

April 2001, Quebec City, Canada

Carnival against Capitalism

The FTAA extends the NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) to the entire hemisphere, and is to be implemented by no later than 2005. The FTAA is also an extension of the reach of capitalist globalization, aiming to submit health care, education, as well as environmental and labor standards to the so-called logic of the free-market.

Negotiated behind closed doors, and imposed unilaterally, the FTAA process is yet another example of economic violence that aims to suppress the gains of popular struggles of the past, and reinforce the power of cash and cops over our lives.

In April 2001 in Quebec City, people from all over the world will converge to disrupt and fight the monster called the FTAA. Your talents, creativity, and time are needed to add to the diversity of people, ideas, and actions to make this convergence a success!

Help organize

in your town: **CONTACT: V.S.P.C.**

vsncstuff@hotmail.com

The Dissenter

February 2001

Free



ORGANIZE!

Mission Statement

We, the Youth for a Social and Political Change, are discontented with the world political system as it stands. This hierarchical system oppresses humans and destroys our environment. We, as youth in Y.S.P.C, take a stand against the following:



Class exploitation: The working class have toiled away in America, while the select few have profited. We combat this greed in the hope of creating a more equalized class system, or abolishing it all together. We join in solidarity with all workers, fighting to end the injustices created by capitalism.

Discrimination: Equal rights must be universal to all citizens in a just society. We fight to end discrimination against all sexes, races, religions, and sexual orientations.

Environmental degradation: Our world cannot survive with our continued negligence toward it. It is through mass consumption that our resources are being depleted. In order to maintain and foster growth in the environment we must stop this immediately.

The demise of democracy: In order to maintain equality and justice a strong democratic society is needed. We believe every person should have the opportunity to directly make educated decisions concerning themselves.

The Y.S.P.C. wishes to help lift the injustices surrounding our world. To do this we organize in just the manner we propose the world should be run. The Y.S.P.C. has no leaders, all decisions are made by consensus, and your level of involvement depends on you. The Y.S.P.C. does not use violence to achieve these ends.

Welcome to the February issue of The Dissenter. The Y.S.P.C has been very busy raising money for the FTAA protest in Quebec, keeping the Spokane chapter of Food Not Bombs going, putting on monthly shows, and uniting the youth of the city of Spokane.

We, along with our host organization The Peace and Justice Action League, have moved to a much nicer facility in the new Community Building located at 35 W. Main. Y.S.P.C. still meets every Wednesday at 4 PM. As always, everyone is welcome to attend.

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BEWARE

Armed bands are roaming the highways and marching through your neighborhood. They may even try to enter your home! Watch for these gang identifiers:

Vehicles: Sports cars, four-door sedans, and vans, often painted black and white or blue and white, with stripes and flashing red and blue lights.

Clothing: Well kept dress uniforms, usually blue or black (gang colors), and adorned with patches and badges. Head-wear varies. Other accessories include gun belts, handcuffs, hand-held radios, and large flashlights.

Armaments: Handguns, shotguns, assault rifles, tear-gas rifles, billy clubs, shields, bullet-proof armor, helmets and face-shields.

Demeanor: Surly and hostile or aggressively friendly

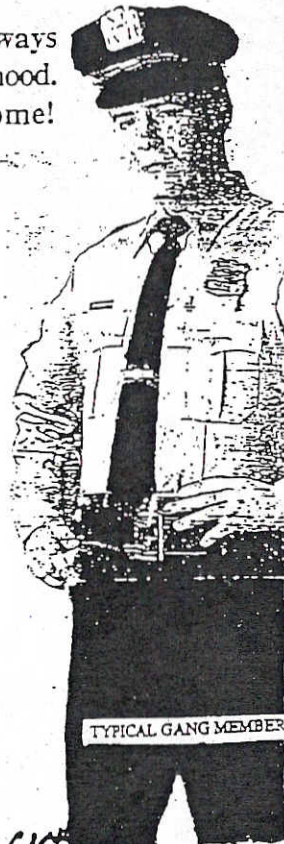
These gangs are highly organized, well armed, and potentially violent. Warn your friends and neighbors

Do Not Provoke Them!

Do Not Let Them Corner You!

Protect Yourself

Please *DISTRIBUTE THESE FACTS*



Boycott Bullet Proof

Besides the noticeably low quality of their work, there's another reason not to choose Bullet Proof Tatoo, Nazism.

Bullet Proof (2309 N. Division) is co-owned and run by twenty-six year-old Jason "Swany" Swanson, just one of the all-Nazi crew. Swanson is a former Aryan

Nations leader from Michigan who still has ties to the now legally defunct militant white-supremecy group. Swanson currently tatoos at the North Division store and manages Fun In The Sun Tanning next door.

Swanson was recently given negative media attention for his connection to the civil suit imposed upon the Aryan Nations, which both bankrupt and destroyed the hate group. Richard Butler, Aryan Nations founder, gave Swanson the gun used against the Nazi's victims to hold. He dons symbols of hate throughout his wardrobe and on his person.

Another prominent Nazi leader supported by Bullet Proof business is Nathan Pett. He founded the White Order of Thule, which reconstitutes views of the Order, an early 1980s violent Nazi group. He distributed Nazi literature to north Idaho mailboxes through his own Fenris Wolf

Press last summer. Fenris Wolf Press is prominently funded by Bullet Proof Tattoo.

Both Swanson and Pett rode along side Richard Butler in last year's Coeur d'Alene Aryan Nations parade, sporting Bullet Proof tee-shirts.

By giving Bullet Proof and/or Fun In The Sun Tanning your business, you

aren't only putting money in Nazi pockets, but you are funding hate literature and The White order of Thule (which uses violence and intimidation against your community). Be aware of what these interest stand for, and educate others around you as to what they really are. As caring consumers, we as a community have the ability to shut



these Nazis down!



Carnival Against Capitalism!

