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Hartford Independent Media Center: Puts out the *Hartford Undercurrent* newspaper, RadioActive Wednesdays at noon on 91.3 FM, Saturdays @ 3:00PM on 107.7FM WFCS, and Tuesdays @ 5:30PM on 88.1 FM WESU; and also does movie nights and media literacy classes in colleges and high schools. Meets every Saturday morning at 10:00 AM at Café La Paloma Sabanera at 405 Capitol Ave., Hartford.

Food Not Bombs: Recovering nutritious vegetarian food that would have been discarded otherwise, we cook and serve it to people in immediate need. They serve in Bushnell Park, Hartford Saturdays and Sundays at 3 PM, and in Central Park, New Britain at 3 PM Sundays. Email lkerith@hotmail.com for Hartford or NewBritainFNB@riseup.net for NB.

Free People's Movement: Revolutionary socialist organization. Check out www.FreePeoplesMovement.org or call Francisco at (860) 803-9924 for more info.

Latinos Contra La Guerra (Against the War): Anti-war group based in the Latino community of the Hartford area, organizing demonstrations, counter-recruitment and around the issue of immigrant justice. They meet at 3:00 PM Saturdays at La Paloma Sabanera, 405 Capitol Ave, Hartford. Email LatinosContraLaGuerra@yahoo.com for more info.

Recommended Websites:

www.infoshop.org—Revolutionary news and resources

www.AnarchistFAQ.org—Everything you could possibly want to know about anarchism.

www.IllegalVoices.org— Anarchist People of Color, fighting white privilege in the system, and the movement!

AnarchistBlackCross.org—Free all political prisoners!

ZineLibrary.net - Hundreds of zines and pamphlets available for free download. Priceless.

www.RetailWorker.com—Vent, Learn, Organize!

www.Indymedia.org—Global independent news network

www.Anarcha.org – Info on Anarchafeminism and fighting Patriarchy.

www.Autonomista.org—Focuses on the Argentina revolutionary movement

www.EZLN.org—Mexican Revolutionaries fighting for indigenous rights.



DEMAND THE IMPOSSIBLE

The Voice of Creating Local Autonomy and Solidarity in Hartford

The C.L.A.S.H. Collective

#5 March 17th 2006

Semi-quarterly

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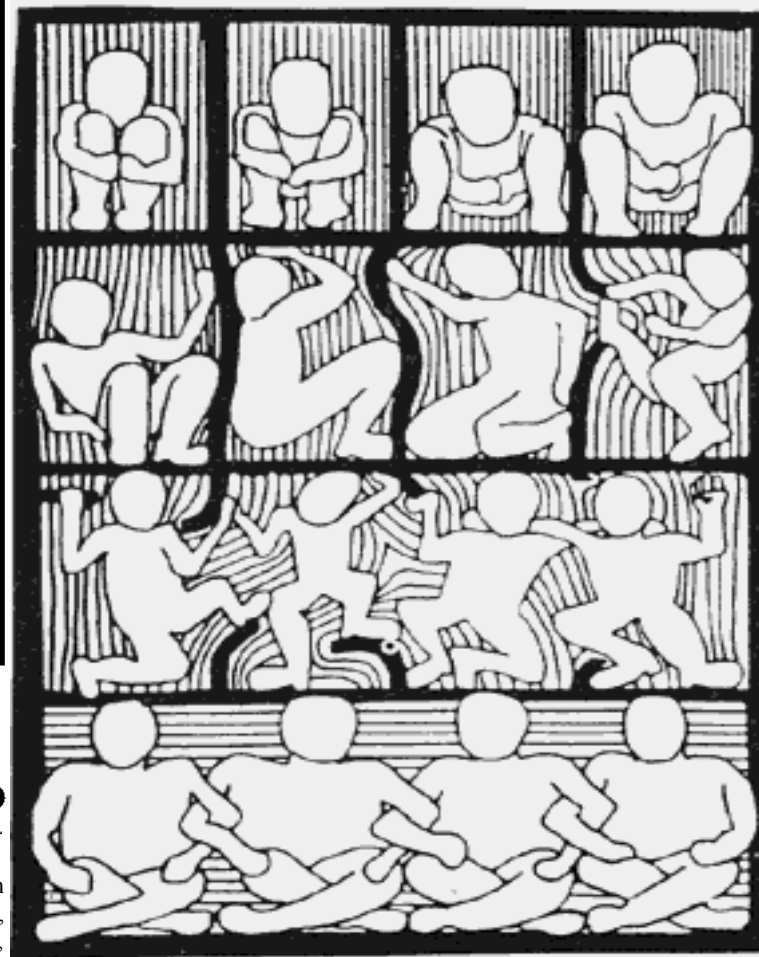
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free



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Libertad De Movimiento

Una Red Norteamericana que dice No a las Fronteras

(A)

The Creating Local Autonomy & Solidarity in Hartford COLLECTIVE

We are activists involved in many struggles within the Hartford area. We recognize that real change comes from below, from society's have-nots; particularly the change that we need so desperately at this time in history. We also understand that there is no substitute for genuine movement-building, which cannot and will not be possible without unashamedly confrontational, disruptive direct action, the empowerment of grassroots direct democracy, and a
r e v o l u t i o n a r y c o n s c i o u s n e s s .

Some wish to skip right to the necessary societal and political changes without building the foundations of a movement that can actually mount popular power, instead prematurely organizing "national mobilizations," lobbying "our representatives," and supporting the lesser of two evils. This is a suicidal tendency, and demonstrates either a disconnection from or a disdain for the building of popular power at the bottom rungs of society, instead opting for a movement with enlightened, professional activists calling all the shots from above.

We are not anyone's liberators. We merely put the tools of liberation in the hands of those who truly need it. What they do after that is up to them.

Peoples' Global Action Hallmarks <http://www.agp.org>

1. A very clear rejection of capitalism, imperialism and feudalism; all trade agreements, institutions and governments that promote destructive globalization.
2. We reject all forms and systems of domination and discrimination including, but not limited to, patriarchy, racism and religious fundamentalism of all creeds. We embrace the full dignity of all human beings.
3. A confrontational attitude, since we do not think that lobbying can have a major impact in such biased and undemocratic

organizations, in which transnational capital is the only real policy-maker;

4. A call to direct action and civil disobedience, support for social movements' struggles, advocating forms of resistance which maximize respect for life and oppressed peoples' rights, as well as the construction of local alternatives to global capitalism.

