

Fault Lines

NEWSPAPER OF THE SF BAY AREA INDEPENDENT MEDIA CENTER

VOLUME 2: ISSUE 3

FEBRUARY/ MARCH 2006 **FREE**

\$1.6 MILLION BAIL THE PRICE OF FREEDOM



BY COURT MOUSE

On January 25, Daniel McGowan, one of 11 activists indicted on federal charges of arson, property destruction, and conspiracy relating to two incidents that occurred in Oregon in 2001, was released into the custody of his sister. He will be required to live with her, wear an electronic monitor, and report weekly to pre-trial supervisor in New York. Despite vehement protests by the prosecutors that McGowan presents "a serious flight risk," Judge Ann Aiken stated that she had received at least 60 letters from people in his support and let him out on \$1.6 million bail. Daniel asserts his innocence by pleading "not

"MCGOWAN'S ARREST COMES IN THE CONTEXT OF A NATIONWIDE SWEEP THAT INVOLVED SIX OTHERS ARRESTED IN OREGON, VIRGINIA, AND ARIZONA."

guilty" to all 16 charges. Daniel has been a committed activist, working on projects such as the demonstrations against the Republican National Convention in NYC in 2004, "Really Really Free Markets" and prisoner support work, most notably for Jeff "Free" Luers, who is currently serving over 22 years for the burning of three SUVs.

Federal agents arrested Daniel on December 7 while he was working at Women's Law, which offers legal help to victims of domestic abuse. Daniel was indicted alone, but his arrest comes in the context of a nationwide sweep that involved six others arrested in Oregon, Virginia, and Arizona. Since December 7th there have been two additional arrests and several new charges added to the original indictments. Three of the 11 total people indicted still remain at large. The charges against the defendants stem from several unsolved fires that were claimed by the Earth Liberation Front between 1998 and 2001.

continued on page 3...



First they came for the Muslims

THEN THEY CAME FOR THE RAGING GRANNIES

The Bush regime continues to trample individual liberties and constitutional rights with its convenient, all-encompassing "War on Terror." While the bloody invasions, covert CIA prisons and indefinite detentions of "enemy combatants" have been sowing destruction and hatred abroad for years, at home Bush, Inc.'s escalating domestic arsenal has come to include warrant-less phone and email surveillance, search engine subpoenas, and witch-hunting Grand Juries. But spying in this country is nothing new. Since September 11, 2001, the Federal government has been monitoring and harassing immigrant communities residing all over the U.S.

Now, church-affiliated peace groups are deemed "credible threats" by the Pentagon, undercover cops surveil the Raging Grannies, an elderly satirical singing group, and there is thugish intimidation against radical organizers. The grave predictions of those who opposed the PATRIOT ACT are now an everyday occurrence. Fault Lines encourages our readers to take notice of---and action against---this spreading abuse of power that has menaced many Arab and Muslim communities for years and only recently has made headlines for fear of intruding into the lives of "regular" citizens. Otherwise, when they come for you, there may be no one left to notice.



DEFEND NEW ORLEANS



BY NATASHA DEDRICK

After having been evacuated to far-flung places ranging from New York, Wisconsin, California to Alaska, tens of thousands of New Orleanians are being kept from returning home to reclaim their lives. While thousands of Gulf Coast survivors are placed into, and soon after evicted from, hotels paid for by FEMA, the city of New Orleans is trying to bulldoze homes to which many homeowners haven't even been able to return to assess the damage, retrieve what's salvageable, and make important decisions.

On January 9th, FEMA announced it would once again extend the payments for Gulf Coast evacuees living in hotels around the country. This time however, it may only be until February 13th, six days beyond the current hotel eviction date of February 7th. The document instructs evacuees to call FEMA by January 30th to get an authorization code, and when they do, "FEMA will let them know when FEMA will stop paying for their hotel room." In other words, FEMA will be deciding the fate of each evacuee individually, further separating people and making it even more difficult for evacuees to unite as a group to make demands collectively. The document doesn't indicate what criteria FEMA is using to decide the length of extensions.

continued on page 10...