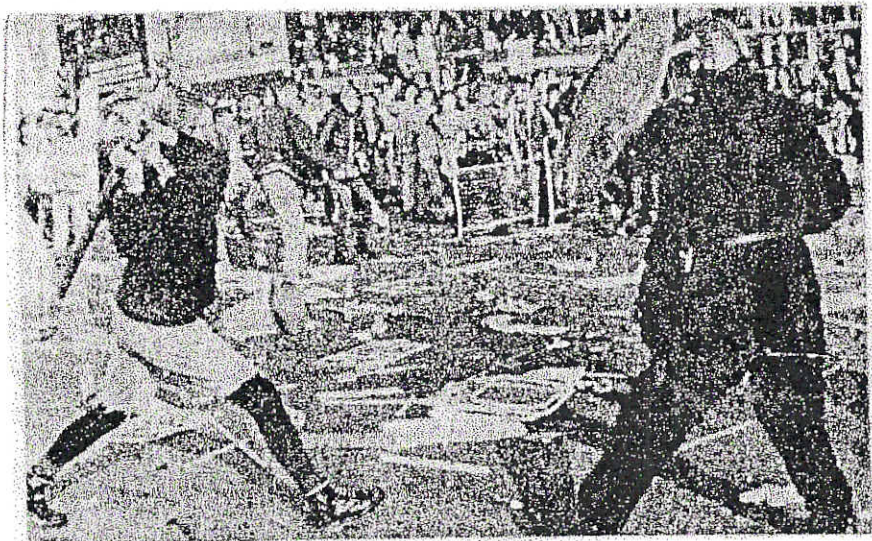
April 2001 :

34 Heads of state, from every state in the Americas except Cuba, will be in Québec city. Why? These Presidents and Prime Ministers will be negotiating an accord that will shape the future of the Americas : this accord, the Free Trade Zone of the Americas (FTAA), if put into effect, would create a single immense free trade zone throughout the Americas in 2005.

Such free trade agreements threaten the laws and political sovereignty that protect our education, our health, our environment and our culture. In response to the coming Summit of the Americas, a coalition, made up of groups and individuals in the Québec City region, formed in December 1999 : Opération Québec Printemps 2001. OQP 2001 is part of a wider movement organizing against blind economic globalization that benefits the elite few. This mass movement forced our governments to abandon the MAI (Multilateral Agreement on Investment) negotiations and caught the attention of the world in November 1999 as 50,000 protesters voiced their objections in Seattle against the World Trade Organization. The Summit of the Americas in April 2001 will be our next opportunity to voice our objections and demands to our governments.

Protests are being organized throughout the Americas. Organize one in your own region and we hope to see you in April!

This article is by a YSPC member currently living in Quebec City.



4,000 strike breakers to work on the plant instead of the union men. Each strike breaker, or "scab," was made a deputy Marshall and given a badge and gun.

The workers, outraged at this and other atrocities of justice, took their anger out on a few rail cars, burning and mangling much machinery. This set off a gun war between union men and company men, involving hundreds and killing dozens. The government stepped in on behalf of the company with 12,000 federal troops (half the army at that time) to break up the union. After this federal injuncture, the leaders of the Union were imprisoned or killed.

The Pullman company announced it would reopen the plant only to non-union men and forced workers to sign a contract saying they would never join a union (much like McDonalds). Thus the largest strike of American history ended—with an utter loss for the Union.

STRIKE
ON
fast
workers
die
young
THE
slow
down
and
live
JOB



Historical Perspective on the Pullman Strikes

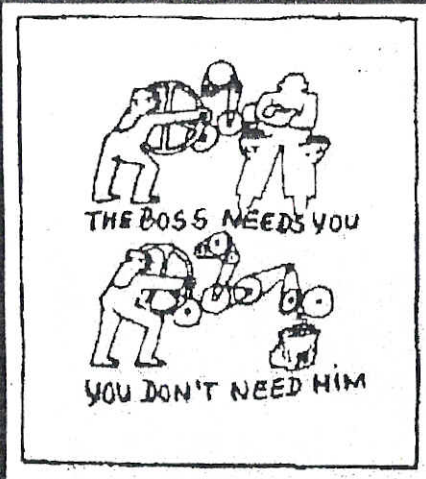
When America entered the 1890s, it entered into a giant recession. Jobs became scarce and good ones ever scarcer. Out of this came the Pullman Strike.

In the 1880s, George Pullman built the town of Pullman near Lake Calumet to manufacture his famous railway sleeping cars. All buildings in the town were company owned and rented to workers; even the stores and churches were rented. The Pullman town (or "pull me down" as the 12,000 residents referred to it) ran according to Pullman's rules. No liquor was allowed, no walking after dark and especially no unions.

George Pullman, the wealthy inventor of the Pullman railway car, was struck by this recession rather hard. Orders for his cars were stopping and he was lowering profit margins. In response, he began cutting the wages of his assembly line workers. However, he did not cut the rent the workers had to pay, leaving workers with insufficient funds for survival.

This recourse was to begin the formation of a local union of the American Railway Union in the Pullman shops. There were only about 3,300 workers left working in the summer of 1894, many having only part time work. A committee was sent from the union to demand that the company reinstate pay increases to match living costs. George Pullman and the company refused.

On May 10, the following day, a meeting of the united workers voted to strike and immediately walked off the job. George Pullman left the town for his country home and the strike wore on. The ARU tried a new tactic on June 26; they voted that no union member would work on a Pullman car until the company ceded to the workers' demands. Thousands of workers began preparing for the boycott of the cars, then the government stuck its head in. President Grover Cleveland appointed a special council to deal with the strike on the grounds the U.S. mail was being impeded by it. Richard Olney, a former railroad executive, headed up this council and hired



Richard Olney, a former railroad executive, headed up this council and hired

Calendar of Events

March 20th 2001-Finance Ministers of the Americas meeting - Toronto, Ontario, Canada Deadline date for the Canadian government to release FTAA texts*.

Numerous regional actions proposed.