For more info:
HartfordCLASH@yahoo.com
<http://clash.8m.net>
Or write: CLASH
C/O Green Party
418A New Britain Ave
Hartford, CT 06106
860-416-4575 (after 5 PM please!)

5. An organizational philosophy based upon decentralization and autonomy.

4. A call to direct action and civil disobedience, support for social movements' struggles, advocating forms of resistance which maximize respect for life and oppressed peoples' rights, as well as the construction of local alternatives to global capitalism.
5. An organizational philosophy based upon decentralization and autonomy.

For more information about Peoples Global Action (PGA) visit AGP.org

* We use "North America" to include all people living in Canada, the United States and Mexico and look forward to a time when revolutionary language is as concise as colonial titles.

Anarchists protest Minutemen in Sacramento, California (from deletetheborder.org)



deportations, detentions, “free trade”, racism or for decolonization, we feel that we can aid each other in our common struggle for freedom of movement and the right to stay for all.

We are therefore proposing the creation of a no border activist network between groups in Mexico, Canada and the U.S. We have taken only a few steps toward the realization of this network. This is obviously a huge and complex endeavor, so our goal is to place enough tangible information before you so that many aspects can be developed more collectively and organically. Our proposals include:

- The use of the People's Global Action Hallmarks (explained below) as guideline for our organizing as a network
- Use of www.deletetheborder.org as an orbit of communication and information sharing
- Listserv communication for Network development/communication (email network deleteTheBorder_d0t_org for info)
- Bi-lingual online meetings (may include phone conferencing as technology permits)

The role of the Network is to be more clearly defined, but may be used to:

- Share information and coordinate actions, campaigns, caravans, media making etc.
- Create & provide solidarity for each other and those most affected by borders, displacement, and migration controls.
- Develop ideas, goals, strategies, and emancipatory visions concerning: autonomy and migration, citizenship/post-citizenship, decolonization and migration, non-statist hybrid identities

We hope the Network can provide critical links in transnational understandings and struggles, helping to create momentum for radical change. The current wave of scapegoating, repression and violent racism in the North is only going to get worse in the coming years, so we must be organized. To learn more, visit www.deletetheborder.org and contact [network\(at\)deletetheborder.org](mailto:network(at)deletetheborder.org)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

A number of organizations primarily in the Southwest US/Mexico border region over the course of the last year came together to confront the “minutemen” vigilantes and similar anti-immigrant forces. In August of 2005 a No-Border Encuentro was organized in San Diego where conversations arose about the possibility of creating a larger formalized network. The deletetheborder.org website and listserv were created, and many of us have networked and found each other in numerous other ways. This proposal is a reflection of these connections.

DISCLAIMER: We have not talked with or consulted with the necessary amount or “right” groups and individuals that would actually be needed to make a No Border Network a practical reality and a strong and beautiful force. Please view this as a humble attempt to begin this process.

PEOPLE’S GLOBAL ACTION HALLMARKS:

1. A very clear rejection of capitalism, imperialism and feudalism; all trade agreements, institutions and governments that promote destructive globalization.
2. We reject all forms and systems of domination and discrimination including, but not limited to, patriarchy, racism and religious fundamentalism of all creeds. We embrace the full dignity of all human beings.
3. A confrontational attitude, since we do not think that lobbying can have a major impact in such biased and undemocratic organizations, in which transnational capital is the only real policy-maker;

CLASH STATEMENT ON CT ANTIWAR SPLIT, AND LOOKING AHEAD

By m(A)tt

Despite all the enthusiasm from both antiwar camps in Connecticut, the antiwar movement is in a severe crisis. The problem is three tier. The primary issue is how the dialogue has been framed. Are we talking tactics? Are we talking strategy? Are we talking internal democracy and accountability? No all around. We’re talking about which demands we put on the flyer, of which none will be fulfilled if we continue on the road we’ve been walking down for the past three years. People we will describe below have very intentionally framed this debate. But the fact remains: this war is about geo-politics, who controls the world’s resources, and who calls the shots. In this context, well-behaved protest is futile. But popular resistance from below is fertile.

So instead of discussing how to exert the necessary amount of direct pressure on the system, the Zionists and Democrats in the movement have successfully marginalized the Palestinian community and their advocates, setting back the cause greatly. This is the second tier, and is perhaps even more tragic. After years of trying to carve out a deserved space in the movement, the Palestinians have been segregated away from what will undoubtedly be viewed as the “respectable” and “responsible” demonstration in Hartford on March 19th, and the March 18th New Haven demonstration will clearly be portrayed as “fringe” and “lunatic.” Unfortunately, we have been driven to the fringe, so the perception is partially true. What is not true is that the Hartford demonstration is respectable or responsible. Bringing large, top-down organizations (unions, churches, politicians) to the table is completely irresponsible. How on earth are we supposed to meet on equal ground when these organizations can speak, without consultation, for their entire membership, when most of the groups in the movement till now have had at most numbers in the double digits. Pulling the life support on democracy in the movement is anything but responsible, and all but rules out the mass, uncompromising direct action that is necessary to stop the war. Furthermore, respectable is the last word we would use to describe the new coalition, CT Opposes the War (COW). They are as respectable as the liberals of the 1960’s who told the Civil Rights movement to keep waiting for change, and not to talk about Vietnam. History will, correctly, show little respect for these people.

The polar opposite on this split are the groups who are pro-Palestinian but who have made reconciliation at this stage utterly impossible. These sectarian Leftists’ motivation is a general bitterness over the fact that the section of the movement that now comprises COW diverted energy from the antiwar movement by supporting pro-war Senator John Kerry. We share in this displeasure, but their actions are inexcusable. If the Zionists are guilty of playing on peoples’ fears of alienating people with too many issues, the sectarian Leftists are equally guilty of painting these same people in the middle as racists.

So here we are, two minorities recklessly vying for power, and the rest of us in the middle dodging the crossfire. It is reminiscent of a quote a comrade used to have at the bottom of every email: In the battle between good and evil, it’s always the people who get killed. And indeed, people are getting killed, with our tax dollars, while we busy ourselves with rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic.

Fortunately, there is a third option that we, the CLASH collective and others are striving to make a reality. We believe in the old ACT UP axiom, “Make it more costly for those in power to resist than to give in.” Civil resistance that disrupts the day-to-day functions of the system which is waging war in Iraq and around the globe is the only viable option for ending the war as soon as possible. We ask you to join us in this historic task, not as a passive soldier at our command, but an active participant in whatever aspect you desire.