"AQUI SE MATÓ AQUI SE TORTURÓ" CHILE STRUGGLES TO SHED ITS PAINFUL PAST

BY KELAH BOTT

January 15, 2006, Santiago, Chile. Outside the National Stadium, crowds of women gathered around the voting stations as poll volunteers counted each vote for the presidential election. Cheers went up at each one cast for Michelle Bachelet, the Socialist Party candidate and eventual winner of the race. With neo-liberal economic policies, Bachelet is a socialist in name only, yet the people were genuinely excited about the prospect of her governance. While her politics are hardly distinguishable from those of her conservative opponent, her presidency seems to be symbolic of something more important---something that transcends politics.

Chile is a nation in recovery. The same stadium that is a polling station today was once a center of detention, torture, and murder during the Pinochet junta's rule. Here, thousands of Chileans were brutalized during the dictatorship's bloody rise

to power in September of 1973. Over thirty years later, the past is still very much present. Between cheers and cries for Bachelet, spontaneous chants rose also from the crowd, "Aqui se mató! Aqui se torturó!" Here we were murdered! Here we were tortured!

Claudia Zamora was a young woman in 1973, when the Pinochet junta came to power. Many of her compañeros from University were killed or exiled. She was detained and tortured and now does not have complete use of one of her arms. She was not held in the National Stadium, she still cannot bring herself to vote there. "I find it [the National Stadium] horrible," said Zamora. "You have to understand that the same man who Pinochet put in charge of the electoral registry is still in charge. Also in the ministries, the state bank and many other parts [of the government]."

continued on page 7...

INSIDE: A HISTORY OF US REGIME CHANGE SOUTH OF THE RIO GRANDE: PAGE 4



2940 16th Street - Suite 216 San Francisco, CA 94103

California Peace Groups Under Surveillance

Pentagon Calls Anti-War Protestors "Credible Threat"

At the same time that information circulates implicating President Bush in illegal surveillance, it has been discovered that local police, the National Guard, and the Pentagon have been spying on peace groups in California as well. Documents obtained by the ACLU "showed the FBI expanding the definition of 'domestic terrorism' to include citizens and groups that participate in lawful protests or civil disobedience," according to a press release.

"The broad based federal surveillance programs are disturbing and reflect an unhealthy suspicion of dissenting political activity," said Mark Schlosberg, Police Practices Policy Director of the ACLU of Northern California in the press release. "Over the past several years, we have seen local law enforcement resources used to infiltrate peace groups and monitor protest activities."

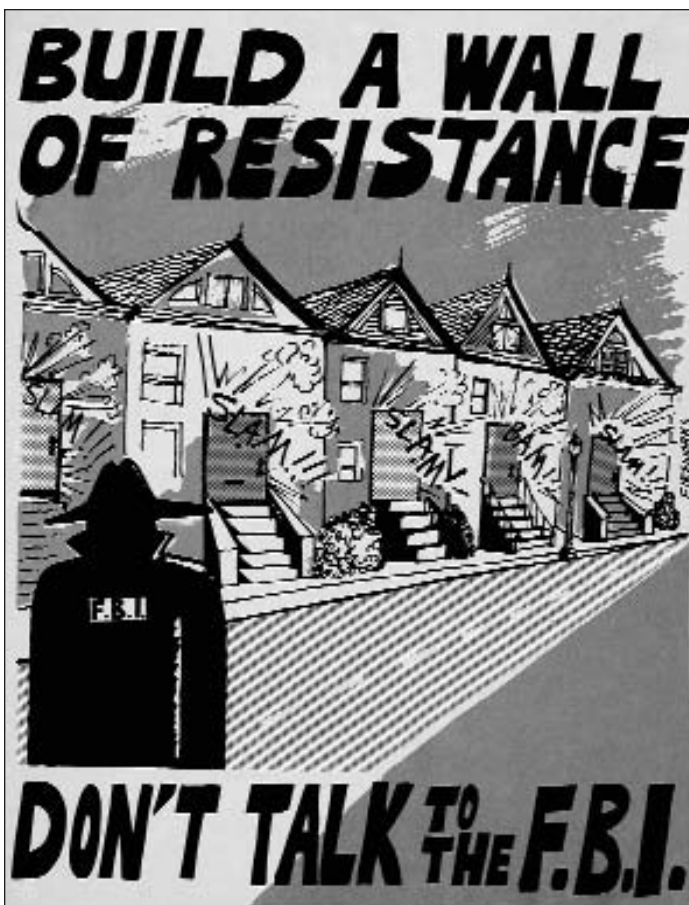
The groups being watched and surveillance tactics employed vary, but all may violate California laws that prohibit the mon-

itoring of religious, political, social, or educational meetings if there is no evidence of criminal activity.

