



(Re)Defining Patriot-ism: Interview With Jennifer Martin Ruggiero

Serena Turley

Imagine waking up from a nap with your sister telling you that your house is surrounded by a army of fully-armed officers and federal agents. This is exactly what happened to Sherman Austin on January 24, 2002. Austin's sister Rachel was leaving the house when she saw the agents outside preparing for an armed assault on their home. When their mother Jennifer arrived an hour after the raid began, she was told that she would have to wait outside while federal agents interrogated her eighteen-year-old son alone inside. Jennifer asked to see a search warrant and had to wait for over four hours before one was finally produced.

The raid lasted more than 6 hours but when the FBI finally left, Sherman was not arrested because they knew they didn't have the evidence to support an arrest. According to Sherman, agents told him that "I had crossed a line, and as long as I got back on the other side of the line I'd be okay."

A week later, Sherman traveled to New York to attend a peaceful protest against the World Economic Forum. When Austin arrived in New York he was arrested with about 26 other protestors for failure to disperse, even though the demonstration was a peaceful one. He was handcuffed and taken into custody, released, and arrested again by FBI agents and interrogated for hours. Sherman says the FBI agents kept asking him if he was a terrorist, as if they really believed that he was. Sherman was initially released and as he waited outside for someone to come pick him up, a troop of 5 FBI agents came in to tell him that he was under arrest for distributing information about how to make explosives.

Sherman was taken to a maximum security facility in Manhattan where the suspects of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing had been detained. He was held for 11 days before being transferred to Oklahoma. Sherman was told that he would not be released on bail because he was "a man on a mission on his way to blow up the Utah Olympics." After two days in Oklahoma, Sherman was allowed to fly home to Los Angeles free of any charges.

Sherman Austin, Continued Pg.5

CELEBRATE



Womyn's History!

G-Spot Editorial Staff

Welcome to the March issue of G-Spot! Check out the community calendar for this month's Womyn's History events.

The ASU Womyn's Coalition is looking for volunteers to help us get the Womyn's Resource Center off the ground. We need to collect data on how many single mothers there are at ASU. Believe it or not, no one has ever thought to ask this question. If you'd like to help, please e-mail or call the Womyn's Coalition. We meet every Friday @ 10:30 AM in MU333.

**ASU Womyn's Coalition
480-965-9756**

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ASU Students Report from Juárez

Silvia Muller – Coalition of Students Seeking Change

Juárez, Mexico . . . femicide . . . 370 dead. . . discarded. . . used. . . raped. . . mutilated. . . breasts bitten off. . . dreams snatched away. . . tender love never felt . . . I ask myself, “how does the death of another young, poor Mexican woman affect me, as I lay in my warm bed surrounded by mementos that empower me as a woman, and a lover who holds me tight with passion?” Yet I experience their fright, their screams, their agony. They call me to speak out.

On February 13, 2004 eighteen students, mostly from ASU, Glendale Community College and Mesa Community College, embarked on a seven-hour journey to a place of which we knew nothing about, except that some 370 young women have been abducted and later found in empty lots. All raped, their clothing torn, tortured for weeks, some burned beyond recognition. We were there to let their families know that the international community had heard their plight. The rally was also intended to let the Mexican government know that the eyes of the world were watching and that we expect an answer.

As I walk through the streets of Juárez, I wonder if their tormentors are watching me, can they feel my fear. I don’t want their power to touch me, I act strong and fearless. I speak to taxi drivers, police officers, waiters, receptionists, every one is so friendly. The city is so clean, it’s almost hard to believe that in this place such brutality against woman is taking place. I walk up and down the rally procession, three thousand activist showed up. It was the largest demonstration the city has ever seen regarding the issue. Did our presence empower the families, the town? Or was I just another element in a long curious parade. I look into the faces of the townspeople, some seemed curious with the expression of wonderment, others seemed to be reflecting in the nastiness of their situation. Few have come out to demonstrate. Is it because they are amongst us or did they stay home in a self-imposed prison, afraid to even look?

I spot three young girls, who seemed to be no older than seven, they are holding leaflets about a poem of what it would be like if women lived in a society that celebrated them. I take their picture and offer a prayer for them. I quickly move on, but I will not soon forget them.

Gretchen Alvarenga – Coalition of Students Seeking Change

Do you know what is going on in Juárez? If your answer is no, you are not alone. Despite the fact that women have gone missing and have been brutally murdered for over a decade, many people are unaware of what is going on in Juárez, Mexico. I myself have only recently heard about the women in Juárez. One of the missions that has emerged is the effort to bring awareness to people by speaking out about these murders and why they prevail in Juárez. One reason these murders continue is inaction. Inaction by government officials who placed blame of these crimes on the victims, this in turn allowed these murders to continue. It is my belief that our action can counter government official’s inaction, action that comes in the form of demanding justice through a collective voice.