The future is unwritten.

Check out www.GlobalCallIraq.org

Movement Notes

Revolutionary Orientation: Bringing it All Together

By m(A)tt

The CLASH collective has been in existence for almost two years now, and we've been *Demanding the Impossible* for one. Now that we've got some trace amounts of experience under our belts via various projects and coalition work, we feel some outlining of general revolutionary strategy is in order. One could call this a program, but we don't like the connotation of finality the word holds. Like all programs, it's open to change; but like few others, it probably will. This piece will not, unlike much of our statements, deal with critiquing other ideologies and organizations. We throw around words like revolution, anti-capitalism and direct democracy quite a bit, but we give very little idea about how on earth to approach such ideals, or even what on earth we mean by them. With this piece, we hope to give some general and specific ideas in that regard, and share our profound feeling that the new world we desire is much closer at any given moment than hardly anyone ever realizes.

Like in most eras in modern American history, and many other histories, there are three main fronts for every revolutionary to consider. The Autonomy and Solidarity Network in Canada sums this up quite well: anti-capitalism, anti-imperialism, and anti-oppression. In non-abstract terms, this means that we have to be fighting the capitalist institutions and policies here at home, the imperial ventures of the state, and finally, but at least as equally important to any of the above, we must be constantly battling our own internalized tendencies to oppress and dominate our comrades and fellow human beings, and the tendency to allow others to treat us in kind. These categories overlap in many ways, which helps us with the task of understanding and explaining how all domination is indeed intimately connected, and why we should connect all these struggles as **one**. And in each one of these battles, we should be constantly building up counter-institutions as cooperative, non-hierarchical forms of survival and societal benefit, and as long-term bases of resistance.

Anti-Capitalism

The most obvious task of any would-be rebel is to deal with bread and butter issues – things that effect everyone that gets the short end of the stick in this society, which 99% of the time is the vast majority; today is no exception. If we are to understand the importance of this front, we have to look at the whole world as the battlefield of the class war. The fight against capitalism is the home front in which we fight for all the things the Zapatistas demand: housing, land, employment, food, education, independence, democracy, liberty, justice and peace. But in sum, it is the fight for the well-being, and control, of our lives. It is on this front that we shake the foundations of the empire, creating waves all around the planet, by utilizing the fact that we *are* the foundations. It is with our labor, our children, and our everyday consent that the empire perpetuates. We are the base of the pyramid; try as we may, no single person or group will ever overcome the weight of supporting those above. Only by thrusting as one will we topple this obscene structure and enter into an era without this perpetual weight on our shoulders.

To fight capitalism, we need to first organize and go on the defensive against the ever intensifying squeezing on the poor and working class people and our environment. The cost of living goes up, while the wealth we receive for our labor goes down. As people grow more poor and desperate, social services diminish. And all the while, those who have get more

But we have the power to turn this trend back, and even go on the offensive by creating the new world today in the shell of the old. This must be done on a number of fronts, particularly in a target-

Los puntos de partida de esta alianza son: (Nuevos Puntos de Partida)
• Un rechazo muy claro a la Organización Mundial de Comercio (OMC) y otros acuerdos de liberalización comercial (tales como APEC, UE, TLC, MERCOSUR, etc.) debido a que son promotores activos de una globalización destructiva
• Rechazamos todas las formas y sistemas de dominación y de discriminación incluyendo - y no limitandose a : el patriarcado, el racismo y el fundamentalismo religioso de cualquier creencia. Abrazamos y defendemos la plena dignidad de todos los seres humanos.
• Una actitud confrontativa, pues no pensamos que el diálogo pueda tener ningún impacto en organizaciones tan profundamente antidemocráticas y tan perfiladas ideológicamente como éstas, en las que el capital transnacional es el único actor político real
• Un llamado a la desobediencia civil no violenta y a la construcción de alternativas locales por la población local, como respuestas a la acción de gobiernos y multinacionales
• Una filosofía organizativa basada en la descentralización y la autonomía.
Para mayor información acerca de la alianza Acción Global de los Pueblos (AGP) visite AGP.org

*Usamos el termino "Norte América" para incluir toda gente viviendo en Canadá, los Estados Unidos y México y esperamos con ganas el tiempo en que el lenguaje revolucionario sea tan conciso como los títulos coloniales

Proposal: Freedom of Movement A North American No Border Network

By the o.r.g.a.n.i.c. collective, San Diego, California

Through our work we have met some amazing sisters and brothers in struggle in Mexico, Canada, the United States and all across the world. We have begun to learn about each other and as a result, learn more about other groups and struggles emanating from what we believe to be similar and related causes...

We are therefore proposing the creation of a no border activist network between groups in Mexico, Canada and the U.S. We have taken only a few steps toward the realization of this network. This is obviously a huge and complex endeavor, so our goal is to place enough tangible information before you so that many aspects can be developed more collectively and organically...

As we know, the "War on Terror" has escalated an already ongoing war against immigrants and many other groups deemed "undesirable" or "exploitable." Meanwhile, people around the world are attempting to deal with war, ecological crisis, and both historical and ongoing colonization. Migration is one of the primary ways of dealing with these horrors. Criminalized by the state, exploited by bosses, migrants are denied freedom before they even arrive. We believe, however, that freedom isn't something derived from any government; it is created from below, beyond borders. Hence, freedom of movement must be fundamental to any movement for collective liberation.

Working with the principle that no one is illegal, our intent is to help amplify struggles for immigrant rights and dignity and more effectively counter the rising racism and repression in our communities in a variety of ways. Whether people are working against militarized borders,

movimiento por la liberación colectiva.

Trabajando bajo el principio que ninguna persona es ilegal, nuestra intención es desarrollar y amplificar luchas por los derechos de inmigrantes y su dignidad, y contestar mas efectivamente el racismo y la represión creciente en nuestras comunidades de varias maneras. Ya sea que la gente esta trabajando en contra de fronteras militarizadas, deportaciones, detenciones, “libre comercio”, racismo o a favor de descolonización, sentimos que podemos ayudarnos en nuestra lucha común por la libertad de movimiento y el derecho de quedarse para todos.

