

# Annual CounterPunch Honor Roll

## Nine Great Groups That Deserve Your Money

These are turbulent, testing times. The Bush war machine rolls on. The Israeli occupation grinds forward with targeted assassinations, the demolition of Palestinian homes and the erection of Sharon's apartheid wall. On the homefront, John Ashcroft and his prosecutorial minions wage war on the Bill of Rights, while Gale Norton and her flacks at the Interior Department have jettisoned federal environmental laws in order to open the public estate to plunder by the big oil and timber companies. With Clinton-era elimination of many social welfare programs, the Bush recession has taken a ghastly toll on working class and poor Americans.

Yet, there is a growing international resistance to these incursions. Each year CounterPunch brings you a list of worthy and needy groups that are putting up a good fight against long odds, never losing their optimism that change can be wrought, from the ground up. These groups don't act like subsidiaries of the Democratic Party and aren't neutered by big foundations. So, of course, they mostly operate on a shoestring and greatly value each contribution. Give them what you can. We don't think you'll be disappointed in the results. All are federally tax exempt, non-profit charitable organizations.

### Bring Them Home Now!

c/o Veterans for Peace

438 N Skinker Blvd St. Louis, MO 63130

Bring Them Home Now! is a campaign of military families, veterans, active duty personnel, reservists and others opposed to the ongoing war in Iraq and galvanized to action by George W. Bush's comic-strip challenge to armed Iraqis resisting occupation to "Bring 'em on." Their mission is to mobilize military families, veterans, and GIs to demand: an end to the occupation of Iraq and other misguided military adventures; an immediate return of all US troops to their home duty stations. Many Americans do not want our troops there. Many military families do not want our troops over there. Many troops themselves do not want to be over there. The overwhelming majority of Iraqis do not want US troops there. Without a clear mission, they are living in conditions of relentless austerity and hardship. At home,

their families endure extended separations and ongoing uncertainty.

"As military veterans and families, we understand that hardship is sometimes part of the job," says Stan Goff. "But there has to be an honest and compelling reason to impose these hardships and risks on our troops, our families, and our communities. The reasons given for the occupation of Iraq do not rise to this standard. Not one more troop killed in action. Not one more troop wounded in action. Not one more troop psychologically damaged by the act of terrifying, humiliating, injuring or killing innocent people. Not one more troop spending one more day inhaling depleted uranium. Not one more troop separated from spouse and children. This is the only way to truly support these troops, and the families who are just as much part of the military as they are."

### Powder River Basin Resource Council

P.O. Box 1178,

Douglas, Wyoming 82633

The biggest natural gas rush in history is now going on in Wyoming, the way greased by Bush's Deputy Secretary of the Interior Steven Griles, a former lobbyist for the oil and gas industry, who still gets a paycheck from his former clients. If Bush and Griles have their way, more than 51,000 new wells will be drilled in the Powder River Basin alone. Along with the wells will come thousands of miles of roads and pipelines, toxic holding ponds, and the depletion and contamination of groundwater--80 percent of the people in northern Wyoming depend on wells as their sole source of water. This scheme has united fierce opposition from groups that have in the past been indifferent, if not antagonistic, towards each other: Indian tribes, ranchers and environmentalists. Several local groups are fighting the gas companies, including the Wyoming Outdoor Council and Biodiversity Conservation Alliance. But the most interesting may well be the Powder River Basin Resource Council, an alliance of ranchers and local landowners in this notoriously conservative region of an ultra conservative state.

"As a rancher in the midst of this mess, I am concerned because the mineral industry holds all the power", Nancy Sorenson, director of the Powder River Basin Resource

Council, tells us. "I'm insulted by this paternalistic system where the mineral corporations supposedly "volunteer" to treat landowners fairly. I want a system in which the landowner is a full and equal partner in the planning and process of developing his or her own land and minerals. In light of recent disclosures it is not a good time for individuals to believe any corporate entity that says, 'Trust Me.'"