April 1st 2001-Finance Ministers of the Americas meeting - Buenos Aires, Argentina Protest proposed in Ottawa, Canada, if the FTAA texts are not published.

April 2nd 2001-Civil Disobedience proposed at the Department of Foreign Affairs (Ottawa, Canada), if the FTAA texts are not published.

April 3rd - 17th 2001 FTAA Caravans proposed to tour local communities in Québec, Ontario, the Maritimes and British Columbia.

April 17th - 19th 2001 People's Summit organized by the Réseau Québécois sur l'intégration continentale and Common Frontiers - Québec City. Teach-Ins organized by Opération Québec Printemps 2001 - Québec

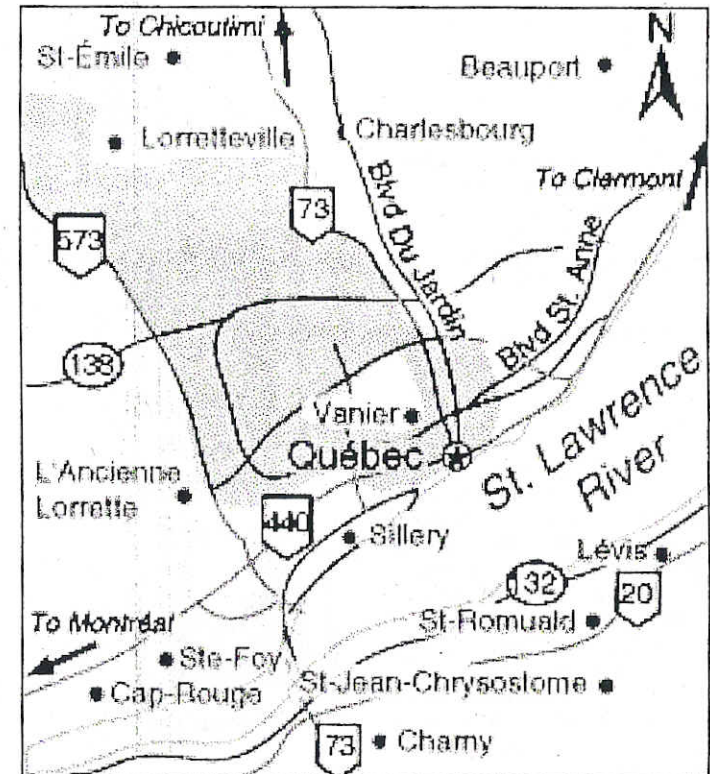
April 20th 2001-The Summit of the Americas begins - Québec City

April 21st 2001-Massive protest being organized, Québec City. Beginning of street Teach-Ins.

April 22nd 2001-Street Teach-Ins continues. End of the Official Summit.

* FTAA Texts : An agreement that will touch practically all aspects of our lives, is unavailable to the public. This undemocratic process must end!

For more information go to www.a20.org



Dangers of Hydrogenated Oils

If you have ever read the ingredients on packaged foods, you have probably noticed that many of them contain some type of hydrogenated oil. Assuming that these oils are contained in nearly every processed food, you might conclude that their presence is essential for making food more enjoyable. But what are hydrogenated oils?

Hydrogenated oils are oils that have had hydrogen added to them to give them a thicker consistency. These oils were produced to use as a preservative to lengthen the shelf life of foods. They were first introduced in 1911 when Proctor and Gamble came out with Crisco oil.

Even though the hydrogenation of oils, such as cottonseed and soybean, has been effective in preserving food, there are studies that have shown that these oils are toxic to humans. Hydrogenated oils have adverse effects on human health because they replace essential fatty acids, help clog arteries, and drastically increase insulin levels.

The human body requires naturally occurring fatty acids for the production of cell membranes. Humans acquire these acids from fish and vegetable oils. When oil is hydrogenated, these naturally occurring acids are altered to make them unusable to the body. Cell membranes can not properly form with these altered acids. The end result is the creation of abnormal cells. This aberrant cell development can lead to various forms of cancer such as breast cancer in women and prostate cancer in men.

Hydrogenated oils not only promote abnormal cell development but can also affect cholesterol levels in the blood. It has been known for many years that cholesterol collects in arteries causing heart attacks and heart disease. When hydrogenated oils are ingested, they can raise the total serum cholesterol levels in the blood stream.

In addition to raising cholesterol levels hydrogenated oils can collect in the blood vessels creating mock fatty acids. Absorbing these mock fatty acids poses yet another problem. When the body makes protein from mock fatty acids, the natural insulin in the blood becomes ineffective in controlling the blood sugar level. The body responds by creating more and more insulin resulting in Hyperinsulemia or Type II diabetes, as described on the web sight Hydrogenated Oils, The Silent Killer. This type of diabetes did not show up until the late 1940's when the use of hydrogenated oils became widespread.

Hydrogenated oils have an adverse effect on hu-

man health. These oils can pose serious health risks at any age because they clog arteries, replace fatty acids and increase insulin levels. Despite the fact that there are no warnings on packaged foods, ingestion of hydrogenated oils can have dire consequences on the human body. Hydrogenated oils may do a good job of preserving food but they lack the ability to preserve human life.



Nike is in control of its subcontractors

* Nike dictates the price per shoe and even the cost of operation to its subcontractors forcing them to set high quotas for their workers and to pay low wages. A British NGO estimates that the labor cost involved in making one pair of Nike shoes is only \$3, yet this may sell for \$100 in the US (Christian Aid, 1995). Nike can afford to give some of this profit margin back to its factory workers.

Nike can do better

* Other American companies do employ better labor practices than Nike. Coca Cola does not use a subcontractor. The company is not in Vietnam for cheap labor, but concentrates on quality and productivity. Workers at Coca-Cola in Viet Nam got a wage of \$80 a month and fringe benefits such as English lessons and sales training. Reebok used two Vietnamese contractors to make its shoes in Vietnam, Thai Binh and Hiep Hung. Both Reebok factories treat workers much better than Nike factories and also pay them better. Thai Binh, located in a lower wage province paid its workers \$55 per month and Hiep Hung paid its workers \$65 per month. Sewing Factory #10, a Vietnamese state-enterprise, paid its entry level employees \$90 per month.