Entonces, proponemos la creación de una red activista en contra de las fronteras entre grupos en México, Canadá y los Estados Unidos. Hemos tomado solo algunos pocos pasos hacia la realización de esta red. Esto es obviamente un esfuerzo grandísimo y complejo. Entonces nuestra meta es presentar bastante información tangible para que muchos aspectos puedan ser desarrollados de manera más colectiva y orgánica. Nuestra propuesta incluye:

- El uso de los puntos desarrollados por la Acción Global del Pueblo (explicación siguiente) como una guía para nuestra organización como red.
- El uso de www.deletetheborder.org como una orbita de comunicación e intercambio de información.
- Comunicación de Listserve para el desarrollo / comunicación de la red (envía un correo electrónico a network4t@deletetheborder.org para mayor información)
- Juntas bilingües por medio de Internet (podría incluir conferencias telefónicas, tal y como indique la tecnología accesible)

Falta definir claramente el papel de la red, pero se podría emplear para:

- Compartir información y coordinar acciones, campañas, caravanas, construcción de media, ect.
- Crear y proporcionar solidaridad entre una al otro y aquellos mas afectados por las fronteras, desplazamiento y controles de migración.
- Desarrollar ideas, metas, estrategias e visiones de emancipación teniendo que ver con: autonomía y migración, ciudadanía y mas aya de la ciudadanía, descolonización y migración, e identidades híbridas no-estatales.....

Esperamos que la Red pueda proporcionar ligas criticas en los entendimientos y luchas trasnacionales, ayudando a cobrar velocidad para el cambio radical. La onda actual de culpar, represión y racismo violento en el Norte solo va ponerse peor en los próximos años así que tenemos que estar organizados. Para aprender mas, visita www.deletetheborder.org y contacta [network\(aarroba\)deletetheborder.org](mailto:network(aarroba)deletetheborder.org).

Información acerca de los antecedentes de esta propuesta

Varias organizaciones, la mayoría proveniente del oeste de los estados unidos en la zona frontera México-americana, durante el año pasado se juntaron para confrontar a los vigilantes auto-denominados “Minutemen” y sus fuerzas similares anti-emigrantes. En agosto del 2005, un Encuentro en Contra de las Fronteras se organizo en San Diego, en el cual conversaciones surgieron acerca de la posibilidad de crear una red formal mas grande. El sitio de Internet deletetheborder.org y la [listserv](http://listserv.deletetheborder.org) se crearon, y muchos de nosotros hemos establecido redes y nos hemos encontrado de otras varias maneras. Esta propuesta refleja estas conexiones.

EXENCIÓN DE RESPONSABILIDAD: No hemos hablado ni consultado con la cantidad necesaria, ni “correcta” de grupos e individuos que actualmente se necesitaran para hacer tal Red una realidad practica y una fuerza fuerte y bella. Por favor lean esto como un humilde esfuerzo para comenzar este proceso.

rich environment such as the Hartford area. Labor is, as always, one key factor. We absolutely cannot, however, wait around for the mainstream Trade Unions to get their act together, as they have proven time and again that even when they *do* have their act together, they are incapable of revolutionary, and most even militant action. They are inherently hierarchal, pro-capitalist, divisive, and are no more salvageable than the Democratic Party. We must build a labor insurgency, within and outside of the existing unions, at least along the principles of the Industrial Workers of the World, and preferably *with* the IWW. We need a labor movement that does not negotiate class peace with capitalists, that will go on strike at a moment’s notice, and will be in strong solidarity with all other poor, oppressed and working class people. These principles are antithetical to the mainstream labor movement, and while there may be some value in working within and along side them, for short-term goals and to win over more workers to the revolutionary cause, we cannot depend on them, or the efforts of the brave comrades who struggle to reform them. Our priority in this area should be to build independent labor unions.

Our strategy should be to organize the unorganized, which today is nearly everyone. In our modern economy, it makes most sense to organize the service and transportation industries, which are among the largest and most vital industries, respectively, with the least chance of “outsourcing.” Obviously, however, these should not be a new labor movement’s sole focus, as food, utilities and other industries not only play a pivotal role in today’s capitalist economy, but also will continue to be in tomorrow’s revolutionary economy. In creating a new labor movement, people can achieve greater economic and social stability in their day-to-day lives, and introduce democracy in an arena that for as long as anyone can remember has been a place of domination and obedience; the revolutionary value of this empowerment is reason in and of itself to pursue rebuilding the labor movement. But it is in the ability to bring these industries to a halt, and eventually harness their potential for the benefit of all human kind, where the true revolutionary potential of a labor movement lies.

To do so, we need to begin to introduce key concepts to working people, such as direct democracy, militancy, and a sense of entitlement to all that they produce. This can be begun by organizing in our own workplaces and industries, reaching out to people in other industries and giving them the tools to organize themselves, as opposed to someone organizing them for them, and by holding workshops and facilitating effective organizing we can be a resource to those workers who take their own initiative to fight back. Further, a number of counter-institutions can be built with the initiative of militant unionists, such as workers’ centers, daycare cooperatives, work-related education, and worker-run cooperative businesses. It must be stressed, however, that these are absolutely no substitute for revolutionary action and change, as they are generally absorbed into the system if they are not part of an active effort to subvert and smash it. They are merely stepping stones that can help us along the way. It is our hope that by organizing a Hartford/Connecticut IWW branch that we can begin the process of creating a new labor movement from the bottom-up.

Similarly, we must also recognize the modern reality of the neighborhood and its radical potential, perhaps best demonstrated by the Black Panther Party. As many Hartford residents are under- and un-employed, it makes a great deal of sense to focus on living conditions, rather than just working conditions. Some tasks are tenant organizing, Copwatch programs to expose and defend against police state brutality, a wide array of cooperatives to fill in the gaps where capitalism misses, and community organizations to push anti-capitalist and cooperative agendas at the City- and regional-level. These are all vitally important when we consider just how far removed most people are from the decisions that affect them so brutally. And like the hypothetical labor movement described above, it provides a model for the organisms of democracy for tomorrow’s revolutionary society. In this sense, we find ourselves very much walking in the same theoretical footsteps of the early Students for a Democratic Society, in that we believe that we urgently require the rise of participatory democracy in this society. However, we part ways with SDS in that they believed that participatory democracy, with many of the same organisms we have described above, should merely complement America’s system of representative democracy, in the belief that this would lead to a more cooperativist and socialist society. We, on the other hand, believe they should entirely replace representative democracy, from the City government, all the way up to the US Senate and House of Representatives and so on, as these institutions are inherently biased toward the property-holding class, as Jerry Fresia so well analyzes in *Toward an American Revolution*, and whereas democratic central-

ism in general, where an electorate votes by majority for someone to speak for them in a small, isolated elite group, makes for an inevitable divorce between the will of the electorate, and said representative. It is a system of the rich, by the rich, for the rich, just as it was intended to be. We believe in direct democracy, because everyone should have a direct, un-deferred say in all matters that concern them, period. All democratic structures must be subordinated to the accommodation of this principle. But regardless, whether or not you consider yourself a revolutionist, you simply cannot deny the fact that all left-leaning forces are completely and utterly lacking any real mass base of organized support. Before we can even begin to talk about reform versus revolution, we need to do what the conservatives have been doing the last twenty-five years: build a fucking movement! Is that such a radical concept? We know believing in representative democracy gives one a certain distaste for popular power, for fear that it could get out of hand and ruin your golf game. But trust us, it's either that or we're fucked.