In December, NBC reported the Pentagon included a Santa Cruz Students Against War protest of military recruiters at a job fair on a list of "credible threats." In a separate occurrence, undercover Santa Cruz police officers attended planning meetings for a New Year's Eve parade, engraving citizens there.

In Fresno, undercover agents attended an event held by CSU-Fresno's Peace and Civil Liberties Coalition. Peace Fresno, an anti-war group, has also been infiltrated.

Last Mother's Day, the California National Guard's anti-terrorist unit monitored a protest by women's groups in



Breaking the Law!



Think you're safe? Guess who's violating the Constitution in the name of "Freedom"?

In December *The New York Times* revealed President Bush authorized the warrantless monitoring of phone calls and emails between people in the US and other countries who are linked, if even indirectly, to suspected "terrorists." Though Bush has since dubbed this practice a "terrorist surveillance program" in an attempt to counter the widespread criticism it has received, the reality is that it is illegal. The electronic surveillance of citizens without a warrant violates the Constitution, Supreme Court rulings, and US law.

United States Constitution Fourth Amendment

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

The US Supreme Court (US v. Katz 389 US 347) has made it clear that this core privacy protection does cover government eavesdropping. As a result, all electronic surveillance by the government in the United States is illegal, unless it falls under one of a small number of precise exceptions specifically carved out in the law.

The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act governs eavesdropping on agents of "foreign powers" within the U.S. FISA does not authorize the president to conduct warrantless eavesdropping on US citizens or permanent legal residents without an order from the FISA court. Yet it is that very court order requirement that the President has ignored. (*more info: www.aclu.org*)



Letters from supporters contributed to Judge Aiken's decision to release Daniel McGowan on \$1.6 million bail

... *Domestic Crackdown continued from front page*

The statutes of limitations for some of the charges were set to expire, and the investigators and prosecution have charged the defendants with almost every unsolved Earth Liberation Front action in the Northwest. The timing of the arrests, the piling of charge upon charge on the defendants, and the use of cooperating witnesses despite almost no physical evidence seem

to indicate that investigators and the prosecution are willing to charge and arrest people with no connection to any of these crimes.

The prosecution is relying on testimony from a Cooperating Witness (CW) named Jacob Ferguson. Jacob has confessed to taking part in several arsons and has worn a wire for the FBI to record conversations at environmental and animal rights conferences. During his time as a CW, Jacob was a heroin addict with an

POLITICAL PRISONER WEBSITES

Indybay Police State Page:
<http://www.indybay.org/police/>

FBI Witch Hunt:
<http://www.fbiwitchhunt.com/>

Daniel McGowan:
<http://www.supportdaniel.org/>

Chelsea Gerlach:
<http://supportchelsea.org>

Darren Thurston:
<http://freedarren.org>

<http://www.catalystinfoSHOP.org/>

addiction that was either ignored or facilitated by federal agents. Now, though facing life imprisonment, he is walking free and was seen driving around Eugene in a new SUV. Despite his doubtful credibility, his cooperation has had widespread consequences. At least three people, including Daniel, are facing life imprisonment if convicted. One, Stanislas "Jack" Meyerhoff, immediately agreed to cooperate with the FBI after his arrest, and another, William Rodgers, ended his life by suffocating himself with a plastic bag. In addition to Stanislas, two more of the original six, Kevin Tubbs and Sarah Kendall Tankersly, have agreed to cooperate with federal investigators. Jen Kolar, who has not been arrested, has also been named as a CW.

Before his transfer, Daniel was being held in Lane County Jail in Eugene, Oregon, where his conditions were geared to punish him for his past activism. He was held in a terrorist cell-block in Manhattan before being shuttled around to Oklahoma and California, finally arriving in Oregon after two weeks. He has been held in maximum security, with only one hour out of his cell per day, a limit of 20 pieces of paper in his cell at any given time, and only ten dollars available per week to use in his commissary, none of which could be spent on food. A vegetarian, he has lost over ten pounds since he hasn't had access to enough food and was forbidden from trading food with other detainees. Despite this harsh reality, Daniel has remained strong and positive, mostly because of the amazing support from his community of friends, family, and others.

Daniel's arrest comes as a recent addition to the increased repression on political dissent in the United States. *Fault Lines* will continue to cover the cases of Daniel and other political prisoners around the U.S.