Nike is not investing in the 3rd World

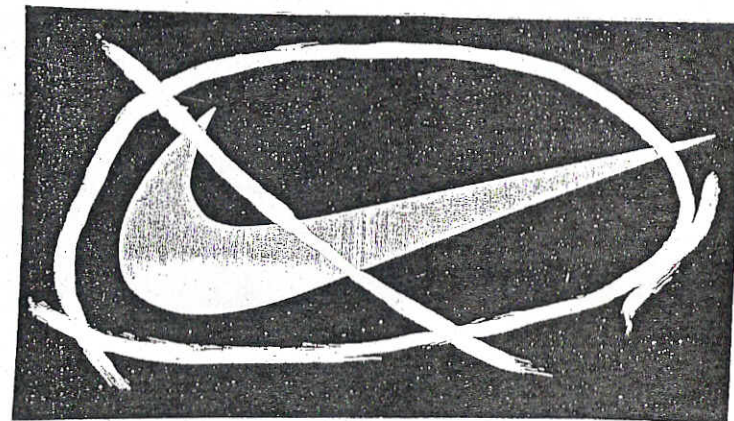
* Despite Nike's claims of being responsible for the economic development of Japan, Taiwan and Korea. Nike's corporate practices are good indicators that the company is only interested in exploiting low wages in third world countries. Just like the colonial masters of the 19th century, Nike's main interest is to take profits out of these poor nations by exploiting workers.

* Nike is not investing in the 3rd World through worker training or human resource investment but has continually shifted its operation to the country with a lower wage. In the 1980s, Nike produced 90% of its shoes in Taiwan and Korea. Nike has left these countries due to increases in the local minimum wage. Nike now makes most its shoes and apparel products in China, Indonesia, Vietnam and Pakistan.

* Import figures for training shoes to UK (in thousands of pounds), showing shifts in the location of production in Asia.

	1990	1992	1994	
South Korea	58,896	29,675	10,970	
Thailand		6,376	6,315	8,109
Indonesia	17,436	18,358	28,067	
China	307	463	8,865	
Vietnam	6,966			

re-printed from www.saigon.com/nike/fact-sheet.htm



* On Nov. 26, 1996, 100 workers at the Pouchen factory, a Nike site in Dong Nai, were forced to stand in the sun for half an hour for spilling a tray of fruit on an altar with which three Taiwanese supervisors were using. One employee (Nguyen Minh Tri) walked out after 18 minutes, and was then formally fired. Mr. Nguyen Minh Tri was reinstated after intervention by local labor federation officials. Mr. Tri, however, has declined to work for Pouchen.

* On International Day, March 8, 1997, 56 women at the Nike factory, Pouchen were forced to run around the factory grounds. 12 of them fainted and were taken to the hospital by their friends. This was particularly painful to the Vietnamese because it occurred on International Women's Day, an important holiday when Vietnam honors women.

Sexual Abuse

* A Nike plant supervisor fled Vietnam after he was accused of sexually molesting several women workers.

* Nike claims that the supervisor was fired and sent back to Korea — i.e., but at the shareholder meeting on Sept 16, 1996, Nike CEO Phil Knight further insulted these two women, by claiming that the supervisor was just trying to wake them up and must have touched the wrong places. Nike also did not try to have the supervisor stay in Vietnam to face criminal charges. The government of Vietnam later instigated extradition procedures against the supervisor.

* Women workers have complained to Vietnam Labor Watch about frequent sexual harassment from foreign supervisors. Even in broad daylight, in front of other workers, these supervisors try to touch, rub or grab their buttocks or chests. One supervisor told a female factory worker that it is a common custom for men in his country to greet women they like by grabbing their behinds.

Forced Overtime

* Women workers told CBS News that they are forced to work overtime to meet a daily quota which is set unrealistically high. Most workers at VN Nike plants are forced to work 600+ hours of overtime per year — well above the VN legal limit of 200 hours per year. If they do not accept the forced overtime, they will get a warning and after three warnings they will get fired.

Based on our analysis of paystubs, Nike factory workers are working 26 to 27 days per month plus 40 to 65 hours of overtime. We found months when workers were forced to work over 100 hours of overtime per month. We recognize that Vietnam is a poor country but there must be a level of corporate decency for a US corporation operating in Vietnam.