Initiating community-based organization could be approached in much of the same way described above in regards to workplace organization.

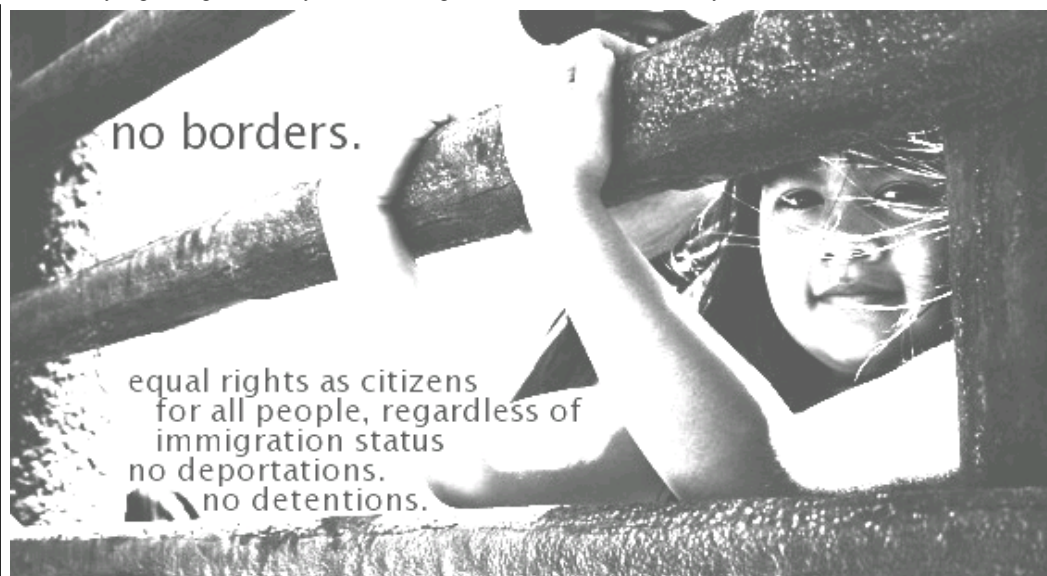
For those of us in the colleges and universities, we should be conscious of the potential that our campuses hold in not only organizing and radicalizing younger people, but also in being a catalyst for broader consciousness raising. This is a particularly glaring possibility in light of the re-proletarianization, or working class re-orientation of the youth in higher education today due to the decrease in career opportunities, the rise in competition, and thus their greater connection to the communities around them. The campus is one of the last large scale public commons, one that is characterized by idealism and ambition. It is in this context that radicalized students can bring their organizing skills and ideas with them to their neighborhoods and workplaces. We are particularly excited by the prospect of the re-constitution of the Students for a Democratic Society, the convention of which to be held in the Summer of 2006. We hope and believe this development to be a signal of a return of the Student Power movement which can and will usher in a new era of invigoration and growth to our otherwise stagnating movements. The IWW's student and faculty union is also of great interest, and we look forward to the IWW/SDS relationship being rekindled.

There are also many other single issues to organize around to further the anti-capitalist agenda. Protecting the environment is one key factor. While groups like the Earth Liberation Front and Animal Liberation Front have had some obvious success in bringing to light some major issues, and even effecting industry policies, we believe that completely autonomous cell-based property destruction has very limited potential, and can at best force some reforms. Mass direct action is a much more participatory, sustainable and effective model in the long run. However, we concede that earth defense is not our area of expertise, so we don't have much to offer other than speculation. But we do recognize that it is a vital struggle that we have all benefited from in some way or another, and if we are to have any hope for revolution, basic human survival is obviously a priority.

Anti-Imperialism

Oppressed and working people have for generations recognized that they share a common enemy with those in other parts of the world, as the capitalists of this country are not content to dominate and exploit us alone. The US military has invaded and intervened in hundreds of different instances over the entire course of its history, in nearly every country on the planet, and today it continues that trend. It is most glaringly present in Iraq, but it is, or threatens to be, in any given place at any given time, from Venezuela to Haiti to the Philippines to Puerto Rico to Palestine. It is the world's only remaining super power, but it is increasingly anxious about the rise of others. In a desperate attempt to legitimize its supremacy, it has attempted to make an example out of Iraq, and demonstrate to the world that it can and will strike any regime that steps out of line – particularly the ones with strategic location and resources. But in its frantic actions, the empire has miscalculated catastrophically, throwing all the lessons of Vietnam and beyond out the window! This is by no means an aberration – it is well precedented, very much in line with American history, as well documented by the likes of historian Howard Zinn and scholar Noam Chomsky. The difference between this instance and most others is that the US is not merely fighting to protect its immediate economic interests, as in most conflicts; it is fighting to maintain its entire system of control that has allowed it to accumulate such vast, historic wealth. If the US loses in Iraq,

It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for everyday struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.



Propuesta: Libertad De Movimiento **Una Red Norteamericana que dice No a las Fronteras**

Por el o.r.g.a.n.i.c. collective, San Diego, California.

Por medio de nuestro trabajo hemos conocido algunas / os hermanas y hermanos en la lucha en México, Canadá, los Estados Unidos y por todo el mundo. Hemos comenzado a aprender acerca de uno y el otro y como resultado, aprendido mas acerca de otros grupos y luchas surgiendo de lo que nosotros creemos ser causas similares y relacionadas...