### Campaign To Stop Killer Coke

P.O. BOX 1004, Cooper Station,

New York, NY 10276-1004

The realization that U.S.-based multinational corporations like Coca-Cola can get away with murder prompted Corporate Campaign, Inc.(CCI), working closely with the International Labor Rights Fund (ILRF), to organize the worldwide Campaign to Stop Killer Coke. In July 2001, the ILRF co-sponsored a lawsuit on behalf of the Colombian union SINALTRAINAL and its members, charging that Coca-Cola bottlers "contracted with or otherwise directed paramilitary security forces that utilized extreme violence and murdered, tortured, unlawfully detained or otherwise silenced trade union leaders." While the litigation proceeds, the campaign is putting pressure on top policymakers and major shareholders of Coca-Cola, seeking to force the company to protect its workers, respect their rights, and provide compensation to the victims and survivors.

Targets of the campaign include billionaire investment guru Warren Buffet (Coca-Cola's largest stockholder); internet mogul Barry Diller, and Suntrust Banks. The chief architect and director of the campaign is CCI founder and veteran organizer Ray Rogers who pioneered "corporate campaign tactics" of confronting corporations with a divide-and-conquer strategy by pressuring board members and a corporation's financial underpinnings. In 1995 the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and conservative members of Congress sought unsuccessfully to outlaw Rogers' "corporate campaign tactics." Rogers and CCI have worked with labor unions and a variety of nonprofits, most notably the Pacifica Campaign to wrest control from the corporate interests that preyed upon the Pacifica Radio Network. For the Campaign to Stop Killer Coke, Rogers has re-

cruited hundreds of professionals and union, student, and peace activists to volunteer, and his firm CCI has donated thousands of hours and resources to building the campaign. Make out your donations to "Campaign to Stop Killer Coke/ILRF".

**Adopt-A-Native-Elder Program**  
**POB 3401,**  
**Park City, UT 84060**  
**(435) 649-0535**

The Adopt-A-Native-Elder Program started through the efforts of Linda Myers of Park City, Utah. In the late 1980s Meyers, an artist, was stunned by the intricacies of the patterns at a rug show displaying the weavings by the Elders from the Big Reservation. Touched by the stories of the Navajo people as told by Grace Smith Yellowhammer and Rose Hulligan during that rug show, Meyers soon became very involved in gathering donated food, clothing, firewood and simple medicines and was driving to the reservation in Northern Arizona to deliver them to Elders living traditionally on the Land. Within a year, and with the help of Jeannie Patton, a network grew around the vision that Linda had for supporting the traditional Elders in the native tradition of the Giveaway. At first it was just a group of one or two four-wheel drive vehicles making their way through the remote areas of Northern Arizona. But those few were soon joined by many others who were touched by the purpose of the Program. Today over 450 peo-

ple from all over the United States and a few foreign countries have joined in the Spirit of the Giveaway. The Program supports 350 traditional Elders who live in the Northern portion of Arizona and Southern Utah. The activities of the Program focus on helping traditional Elders live on the Land in the ways of Dine', as they have for thousands of years. This Program is assisted by traditional Dine' people who serve as coordinators in various parts of the reservation to help the organization determine the needs of the Elders in their own culture and lifestyle.

"Adopt-an-Elder is not a religious or political organization, says Meyers. "Many organizations exist to assist the Native Americans with the political issues they face. Our focus is on supporting the Elders who desire to remain on the Land, living in the traditional ways of the Dine'." All services of the Program are provided through donations. All administrative work is provided by volunteers, many of whom donate hundreds of hours each year.

**Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants**

**P.O. Box 2310**  
**Washington, DC 20013-2310**  
**(202)789-2126**

In early December an 80-page report by a group called Grassroot's Leadership revealed that the nation's largest private prison company, Corrections Corporation of America, had used campaign contributions

and intimate ties with conservative politicians to legislate harsher prison sentences for nonviolent crimes in order to boost demand for prisons. The same report detailed how the CCA, which pays its largely untrained workers and guards a pittance, bilks money off prisoners through outrageously high phone charges and other incarceration fees. National CURE (Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants) is a grassroots organization of prisoners, families of prisoners, former prisoners and concerned citizens working to reform the prison system. "Our two goals are first, to use prisons for only those who have to be in them," Charles Sullivan, CURE's executive director tells us. And for those who have to be in them, our second goal is to give them all the rehabilitative opportunities to turn their lives around. "Our biggest project lately is to reduce the exorbitant cost of phone calls made by prisoners to their loved ones," says Sullivan. "This is because jails and prisons routinely only allow prisoners to call collect and there is usually a 50 cent on every dollar-made kickback given to the correctional agency."

