods, investments or deposits with business entities which do business with those governments designated by the Council as Oppressive States.” This coalition attempt ended when the racist reaction to the September 11, 2001 attacks forced all the groups involved to concentrate on combatting anti-Arab and anti-Muslim racism.

The current resolution has been endorsed by local organizations including Jewish Voice for Peace, Friends of Sabeel North America, American Friends Service Committee, Students for Justice in Palestine, the Middle East Children’s Alliance, American Muslims for Palestine, Arab Resource and Organizing Center, QUIT!, IJAN, and UAW 2865.

The Commission meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month (except August and December) at the South Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Ellis Street, at 7:00 p.m. Check their webpage for the agenda.

tem completely protected from the effects of global warming. All the plastic trash gyres were later converted to bubble too and the bubble-seas are now the most popular vacation spots! Another win-win!

The trend of densification continued after 2016 in cities throughout the world keeping the masses of human persons in smaller and smaller areas so that the corporate persons could enjoy and exploit the rest of the land masses and the oceans. Some neighborhoods were “retained” by keeping the original storefronts intact and building up skyscrapers above them. All housing is now assigned by computer generated analogs that carefully mix and homogenize all non-corporate persons to ensure no “differencers” are unbalanced in any one area. The quaintly named “Castro” with its rainbow crosswalks in San Francisco is still a major tourist destination where you can learn about the perils of “difference” and good jobs can be had on weekend nights acting out the quaint old “gay” lifestyle in the “bars”. Although the ports are all mechanized now, in Seattle tourists can see “long shore workers” at the ports lifting and hauling like in the old days. These “difference” enactments by non-corporate persons are strictly monitored and regulated of course!

Sometimes I wonder what would have happened if “the Donald” had been elected – can you imagine being ruled by a non-corporate person and a “differencer”? I say “thank you Citizen’s United for freeing the corporate persons and saving us from the differencers!”

* When the train carrying Bakken Crude exploded at the Port of Oakland a few years later while it was unloading into the tanker field, it took with it the entire port facilities, 2 neighborhoods and most of the Bay Bridge, and also knocked the earth just slightly out of its orbit increasing the year by 12 days. The world governments have been arguing since that time about how to count the extra days each year, but the internet default society (IDS) just added the days at the end of the year as a new semi-month called “Bakken”. This turned out to be for the best because an explosion near Seattle’s Anacortes depo knocked the earth back a bit and now we only have 11 “extra” days each year in the Bakken month. A flexible system is really best after all!

Outside The Frame Film Festival: A Smashing Success

Over 800 people attended Outside the Frame: Queers for Palestine Film Festival during the weekend of June 19-21, 2015. The free festival at San Francisco's historic Brava Theater was conceived as a radical alternative to Frameline's annual SF LGBT film festival and a protest of Frameline's longtime partnership with the Israeli consulate. OTF presented a wide range of outstanding work created by film makers who declined to screen their work at Frameline as long as it continues to defy the international call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel.

The festival kicked off Friday night with a packed house for the Bay Area premiere of CRIMINAL QUEERS, a farcical takedown of the prison industrial complex, directed and produced by Eric A. Stanley and Chris Vargas. The show, hosted by the charismatic Star Amerasu, brought down the house, raised over \$400 for the Transgender and Intersex Justice Project, and set a great tone for the rest of the weekend.

Other offerings throughout the weekend ranged from the comical (Hey Elton, John Greyson's video letter to Elton John) to the whimsical (Ill Nipashi's Different Strokes, the little known story of the role of women, people of color and queers in the formation of biker culture) to the tragic, (High Hopes, Guy Davidi and Angela Godfrey-Goldstein's expose of the forcible displacement of Bedouin refugees under Israeli occupation). Saturday night's The Passionate Pursuits of Angela Bowen, Jennifer Abod's film about a Black lesbian ballet dancer, educator, activist and scholar, accompanied by other short films on the relationship between gender and creativity, delighted and inspired. Sunday's audiences were deeply touched by portraits of Lebanese queers in Maher Sabry's THE PATH TO COMING OUT and the journey of an undocumented Mexican immigrant to the US in Ana Simes' and Bassam Kassab's SIN VISA, and beautifully challenged to reconsider stereotypes about disabled people and sexuality



in SINS INVALID.

Saturday afternoons screening and discussion with director Dean Spade and participants in the documentary PINKWASHING EXPOSED, about the movement building work of Queers Against Israeli Apartheid in Seattle, joined by Bay Area anti-pinkwashing activists, was a rich and well-attended centerpiece. We were so happy to get to know these fantastic activists and look forward to working with them in the future.

Audiences were racially and generationally diverse. Two fabulous art shows, by Art Forces and Happy/L.A. Hyder, made the lobby a destination. Tablers from AROC, Sins Invalid, Art Forces and Just World Books held it down through Saturday and Sunday, and people loved browsing Queers Undermining Israeli Terrorism (QUIT!) historical BDS paraphernalia (Estee Slaughter perfume samples, Victorias Secret Weapon catalogs).

Outside the Frame was truly a community effort. We partnered with more than 20 sponsoring organizations, who helped with outreach and recruited dozens of volunteers to make everyone comfortable. We were able to offer ASL interpretation and captioning for half the programs. Thanks to the generosity of Resist!, Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, the Peoples Life Fund and Brava, as well as numerous individual donors both before and during the event, we ended up with a small surplus which we have distributed among several local and Palestinian organizations.