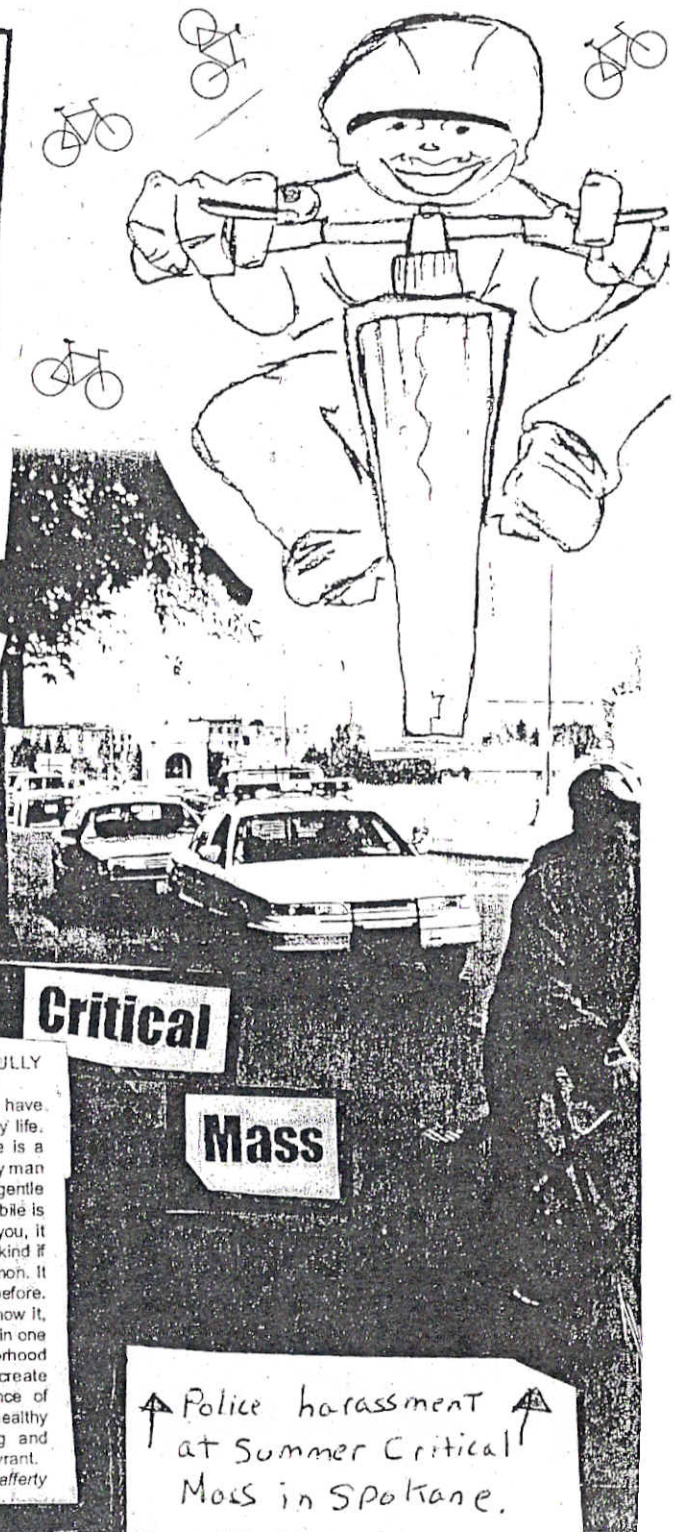
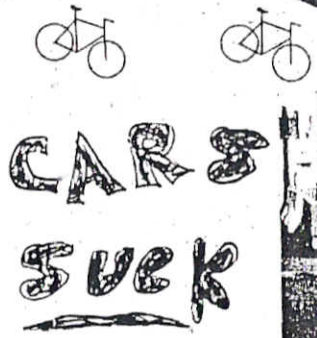
* Article 69 of VN Labor Law stipulates that "The labor user and the laborer may agree to work overtime, but not for more than four hours a day, 200 hours a year". Forced overtime at Nike factories in Vietnam is a clear violation of this Article.

Inhumane Working Conditions

* Workers cannot go to the bathroom more than once per 8-hour shift and they cannot drink water more than twice per shift.

* It is a common occurrence for workers to faint from exhaustion, heat, fumes and poor nutrition during their shifts.

* Health care is inadequate. At the Sam Yang factory, with 6000 employees, one doctor works only two hours a day but the factory operates 20 hours a day. Night shift employees do not have any on-site medical emergency services.



IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Consider the man on horseback, and I have been a man on horseback for most of my life. Well, mostly he is a good man, but there is a change in him as soon as he mounts. Every man on horseback is an arrogant man, however gentle he may be on foot. The man in the automobile is one thousand times as dangerous. I tell you, it will engender absolute selfishness in mankind if the driving of automobiles becomes common. It will breed violence on a scale never seen before. It will mark the end of the family as we know it, the three or four generations living happily in one home. It will destroy the sense of neighborhood and the true sense of Nation. It will create giantized cankers of cities, false opulence of suburbs, ruined countryside, and unhealthy conglomerations of specialized farming and manufacturing. It will make every man a tyrant.

— R.A. Lafferty

↑ Police harassment ↑
at Summer Critical
Mass in Spokane.

BIKE & BIKER!

America=Dumb

Certainly it's not surprising; a shift in primary values is directly related to the change in conditions. As the US. becomes increasingly immersed in the shroud of safety, our social values, too, become increasingly safe. This isn't really anything new of course. Ideas of dissention and change have always been met with opposition despite the entrenched rhetoric of

American Ideals. In a society supposedly founded amidst a revolution for justice and equality, it is odd that there is so much support for the status quo. The U.S. is currently, and has been for some time, the most anti-democratic, highly imperialistic force in the world; the new rooted empire—we are the imperialists.

What is more disturbing than even such an observation is the blatant acceptance of these facts by the public. The foremost and most obvious symptom of such complicity is the condition of protests in the US. It seems, at least from the perspective of a youth with left leaning views, that the essential concept of civil disobedience has become a much more significantly frowned upon idea. Great minds such as Henry David Thoreau have noted civil disobedience and protest as the vastly important function that it is. Civil disobedience, especially in the form of organized demonstrations, is an essential notion of education; Democracy cannot function without it. It is in a way a free-floating institu-

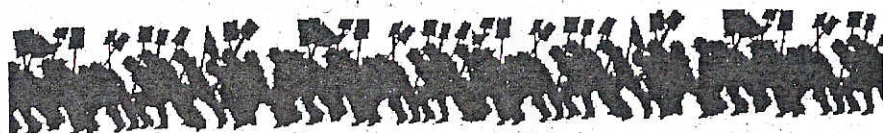
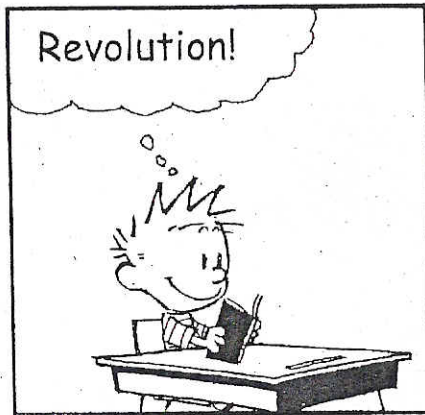
tion for freedom and justice, the ultimate watchdog. Yet the current mind set of your average citizen and the legal construct, both historic and current, are positioned away from this so important a social vehicle.