CURE is also working against the death penalty. It recently launched the For Whom the Bell Tolls project aimed at getting religious organizations across the world to ring their bells at the moment of each execution. "The tolling bells will be a reminder to all who hear them that all of us are diminished by continuing acts of state-sponsored murder," says Dorothy Briggs, director of the bells project.

**The Kopkind Colony,**  
**158 Kopkind Rd,**  
**Guilford, Vt 05301**  
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Above Weatherhead Hollow Pond, a few miles from Brattleboro, Vermont, we find the Kopkind Colony, a summer project begun as a living memorial to Andrew Kopkind, whose standing as the best radical journalist of his generation is lastingly set in Verso's collection of his writings, edited by JoAnn Wypijewski, *The Thirty Years' Wars*. On the theory that we can't act without thought and can't think without rest, the Colony has, since 1999, been bringing left journalists and activists together for a week of seminars, cross-generational exchange, good food and fun. Colony is not geared for solitary work but for collective engagement. It's free for all the participants. Every year the colony holds summer sessions involving seven younger journalists and activists

**(Miami Model continued from page 8)**

plays of dissent, the incentive for protesters to cooperate with the authorities rapidly diminishes.

The anger of labor leaders suggests that this process is now underway. In a letter to Governor Jeb Bush (dated December 3, 2003), AFL-CIO President John Sweeney complains bitterly of "the direct violation of earlier agreements reached between the police and the AFL-CIO." He writes: "The AFL-CIO took the lead in negotiating with local police. . . , trained hundreds of union volunteers to serve as peacekeepers for our rally and march on November 20, and provided the resources to meet all of the security needs of the venues for our event. Despite these good faith efforts, union members and other peaceful protesters were met with obstruction, intimidation, harassment, and violence at the hands of police in Miami." Naturally, the cops' broken promises threaten the framework of future negotiations.

Meanwhile, United Steelworkers of America Local 1010 President Tom Hargrove questions the wisdom of playing by the cops' rules. He reasons: "People never heard our message [against the FTAA]. . . All that was on TV was people throwing stuff and getting arrested. I think civil disobedience is the way we have to go."

Ultimately, the Miami Model will likely prove self-defeating. Repression on its own cannot stifle the opposition to globalization. That resistance is grounded in very real economic, environmental, and humanitarian concerns. Tear gas will not make these go away. It may, however, help put the war back in the class war. CP

*Kristian Williams is a member of Rose City Copwatch, in Portland, Oregon, and the author of Our Enemies in Blue: Police and Power in America (forthcoming, Soft Skull Press).*

and two to four veterans of the same occupations. Every year someone says, "It changed my life". Every year it holds public events for the community—free movies and speakers and an annual small fundraising lunch with special guests and, as always, vivid discussions. Speakers and mentors to the colony have included Tariq Ali, Patricia Williams, Rabab Abdul Hadi, Robin D. G. Kelley, Grace Paley, Robert Pollin, Makani Themba Nixon, Ron Nixon, Mandy Carter, Doug Lummis, Kevin Alexander Gray, Margaret Cerullo, Alisa Klein, Mike Marqusee, Nabil Abraham, and Kopkind's close friend, CP coeditor Alexander Cockburn.

This past summer the themes were internationalism and resistance and, in a special collaboration with the Eqbal Ahmad Initiative at Hampshire College, the question of Palestine. Participants hailed from Uganda and Pakistan, from Dearborn and the West Bank, and from all over the US.