Entonces, proponemos la creación de una red activista en contra de las fronteras entre grupos en México, Canadá y los Estados Unidos. Hemos tomado solo algunos pocos pasos hacia la realización de esta red. Esto es obviamente un esfuerzo grandísimo y complejo. Entonces nuestra meta es presentar bastante información tangible para que muchos aspectos puedan ser desarrollados de manera más colectiva y orgánica...

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Como sabemos, la “Guerra contra el Terror” ha escalado una guerra ya existente en contra de los inmigrantes y muchos otros grupos considerados “indeseables” o “explotables.” Mientras, gente de todo el mundo trata las cuestiones de guerra, crisis ecológico, y la colonización tanto histórica como esas formas que hoy día continúan. La migración es una de las maneras principales de responder a estos horrores. Criminalizados por el estado, explotados por los jefes, los emigrantes son rechazados su libertad desde antes de llegar. Sin embargo, nosotros creemos que la libertad no es algo que proviene de ningún gobierno, sino que es creada desde abajo, mas aya de las fronteras. Por eso, la libertad de movimiento tiene que ser fundamental a cualquier

The NLRB complaint against Starbucks which resulted in this settlement outlined a widespread anti-union effort that extended to upper level management, including a Starbucks Senior Vice President. Fifteen Starbucks employees were named in the complaint.

The IWW Starbucks Workers Union is a grassroots organization of Starbucks employees united to improve life on and off the job. The campaign to organize Starbucks is based on the solidarity unionism model, unionism in its purest form: a group of workers directly pressuring a corporation without getting entangled in the cumbersome government certification process or the alienating business-union approach. Since its founding in May 2004, the Starbucks Workers Union has chalked up three wage increases, more secure work hours, and some modest safety improvements in the area of repetitive strain injuries. Union members also work together to remedy individual grievances such as fixing errors in pay and eliminating exhausting scheduling demands.

"Though we would have preferred to vindicate our rights in an open hearing, winning a remedy for all of our well-documented charges against Starbucks is certainly gratifying," said Daniel Gross, an IWW organizer and Starbucks barista whose 'final warning before termination' was nullified by the settlement. "It's critical to point out that while the conclusion of this battle took place in a legal setting, the fight was won in the streets and through actions on the job. The union couldn't have done it without grassroots solidarity from around the world from places as far off as Edinburgh, Scotland and Auckland, New Zealand to places as close to home as New Brunswick, New Jersey and the streets of Manhattan."

The Labor Board's standard practice is to settle complaints without the charged party, Starbucks in this case, admitting guilt. Because of this, as a symbolic matter, the IWW refused to sign on to the settlement. The IWW believes there was ample evidence to conclude that Starbucks was guilty of breaking the law. Nonetheless, the settlement stands as is with the all of the union's charges resolved.

The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) is a union for all workers, founded upon the principles of solidarity, direct democracy, direct action and radical change. From the IWW constitution, originally written in 1905:

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the Earth.

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interest of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system."

JOIN THE IWW & PUT THE BOSSES TO WORK

it will no longer be seen as an invincible super power in the eyes of the world. It fears what all those who have power fear: losing control.

It is for that reason exactly that no part of the establishment will ever seriously consider meaningful pullout from Iraq. It is likely that it will attempt to create a façade of withdrawal, either by confining the military to strategic bases around the country, or to just across the border in Kuwait. Regardless, the US will attempt to retain control of Iraq, and if it does, it will retain its global supremacy, and this cannot be allowed. The continuance of the occupation of Iraq is highly dangerous to maintaining the empire. We must, therefore, be mindful of the danger of aiding the empire by limiting our demands to an end to the direct US-led military occupation of Iraq, as anything less than full withdrawal of US influence in the Middle East will only save the empire. Our aim is to do away with it, one tentacle at a time.

As described in our piece, "Iraq: What's at Stake, and the Tasks Before Us," (see www.clash.8m.net) direct action is the only practical option for the antiwar movement, and it must be carried out in a directly democratic and anti-authoritarian way. The movement also needs to be completely restructured if the grassroots is to have any meaningful say as far as tactics and strategy go, rather than the usual big shots ordering us about from New York and DC, that have gotten us *absolutely nowhere* in the last four years.

As Thomas Good describes in his opinion piece, "UFPJ Diary: The Case for Participatory Democracy," the new movement should be based on regional, periodically held general assemblies to maximize the number of people whose voices are heard and to decentralize the decision-making in order to keep political maneuvering and cooptation at a minimum. Anti-authoritarianism should be the principle in all democratic processes, any national administration should be rotating yearly, and all paid staff should be unionized with the IWW.

Whether or not United for Peace and Justice should be the future vehicle for the movement remains to be seen. It is still semi-democratic, though it requires thorough reform. The beginning of a new anti-war movement begins with the formation of regional spokescouncils (anywhere from neighborhood-wide to county-wide depending on the local context) across the country to carry out direct action against the war profiteers and the State. Spokescouncils are an impressive expression of modern direct democracy, which directly parallels the workers councils of the early 20th century. Essentially, they are a clearing house for all war resisters to discuss strategy, action guidelines, coordination, ideas and support. They are empowering as well as effectively non-hierarchical, as they were utilized on a grand scale in the US anti-globalization/Global Justice movement at its height from 1999-2001, and continues to be used sporadically in this country and frequently elsewhere in the world. As we demonstrate our brand of resistance, we will influence the movement in a very positive way, and shift the consciousness of the grassroots. Whether we should use this hypothetical shift to reform UFPJ, or if we should simply start anew remains to be seen. This is, however, quite far down the road, and we must focus on the tasks at hand. However, the two options are not necessarily mutually exclusive. But if we do start a new organization or network, we should emphasize including genuine grassroots organizations, and adopt the Peoples Global Action hallmarks, as the CLASH collective has done (see inside cover). Including grassroots community and workplace organizations that are along the lines of what we have described above, whose main work is not necessarily opposing the war, will ensure a shift from an activist movement to a social movement based in real communities: neighborhoods, workplaces and cultures, rather than isolated individuals with no community giving support to their actions. Aligning with PGA would create a more internationalist, anti-imperialist spirit in the movement, and allow us to be more integrated into, and sensitive to, the global movements for peace and justice, and have a much more long-term vision.