Laws are designed to facilitate the police in controlling any situation. Inherently, this is not negative; order is a key component to any society. However, the excessive nature of many

of these laws and ordinances brings their intent into question. For example: the Spokane City ordinance that defines a crowd as two or more people with the same intent and, of course, gives the police the authority to break up any such crowd. This is an applicable definition for just about every day to day group of

people, like those flocks of teenage girls streaming in and out of the mall at any given time. So the question is, why does this ordinance grant police grounds to disperse only those displaying signs or politically controversial material, or in other words, why only the people drawing attention to flaws in the system?

These very low standards for justification of police protest breaking are, as many of us in the Y.S.P.C. know first hand, stringently enforced. More so than speeding or even red light running. Often times, protest leaders face penalties more severe than assault and battery charges—even if protesters remain non-violent. The reasons for this originate within the nature of our checks and balances system. In this society, every institution has a specific function; the police create order; Business creates profit;



F U C K N I K E

This fact sheet is based on the research of several people. We received a response from Nike after sending letters expressing our outrage over the CBS revelations. Nike claims that CBS News was not accurate in its investigative report. To check our information, we contacted people in Vietnam — Vietnamese as well as American lawyers practicing there. As documented below, we found that Nike is in violation of several Vietnamese laws and its own code of conduct.

The Nike story in Viet Nam: CBS News 48 Hours reports the following:

1. Nike workers in Viet Nam earned an average of 20 cents per hour
2. 15 women workers were hit on the head by their supervisor
3. 45 women were made to kneel on the ground for 25 minutes with their hands in the air
4. and a Korean supervisor fled the country after accusations that he sexually molested female workers.

When CBS News approach Nike's representative at Nike Vietnam's headquarter, the man simply covered the camera with his palm and said 'I have things to do'.

In America, Nike's response has not been much better. In front of several hundred shareholders, after announcing record earnings and a stock split, Nike's president and CEO, Phil Knight minimized the problems in Vietnam as simply an incident in which a single worker was hit on the arm by a Korean supervisor. Roberta Baskin of CBS News said, "It turns out Nike has a great deal to learn about what goes on inside these factories."

NIKE - VN FACT SHEET

Minimum wage

* Workers at VN Nike shoe manufacturing plants make on 20 cents an hour or \$1.60 per day. The workers told Vietnam Labor Watch that the cost of three meals per day in Cu Chi is about \$2. Many of them skipped meals or receive extra financial assistance from their families. During the first three months of employment, all workers received \$37 per month which is below the minimum wage of \$45 per month in Vietnam.

* Nike also claims that the workers are paid a lower wage because Vietnamese law allows for a training wage less than the minimum wage. Viet Nam's legal code, however, specifies that the training wage can be paid only for a "trial-period" of 6 days, (under Article 32 of the Labor Code of June 23 1994 and Article 5 (2) of Decree 198-CP of Dec 31, 1994).

* So Nike is in Triple violation of Vietnam Law, violating the provisions regarding minimum wage, Article 3 of Decree 197-CP of December 31, 1994, Section II. (1.) of Circular 11/LDTBXH-TT of May 03 1996, as well as provisions regarding labor contracts, Article 28 of the Labor Code and Article 5 (4.) of Decree 198-CP in addition to the above-cited provisions relating to the "trial period"

Corporal Punishment

* 15 Vietnamese women told CBS News that they were hit over the head by their supervisor for poor sewing. 2 were sent to the hospital afterward.

* 45 women were forced by their supervisors to kneel down with their hands up in the air for 25 minutes.

* Nike claims that it disciplined these supervisors immediately. But at the shareholder meeting on Sept 16, 1996, Nike CEO Phil Knight minimized the first incident, stating incorrectly that only one worker was struck — on the arm

Capitalist Politics and Labor

The freedom to choose between Democrat X or Republican Y means for the workers, that they have the freedom to choose which particular representative of the capitalist class will make the laws in congress in the interest of the Capitalist class.

The Capitalist system does not base production on the needs of all, but the profits of a select few.

The Capitalist system creates a division of people into classes. Capitalism, by nature, creates two nations, divisible, with liberty and justice for one

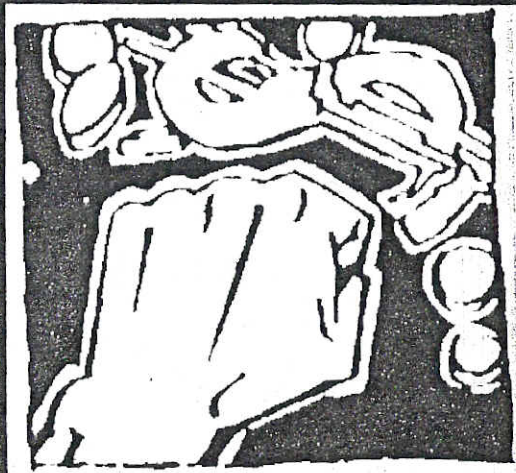
class and not the other. Instead of bringing people together, the capitalist system makes for a disunited community with a class that works and another that fights over who gets more of the national income.

All good things in life flow to the privileged rich class. Meanwhile insecurity, degrading poverty, and inequality of opportunity are given to the unprivileged poor class. The oppressed stay oppressed.

The worker, in theory, is "free" and can do as he or she pleases. However in actuality, their freedom is severely limited. They are free only to accept the oppressive terms given by the employer, or starve.

The primary motive for the production of goods is the making of a profit. Profit is the all important goal—more important than life. In Capitalist society dollars are valued higher than life. The boss does not care about you.