**Rachel Corrie Foundation  
for Peace and Justice  
P.O. Box 12149  
Olympia, WA 98508**

On March 16, 2003, Rachel Corrie, a young activist fresh from Evergreen College, was crushed to death by an IDF bulldozer as she tried to prevent the demolition of a palestinian home in the town of Rafah, Gaza. Rachel's killers have never been brought to justice. The US Congress has never launched an investigation. The Bush Administration swallowed the Israeli line that Rachel was responsible for her own death. In one frightful instant Rachel's parents, Cindi and Craig, had their hearts broken and were transformed into human rights organizers. Craig quit his job in North Carolina and he and Cindi moved back to Olympia to campaign for justice for their daughter and for the Palestinians living under the occupation. The Rachel Corrie Foundation funds their courageous work.

"In her actions Rachel affirmed her responsibility for upholding the inherent dignity and equal rights of all people, including their right to a nationality," says Jeff Halper of the Israeli Committee Against Home Demolitions. "She opposed non-violently the violence that occupation does the palestinians. Little moves us anymore. The demolition of 60 Palestinian homes in the Rafah section of Gaza where Rachel worked made barely a ripple when it happened a year ago. 2400 Palestinians have died in the past two years, a quarter of them children and

youth, and 22,000 have been injured. Thirty percent of Palestinian children under the age of 5 suffer from malnutrition. 500,000 olive and fruit trees have been uprooted or cut down. Israel is today imprisoning the Palestinians behind a 500-mile wall that is much longer, higher and more fortified than was the Berlin wall. It's all happening before our eyes and—who cares? Rachel cared."

**Peace Action New Mexico  
226 Fiesta Street  
Santa Fe, NM 87501**

Peace Action New Mexico was founded in 1998 in the birthplace of the nuclear nightmare. They are committed to abolishing nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction, redirecting excessive military expenditures to domestic investment, ending global weapons trafficking, preventing the erosion of civil liberties both in this country and elsewhere, preventing the militarization of space, and fostering non-military solutions to international conflicts. It's a grassroots, member-supported not-for-profit outfit. In 2003 Peace Action NM sponsored numerous large rallies and protests against the war in Iraq and Bush domestic policies, drawing 8,000 protesters to their February 15 rally. "Responding to email alerts, our members made as many as 1100 calls daily to our representatives in Congress in the run up to the vote on Iraq, resulting in Sen. Jeff Bingaman and Rep. Tom Udall finally voting NO on the resolution," says Beryl Schwartz. "As part of our educational program on our issues, we brought many speakers to northern New Mexico, including Dr. Helen Caldicott, Rahul Mahajan, a former U.S. Rep. Cynthia McKinney, Bruce Gagnon, David Barsamian, Mario Galvan, Damacio Lopez and most recently CounterPunch co-editor, Jeffrey St. Clair." In 2004, Peace Action NM will be campaigning for a new foreign policy and for the use of verifiable voting machines.

**Cascadia Wildlands Project / NEST  
POB 10455 Eugene, OR 97440  
541.434.1463**

Early this month Craig Beneville, a longtime friend of the CounterPunch editors, fell from an ancient Douglas-fir tree near the Molalla River in western Oregon. He died before they got him to the hospital. At the time, Craig was working on a project to locate evidence of red tree voles and other endangered species in forests slated for logging under the Clinton/Bush forest plans.

Last year, Craig and his colleagues at the Cascadia Wildlands Project launched the

Northwest Ecosystem Survey Team (NEST), a group of forest watch experts committed to protecting the habitat of rare species associated with late-successional forests. NEST enforces environmental protections built into the Northwest Forest Plan—specifically the Survey and Manage Strategy. The on-the-ground information NEST develops will be critical to the CWP's work to stop old-growth timber sales and protect habitat for lesser known species. The Survey and Manage Strategy of the Northwest Forest Plan requires the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to conduct surveys for certain rare and endemic wildlife species that depend on old-growth habitat, and protect them where they are found. NEST has been highly successful at using the Survey and Manage Strategy to protect species.

Habitat protection for the Red Tree Vole (RTV), an arboreal mammal that lives in the upper canopy of old-growth Douglas fir trees, has received considerable attention. NEST climbing surveys have been far more effective than agency surveys. For instance, NEST typically detects almost 75% more RTV nest sites.