Outside The Frame's accomplishments include:

-- Over 40 filmmakers signed a pledge not to screen at Frameline or the Vancouver Queer Film Festival

until they meet the demands of their communities to stop pinkwashing Israeli apartheid.

-- For the first time since 2007, Frameline representatives met with BDS activists and had to look directly into the faces of people who are hurt by their policy of supporting apartheid. Frameline had at least three direct meetings that we know of on the issue, one with filmmakers who were considering pulling their film from distribution, one with an independent group of Jewish lesbian artists, and one with representatives from Mithyleen (Bay Area Arab Queers for BDS), QUIT! (Queers Undermining Israeli Terrorism), Arab Resource & Organizing Center, American Friends Service Committee, Gay Shame and Outside The Frame.

-- For the first time in six years, Frameline did not have Israeli sponsorship at this year's film festival. Although they said that this was simply because no Israeli feature films were selected for screening, we believe the increasing negative publicity from our campaign and the focus provided by Outside The Frame influenced their choice.

-- Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project, producer of the annual Queer Women of Color Film Festival; Fresh Meat Festival, SF Transgender Film Festival and Old Lesbians Organizing for Change (OLOC), all informed Frameline that they would no longer partner with them until they end their partnership with the Israeli government. (Read QWOCMAP's incredible statement explaining its decision.)

-- Several other cultural and film organizations, Arab Film Festival, Other Cinema and Golden Thread Middle East Theater, expressed support for BDS by cosponsoring Outside The Frame.

-- At least two filmmakers spoke about BDS from the Frameline stage.

-- We followed up the film festival with a small but spirited pajama protest (Frameline: Get Out of Bed With Israel!) outside the screening of Love Island at the Castro Theater on Thursday, June 25. The protest was accompanied by projections on the wall of Diesel, across the street from the theater. The response from passersby was overwhelmingly positive, in sharp contrast to previous years.

We certainly hope that Frameline will not renew its partnership with Israel next year, and will announce a new policy about who it accepts money from. We will be monitoring the situation closely to see what they are doing.

We printed this in our Summer Issue but unfortunately it wasn't readable enough so we are printing it again.

Gender Anarchy: Gender Anarchy is an autonomous collective of transsexual females in U.S. prisons who act defensively and offensively to protect, defend and avenge hostile acts against us, as the prison department fails and refuses to do so and allows and arranges attacks on us and attacks us itself.

We act solely in the interest of our health, safety and security and peace of mind. We do not represent all transsexual females in prison as there are different types. We represent only ourselves and our interests as transsexual females and welcome transsexual females who resist as we do. We engage in administrative paperwork within the prison department and lawsuits in the courts for things due us as transsexual females, and do extensive outreach for support. We are anarchists, nihilists, non-political. Anyone interested in reading our free literature and our free newsletter, Anarchy Falang, may write: GENDER ANARKY C/O THE FUTURE PO BOX 3133 BLOOMINGTON IN 47402, or GENDERANARKYCOLLECTIVE.NOBLOGS.ORG



Johnetta Johnson of Transgender and Intersex Justice Project, filmmakers StormMiguel Florez and Analise Ophelian, talk about their film, MAJOR.

Shorts From Inside

Thank you so much for the past several years of your newsletter. No matter where they send me, you always seem to find me...I want to come out so bad but am now at a very dangerous institution where gays are treated as property, feelings are exploited and I am honestly just scared to do so...so I will continue waking daily and living this fake "tough guy" life while hiding in the bathroom stalls reading your newsletter. Somebody please help. S.B., Sneads FL

Dear Activist Friends. I am an old (69) anarchist queer in the State of Corruptarado, the state that adores incarceration and sees that as the final solution to all real or imagined "social problems". I understand from a recent news report that Colorado may have now taken the lead in per capita prisoners. We are number one! Yea! J.T., Burlington CO

I am a 38 Y.O. Black-American male bisexual top from Miami FL whom has been a proud member of the LGBT community since the tender age of 18. A friend of mine let me read an issue of your publication and I fell in love with the many beautifully penned poems and heartfelt letters born of the struggle and just knowing that there are so many others engaged in the same battle as I...the fight for freedom. J.H., Milton FL

As you can imagine, life for a gay man is very hard in prison. That is why I have remained in the closet for so long. However, I am tired of hiding the true me. I am gay dammit and I love it. I am reaching out for support from my community. C.M., Crawfordville FL

**2nd Annual
Howard Zinn Book Fair
November 15, 2015
A Celebration of People's History: Past,
Present and Future**

**City College of San Francisco,
Mission Campus
1125 Valencia Street, SF**

Workshops and panels begin at 11:00 am

**12:30 pm Keynote Conversation between Dr.
Claybourne Carson and Alicia Garza:
Black Lives Matter: Past Present & Future.**

**QUIT! and LAGAI will be there
See entire schedule at
howardzinnbookfair.com**

Don't put down the newsletter, you haven't finished reading it yet! We left out our favorite quotes from the GOP debates just to put this coupon in. So please read it, and send it in to change your address, subscribe a friend or send money?

Name: _____

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