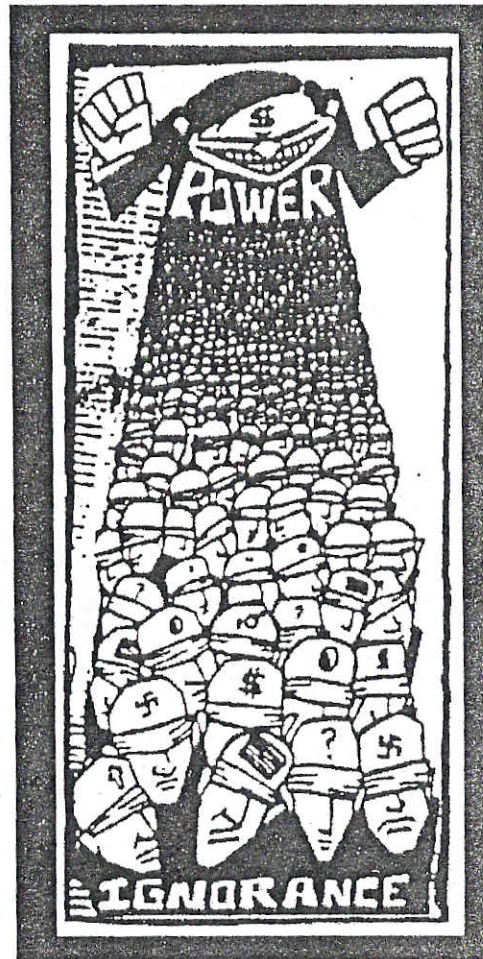
If you are not part of the solution you are part of the problem. The Liberation of Humanity is All or Nothing.



Government creates power. While all of these bodies are meant to be, in part, self-regulated for the most part the system only works if all the respective institutions perform their function and thus regulate each other via conflicts of interest. Among these institutions is the often forgotten job of the public. We the people are the ultimate regulation of power; we are the consumers of both politics and economics, that which we tolerate ultimately becomes the status quo. For instance, if we continue to buy from companies we know to be involved in human rights abuses, human rights abuses become accepted. The most influential tool for public regulation is the all important civil disobedience, yet the all too

obvious truth is that the people of the United States have faltered on their responsibility as a function in society—as consumers, as voters, and perhaps most significantly, as active citizens. The police are chosen above demonstrators, as in Seattle and D.C.; elected officials are rewarded for their incessant politicism and phoniness; corporations dominate without fear of public reprisal.

It is up to a free population to guard that freedom. Without motivated, informed and active citizens, these symptoms of increased police, corporate and political authoritarianism will increase further. This is the fundamental nature of society: power ends where protests begin.



My Body My Choice?

On the weekend of January 19th and 20th, 2001 anti-abortion groups across the country came together to not only protest abortion, but to brag about the fact that a pro-life friendly president was "elected" into office. That same weekend Bush passed bans on funding that goes to overseas abortion and reproductive education. The group known formally as Operation Rescue began Saturday by holding mass anti-abortion protests in Cleveland, Ohio.

Operation Rescue is a pro-life group known to use violent means, targeting everything from the doctors who perform abortions to property and even clients seeking abortions. In the past, the group has been successful at shutting down abortion clinics all over the United States due to threats and violent actions against people. When Bush was declared president the group issued a statement saying that they plan to take full advantage of a pro-life president in office to further their Christian-based beliefs.

This group, with the backing of our newly elected fascist president, could put millions of women's lives in danger. Beginning with Cleveland, Ohio, Operation Rescue is encouraging people to go out on "missions" to instate "abortion-free" cities. If they can achieve this goal in even one city they will be encouraged to target more. Although Bush claims he will not go so far as to try to overturn Roe vs. Wade, he does intend to make it very difficult for women to get abortions. This means everything from taking away funding to abortion clinics to putting restraints on who will have access to the abortions. In other words, while abortion way remain legal, it will be almost impossible to obtain one. This new plan is aimed at and will hurt the women who are in the most need of the abortions.

Bush also made various comments about stopping funding for birth control education and pregnancy planning in this country, as well as a re-evaluation of the RU-486 pill. As we can see from the last presidential election, we can't really count on our votes to keep abortion safe, legal and our choice. Nor can we rely on the government to back us up in our struggle to claim our bodies for ourselves. We must organize and work together to create a network of protection for our right to choose. We must create a voice for ourselves and the women around the world who will be affected by these laws of control. We will not let the government tell us what to do. We will fight back.



habitat loss global starvation

water shortage

Got Milk?

growth hormones deforestation

desertification flooding

higher taxes

antibiotics

global warming

pesticides

Milk has something for everybody- Higher blood cholesterol and increased risk of heart disease and stroke.

D. Minkler 1994

Pensions

Perhaps we are asking the wrong questions in this election year. Shouldn't we be asking why our tax dollars are still paying representatives no longer in office?

Our Senators and Congressmen do not pay into Social Security; therefore, they do not collect from it. Social Security benefits were not suitable for persons of their rare elevation in society.

They felt they should have a special plan for themselves. Many years ago, they voted in their own benefits plan. In more recent years, no Congressperson has felt need to change it. After all, it is a great plan.

For all practical purposes, their plan works like this—when they retire, they continue to draw their same pay until they die, except it may be increased from time to time by the cost of living adjustments.

For example, former Senator Bradley (and his wife) may be expected to draw \$7,900,000, with Mrs. Bradley drawing \$275,000 during the last year of their lives. This is calculated on an average life span for each.

Their cost for this excellent plan is \$0. This little perk they voted in for themselves is free to them. You and I pick up the tab and vote them in.

This fine retirement plan gets its funding directly from the General Funds. Our tax dollars at work! Social Security, which you and I pay into each payday for our own retirement, with an equal amount matched by our employer, we can expect to get an average of \$1,00 per month. Or, we could collect our benefits for 681 years and 1 month to equal Bradley's fine pension.

Imagine for a moment that you could structure a retirement plan so desirable that people would have extra amounts deducted from their pay to enhance their own personal retirement income. A retirement plan that worked so well that railroad employees, postal workers and others who were not in the plan would clamor to be included.

This is how good Social Security could be, if only one small change was made. That change would be to jerk the Golden Fleece Retirement Plan out from under the Senators and Congressmen. Put them into the Social Security plan with the rest of us and watch how fast they would fix it.