Fortunately, anti-imperialism is probably a very easy sell right now, as support for the war is currently lower than any other US war in history, and very big sections of the grassroots of the present anti-war movement is open to new ideas and tactics. By allying ourselves with these sympathetic folks, most of whom are probably middle class whites, we can begin demonstrating our model for anti-imperialist action on a mass level. In doing so, we get some practice, and more importantly, we show the country and the world just what we are capable of, and what they would be joining should

they join us in the streets (and more importantly, in the spokescouncil meetings). This gives us limitless possibilities for forcing the government's hand in the Middle East and beyond, and to dream a little further, *we can only imagine how the introduction to the excitement and empowerment of direct action through directly democratic processes could create a breeding ground for the revolutionary ideas described throughout this piece. As always, anti-imperialism is a trigger for broader revolutionary action.*

Anti-Oppression

Perhaps the most neglected of the criteria for revolutionary organization is fighting the various oppressions people face in regards to their race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, ability or age. But more shocking are the attitudes and behaviors rampant in activist circles of all orientations in regards to these same issues. Identity-based oppression is in a big way what holds this system together. If poor and working people were not so alienated from or hostile to people of different identities, the revolution would be rid of a great impediment.

Fighting these oppressions are not something that can wait until "after the revolution," particularly for anarchists, who supposedly believe that revolution is a process, and not solely an event to plan for. *A dream deferred is a dream denied.* The struggle for dignity and respect in society are key forums for empowerment and learning how to assert oneself. Again, this struggle can and should overlap other struggles against such things as workplace discrimination, racist police, queer-bashing in our communities, and so on. The formation of identity-based organizations are important in addressing the issues that are unique to certain groups of people. One example includes ACT UP, the militant queer organization that for decades has fought for the recognition and treatment for HIV/AIDS. Groups like the Black Panther Party, the Young Lords and the Brown Berets were key in pushing the limits of how far people were willing to go to fight racism, and instilled a long-lasting militancy in the collective consciousness of generations of people of color.

But perhaps even more important are the internal effects of organizations and projects such as these: inside the broader movement, and inside the mind of the individual. It was the extreme male chauvinism of many of the radical organizations of the 1960's that forced many Movement Womyn to form their own groups, caucuses and agendas. This manifested in formal organizational splits, like the one within the Socialist Workers Party which produced the Freedom Socialist Party, and the widespread creation of "consciousness-raising groups," which were small meetings of radical Womyn throughout the country who explored the depths of patriarchy, heterosexism, femininity, masculinity, and their intimate relationships to capitalism and the State. Identity-based organization is vital in allowing unique groups with unique issues to assert themselves within larger groups, coalitions, and movements, in addition to society. The Anarchist People of Color (APOC – www.IllegalVoices.org) network was a very healthy development for the whole revolutionary milieu, in that it brought some very ugly realities to the surface, and framed discussion in a new light that both educated non-POC activists, and created a new sense of strength and community for folks who did not always feel comfortable or respected within the largely non-POC activist scene. Furthermore, as a result APOC folks are also organizing more around the issues that affect them and their communities. It is by defining and organizing around our identities that we come to understand how we can relate to one another, and how we can come together on equal terms – this is of course the essence of revolution, without which we will forever be **at war with one another**. Furthermore, identity-based organization is not merely for those who are part of a group that faces oppression (keeping in mind of course that most people are both oppressor and oppressed). Non-POC can and should come to understand whiteness and how to fight it. Men can and should know what patriarchy means, and learn how to let go of it. Heterosexual people should find out that so-called "straight" people are actually in the minority, and figure out how to embrace that.

Now is an exciting time. Many people are coming to some of these same conclusions described above from many different directions. Any student of social upheavals throughout history will catch a whiff of revolution in the air. Now is not the time to be defeatist or to concede our efforts to those who seem more organized but do not share our basic ideals. Now is the time to be bold and not be afraid to make mistakes – the only thing to fear is not learning from them. Hardly anyone ever suspects a revolution until they're either in the middle of it or knocked on their asses by it. But this powder keg won't spark itself any time soon – certainly not soon enough. We've got to be the ones to light it up.

Union Scores Big Victory Against Starbucks at Labor Board

Coffee Giant Must Rehire Fired Baristas and Rescind National Anti-Union Policies - from www.starbucksunion.org, March 8, 2006.

New York, NY- The IWW Starbucks Workers Union won a watershed victory yesterday in the first National Labor Relations Board conflict over unfair labor practices between the world's largest coffee chain and the baristas who work there. Faced with the prospect of having its widespread union-busting campaign exposed in a public hearing, Starbucks agreed to remedy all of the myriad violations committed against workers who have organized a union.



"We hope Starbucks' decision to settle reflects a strategic assessment to cease what has been a relentless anti-union campaign and accept the right of baristas to gain a voice on the job by joining together," said Laura De Anda, one of the union members that prevailed in the proceedings. "The IWW Starbucks Workers Union is here to stay."

Some highlights of the National Labor Relations Board settlement with Starbucks include:

The reinstatement of IWW members, Sarah Bender and Anthony Polanco, who had been discharged for their union activity in order to discourage other workers from making a free and fair choice about whether to join the union.

- The invalidation of Starbucks' national policy that prohibited the sharing of written union information and joining the union on company property.
- The invalidation of Starbucks' national no-pin policy. Workers had been banned from wearing IWW pins and had been sent home from work without pay for refusing to take them off.
- An agreement by Starbucks to end threats, bribes, and surveillance of union members.
- What would have been a relatively hefty backpay award against Starbucks was reduced because the IWW assisted its discharged members in obtaining other employment which mitigates damages under the National Labor Relations Act. Still, the company will pay out almost \$2,000.
- And much more. To view the settlement agreement log on to <http://www.starbucksunion.org/node/712>.

The union was represented by its General Counsel, Stuart Lichten, of Schwartz, Lichten & Bright. The NLRB attorneys on the case were Audrey Eveillard and Burt Pearlstone.

"I'm pleased that Starbucks' blatant violation of the law has been remedied in my case," said reinstated barista Sarah Bender. "And now I'm just eager to get back to work to continue the organizing drive and chalk up more gains in wages and security of hours with the Starbucks Workers Union."

"All I have to say to Starbucks is: I'm back," added discharged barista, Anthony Polanco.

"The long-standing right to proudly display our union pins has finally been reaffirmed," said Pete Montalbano, an IWW barista whose disciplinary record was expunged by the settlement and who received compensation for being wrongfully kicked out of work. "This is an important visual expression of solidarity for co-workers and customers alike."

politics. The new technologies of communication and independent media make this more possible than ever", said Alan Haber. Korte and Good took this advice and ran with it.