Recently, NEST surveys detected over two dozen RTV nests at the Straw Devil timber Sale, located in the Middle Fork District of the Willamette National Forest. Forest Service surveys found zero nests. The timber sale has since been halted. CP

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sitions, but it was the ever-shameless Brown who delivered the nastiest smear of the campaign: speaking to a group of black ministers, he told them to share with their parishioners the lie that "[Gonzalez]'s got some kind of defect in his head that makes him believe African Americans aren't qualified." This claim was ridiculous to anyone who knew an iota about Gonzalez, but it did make it into the San Francisco Chronicle. If only the paper, which has been fawning in its coverage of Newsom, had given equal time to the comments of Willie Ratcliff, publisher of The Bay View, San Francisco's only black paper, who said, "in my 50 years of voting, never have I had the faith and trust and hope in any candidate that I have in Matt Gonzalez."

But as Gonzalez told supporters shortly before the election, "If we don't do it this time, we'll do it next time. If we don't do it next time, we'll do it the time after that." And next time he will have more than four months to run.

## ARNOLD OKAYS DAVIS REJECTS FOR PAROLE

By SCOTT HANDLEMAN

Applauding the recall of the abominable Davis, we noted his disgusting posture on parole. In his first two weeks on the job, the Terminator granted parole to two deserving prisoners. During his entire five-year term of office, his Democratic predecessor, Gray Davis, paroled only eight persons, despite 294 favorable recommendations by the Board of Prison Terms. Even Pete Wilson, no great friend of the people, managed to parole 65.

There are 17,000 parole-eligible prisoners in California. Each year, the Board of Prison Terms reviews a few thousand applications and recommends parole for a select few. But Davis established a no-parole policy for convicted killers, and disregarded the infrequent positive recommendations of his Board. (The BPT, which recommends and revokes parole, can hardly be criticized as the domain of weak-hearted liberals. Of the six Commissioners whose bios are available on the BPT web site, every one has a law enforcement, corrections, or police union background. Earlier this year, the

## Schwarzenegger's first parolee was Fred Nesbit, a 63- year-old man con- victed of second-de- gree murder in 1985.

Sacramento Bee reported on a finding by the Inspector General that "the California officials who determine when criminals' paroles are revoked routinely overstate how much work they do, have caseloads that can be handled in less than five hours a day and make far-reaching parole decisions with little supervision or review.")

Schwarzenegger's first parolee was Fred Nesbit, a 63-year-old man convicted of second-degree murder in 1985. Nesbit shot his ex-wife's boyfriend in a fit of rage after she took two of his horses. The BPT voted to release Nesbit in June, noting that he was

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appropriately remorseful and his early release would not pose a threat to society. Davis had refused to release him.

The second beneficiary of the Terminator's grace was Rosario Munoz. At the time of her arrest, Munoz, a mother of three, worked 15 hours a day as a dressmaker. Her husband beat and raped her for over a decade. One day she aimed a gun at her husband but shot his girlfriend instead. Munoz, who spoke no English, was sentenced to an indeterminate prison term of 15 years to life. No appeals were ever filed on her behalf.

The Board of Prison Terms found that Munoz was remorseful and unlikely to offend again. She raised money for her victim's daughter by selling the portraits she painted behind bars. But Gray Davis twice reversed the Parole Board's recommendation to release her. After she had spent 15 years locked up, Davis issued a statement that she "has not served sufficient time in prison and continues to pose too great a risk to public safety." On November 26, Schwarzenegger approved her release.

On the other hand, Schwarzenegger has spurned the BPT's recommendation in the case of Kenneth Fleming, a drunk driver who killed a woman in 1986. He issued a statement that Fleming is dangerously unstable.

While Schwarzenegger's parole record is already less than perfect, it is shaping up to be way better than that of Davis. "Gov. Schwarzenegger intends to let the Board of Prison Terms do its job," spokesman Vincent Sollito was quoted as saying in a widely-printed AP story. "Only when he has a strong conviction that a clear error has been made does he intend to review the granting or denial of parole." CP

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