Environmental Treaties

Three years ago, from December 1-10 in Kyoto Japan, 160 nations met to discuss the matter of human-caused environmental change. Most important in their minds was the reduction of green house gasses such as carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and hydroflourocarbons. When the convention ended, everyone believed that amazing progress had been made. All nations that signed the document agreed to reduce their nation's noxious emissions by 5% of their 1990 levels. On top of that, the United States pledged to cut their emissions by 7%. The Protocol called for a deadline of 2008-12, giving a five year window for the agreement to be met.

After leaving the convention, all of the delegates returned to their respective countries with the "good news." The US Congress (then containing a Republican majority) was hesitant to adopt the Kyoto Protocol because it didn't have enough regulations for developing countries such as China and Mexico. It was eventually passed by a slim majority, but then what? To meet their commitment of 7% the US would have had to pass massive legislation to regulate industry as well as the sacred automotive industry.

As of yet, effective legislation has not been passed—mostly because of party disputes. Republican Con-

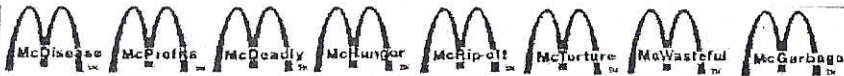
gress would come up with something and our Democratic President would veto it. Clinton would suggest a piece of legislation and Congress would disregard it. And now, President George W. Bush has vocalized the fact that he doesn't believe that America should have dedicated itself to the Kyoto Protocol at all. With 8 years remaining before the reduction deadline window, it's seeming that America will not come close to meeting their goal of 7%.

To try to figure out the best way of meeting the Kyoto regulations as the deadlines are approaching, another convention was held in the Hague, Netherlands from November 13-24, 2000. Huge international protests sponsored by an organization calling themselves The Dike took place outside the meetings to support the furthering of the Kyoto Protocol, but to no avail.

The US, still in the process of debating the outcome of the election, was considering not sending a delegation at all. Nothing more was solved in the meeting and negotiations ended with all of the delegates agreeing on only one thing, to meet again in May/June 2001.

Leave it to the beaurocrats to schedule a meeting to schedule a meeting. How many tax dollars was that worth?





Saturday February 24 8:31 AM ET Protesters Hurl Stink Bombs at Paris McDonalds

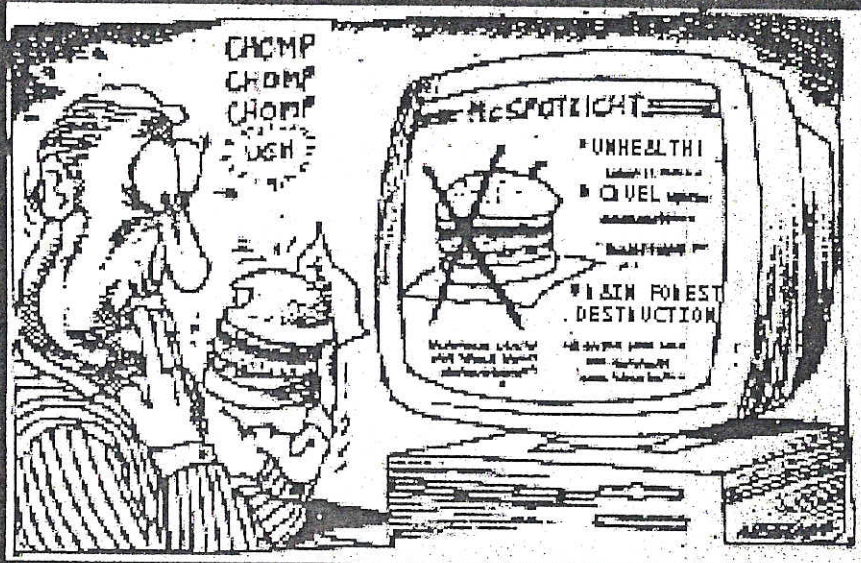
PARIS (Reuters) - Activists said they hurled stink bombs at some 20 McDonalds restaurants in Paris on Saturday then took part in a demonstration against what they called the "nauseous practices" of fast-food giants.

Police said hundreds of protesters marched through the streets of the capital's Latin Quarter near Notre Dame cathedral on Saturday morning.

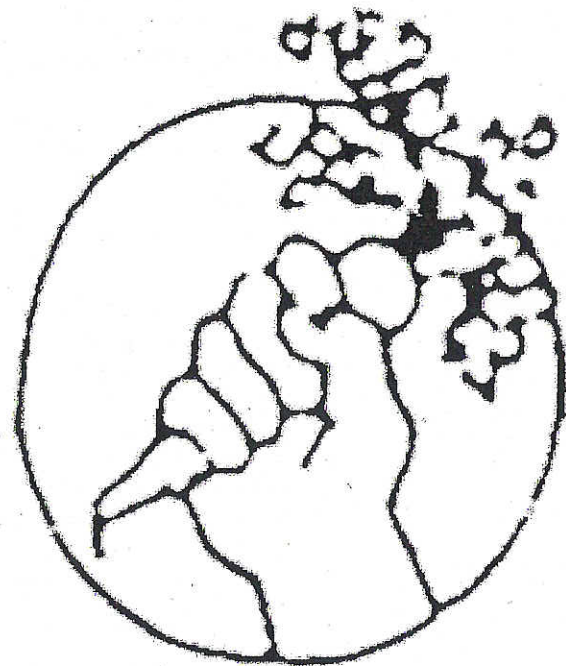
French anti-globalization group AARRG! (Apprentice Agitators for a Global Network of Resistance) said the protests against McDonalds and other fast-food groups including Pizza Hut, were sparked by the recent sacking of several McDonalds workers in Paris.

"We condemn the fast-food practices, the lack of job security, a hellish working speed, and ridiculous wages," a spokesman for the group said.

The protesters included anti-globalization supporters, students, employees of the restaurants — some of whom were temporarily striking — and unions representing the workers, he added.



HUNGRY?



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