As the project coalesced, Good, a member of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) contacted labor historian Paul Buhle, co-editor of a graphic history of the IWW ("Wobblies") and former SDSer from the Madison, Wisconsin, chapter. The timing was right on. Buhle, who teaches at Brown in Rhode Island, is working on a new project: a graphic (i.e. comic book) history of SDS from the perspective of the individual chapters. Working with artist Gary Dumm, Buhle looks to avoid the usual history of the SDS national office by focusing on the street activists and their local branches. Buhle is asking that members of the original SDS with stories to tell contact him via e-mail at pbuhle@studentsfordemocraticsociety.org.

In addition to the book, Buhle has a personal interest in SDS. Describing himself for a recent article in Next Left Notes (www.nextleftnotes.net) he noted: "Founder and publisher of RADICAL AMERICA, Paul Buhle was active in Champaign-Urbana, Storrs and Madison SDS chapters, 1965-1969. He hasn't been all that happy since, but he teaches at Brown." In the piece on NLN Buhle talks about the historical parallels between the 1960s and the present noting that the US empire is over-extended, liberal Democrats are not the answer to vexing problems and the Port Huron Statement remains as vital today as it was in 1962 when Tom Hayden presented it to the third SDS national convention.

"Today, students of all backgrounds can be shown the need to mobilize, to help prevent the ongoing devastation of our world, to help empower the lowly as students learn to empower themselves, and to set out a vision of a really democratic society. There's the key. The Industrial Workers of the World had it long before. Decentralized democracy, democratic decision-making at all levels is the most radical idea ever hatched in North America and the only one with real lasting appeal", said Buhle who has joined the new SDS.

The new SDS plans to continue the independent radical tradition in America: political education and demonstrating, advocating and organizing for democracy and justice, unions, civil liberties, peace and freedom. According to Korte the meetings this spring and summer will focus on building an infrastructure that facilitates these goals as the new SDS, like the old, is an organization of activists. Friends of peace and justice, those students who want a voice, a say in their own destiny, should visit www.studentsfordemocraticsociety.org where regular updates will be posted and contact information is now available.

SDS is an education and social action organization dedicated to increasing democracy in all phases of our common life. It seeks to promote the active participation of young people in the formation of a movement to build a society free from poverty, ignorance, war, exploitation, racism and sexism. Visit www.studentsfordemocraticsociety.org for more information.

Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) announces formation of a national organization.

Several chapters of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) announced today, Monday, January 16, 2006, their intent to form a national organization and hold the first SDS national convention since 1969. "It seemed appropriate to make this announcement today, on the observed Martin Luther King day", said SDS regional organizer Thomas Good. "We have an anti-war movement that is addressing the issue of stopping the bloodletting in Iraq but the civil rights issue remains unaddressed", he added. The national convention is scheduled for Summer 2006 and will be preceded by a series of regional conferences occurring on the Memorial Day weekend.

The newly formed SDS national organization was the idea of a student anti-war activist who contacted other student and veteran organizers. Good joined SDS when Stonington High School (Connecticut) senior Pat Korte contacted him with the idea of linking nascent SDS chapters into a national structure.

"Although I have been an active participant in the anti-war and student activist movement, I have become frustrated with the groups collective inability to unify enough people under a common goal/vision to address the overall problems with our society. Historically, SDS was able to address many of the issues pertinent at the time through Tom Hayden's Port Huron Statement. This document has stood the test of time, thus several fellow activists from across the country and myself decided to form a national SDS movement, only to discover that chapters already exist! Because of this we decided to hold a national conference", said Korte.

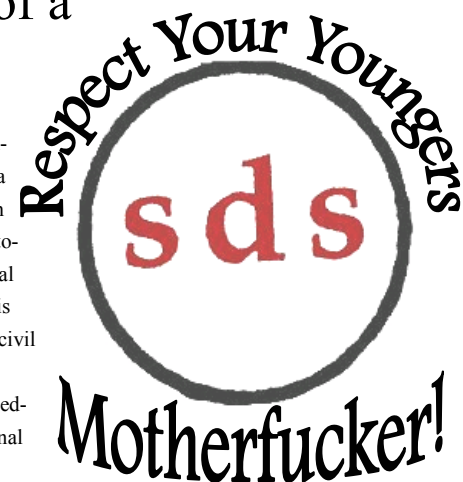
At his request, members of Korte's informal network of student activists from across the country began contacting Good and very quickly the informal network was replaced by a national structure that now includes a website, discussion forum and mailing list, all of which are now based at studentsfordemocraticsociety.org.

Korte, realizing that the original SDS suffered from not having a lot of veteran activists, WHO UNDERSTOOD THE IDEA OF STUDENT POWER, reached out to some older activists, including several members of the 1960s era student organization, to help ground the project and provide logistical support.

The first original SDSer to come on board was Alan Haber, president of SDS 1960-62. Haber speaks of "re-membering SDS" rather than eulogizing it. Never giving up on the Dream, Haber is looking forward to the "the next meeting of SDS". And the next meeting will be a national event linking any and all SDS chapters interested in taking part.

Today chapters exist at Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island, at the New School in New York City, at the University of Michigan and at Eastern Michigan University. In the western part of the US chapters that sprang up independently in Santa Ana, California and at Reigs University in Denver, Colorado have signed on to the national organization. Connecting these chapters and their organizers proved less difficult than Korte and Good initially thought. Technology was the key.

"We should reconnect our networks. We should reassert the continuity of the radical movements in American



Students for a Democratic Society

northeastern regional meeting sds



BROWN university LIST HALL

11 am - 6 pm
april 23, 2006
providence, ri

info@studentsfordemocraticsociety.org

Eddie Perez:

“How Do We Save Hartford?

Get Rid of the Residents!”

HARTFORD IS ONE OF THE US'S
POOREST CITIES
IN THE COUNTRY'S RICHEST STATE
suffers from severe
systemic racism

and the fact that the jobs that made the US the richest nation in the world are simply not here anymore.

*So Eddie's solution is
to move in rich white folks from
the suburbs.*

What he doesn't tell you is
that in every single city
where this has been tried,
the poor folks are forced
out by the rising cost of
living, because of the
arrival of wealthy new
colonizers!

**It's like ethnic cleansing, without the
trouble of hiding the bodies. Who says
white supremacy is just for whites?**

A message from the

Creating Local Autonomy & Solidarity in Hartford **COLLECTIVE**

www.CLASH.sm.net