There were three hundred reasons why we protested on February 14th and these reasons represent the number of women who have been found dead in Juárez. With every flash, photographer’s tried to capture the moment. It is true that I did not have to stand there on the day of the march. I could have relied on the media to show me what was happening that day. But I would have been void of the intensity and the array of emotions that I held inside while just a few feet away from the families of these girls. The day of the march there was nothing left but to face the families of these murdered girls. These families were strong, which I have to believe was to benefit one other. I, however, couldn’t contain my emotions and I found myself overwhelmed with sadness at the site of these mothers.

As we marched, I screamed at the top of my lungs while anger propelled me forward. The emotions I felt that day I knew were inevitable but I could have never predicted the way they would have manifested themselves within me. My hope is that even if our protest fell on deaf ears of government officials, at least the families understand that when the marchers said that they were not alone that they heard and believed that this was authentic. I will be marching next year, and as long as it takes, until the families are given the justice they are entitled to.

FDA Rejects OTC Emergency Contraception

Feminist Majority Newswire

After pressure from right-wing groups and anti-choice members of Congress, the Food and Drug Administration announced on February 13 that it would delay its decision on over-the-counter status for the emergency contraceptive Plan B. The FDA claims it needs more time to evaluate the use of Plan B among teenagers, despite the recommendations of the FDA's own expert panel that Plan B should be approved for over-the-counter status without restrictions.

The deadline on the decision was extended 90 days from the original date of February 20. Please send a message in support of EC OTC to the FDA IMMEDIATELY.

Visit **www.feminist.org** to find out how.

The current prescription requirement harms women by imposing unnecessary burdens to access emergency contraception, which is most effective when taken within 24 hours of unprotected intercourse, birth control failure, or sexual assault. Emergency contraceptive pills are safe and effective and have the potential to cut in half the number of unintended pregnancies in the US and prevent as many as 800,000 abortions each year.



For more info on EC visit:
www.plannedparenthood.org/ec

Bush Playing Politics With Womyn's Lives

Stephanie Boscia

The reason we Americans associate the Taliban with so much evil and oppression is because it is a group that presses its radical religious views upon others who have little choice but to yield to its greater authority. Extremist groups such as the Taliban bar women from obtaining schooling and entering professions, deny women the right to control of their own bodies, and deprive people of basic privileges. Such groups justify their actions with motives of faith.

The recent actions of President Bush are eerily similar, right here in our own country, with the backing of radical Christian groups and advocacy of anti-choice policies regarding reproductive health. When the government pushes programs that are based on little evidence but that which is dictated by religious fervor, the separation of church and state has ceased to exist.

With the recent appointment of Dr. W. David Hager to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Advisory Committee for Reproductive Health Drugs, Bush continues his purposeful erosion of our basic reproductive rights, under the guise of religious morality. Dr. Hager is also a man of great faith. He has so much faith; in fact, that he recommends in his book, "Stress and the Woman's Body," that women pray for relief when afflicted with such problems as pre-menstrual syndrome, postpartum depression and eating disorders. His faith also prevents him from prescribing contraception to unwed women, as Time Magazine reported in 2002, regardless of the fact that their beliefs may not be the same as his. He has publicly expressed his disapproval of the usage of condoms or contraception outside of the context of marriage.

The council that Hager has been appointed to, The Advisory Committee for Reproductive Health Drugs, is responsible for providing accurate, *scientific* medical information to lawmakers on issues that concern reproductive health. The Committee has also been involved in researching the abortion drug RU-486, a drug which may have a broad spectrum of applications beyond the scope of abortion. This is the same drug that Hager and his colleagues in the Christian Medical Association (CMA) have strongly opposed.

The CMA is an extremely conservative Christian group that holds a firm anti-abortion stance, and states on its website that: "Some suggest that potential applications of RU-486 exist which justify further clinical investigation. Because its investigation for other uses will further threaten the unborn, we oppose such introduction of RU-486 and all similar abortifacients into the U.S." (<http://www.cmdahome.org>).

Dr. Hager is also strongly opposed to the usage of contraceptive pills, because of his belief that they work as abortifacients, as stated in the book "The Reproduction Revolution: A Christian Appraisal of Sexuality, Reproductive Technologies and the Family," for which he is a contributing author and editor. With the appointment of Dr. Hager and several other anti-choice physicians, the process of stripping away our fundamental rights pertaining to our own bodies will continue, unimpeded.

This selective appointment of extreme conservative Christians into the sphere of governmental and medical power is dangerous. It is dangerous to the citizens of the U.S.A. who wish to remain free and wish to retain the right to choose. There is no justification for the introduction of religious policies into our political sphere, and there is no excuse for the violation of the basic rights of women under such policies. Our nation prides itself on being a diverse nation, a conglomeration of many different ethnicities, classes, and even faiths. Our Constitution does not say "One nation under (a Christian) God..." and there is no justification for basing laws that govern the many on the beliefs of a few.



“Vagina Monologues” Come to ASU

Serena Turley

ASU V-Day proudly presents its sixth annual production of Eve Ensler’s “The Vagina Monologues.” The play is intended to help raise awareness of womyn’s sexuality, as well as highlight the effects of the sexual and domestic violence that predominantly effects womyn around the globe. This year’s production features a monologue about the missing womyn of Juárez, as well as comic pieces like “Hair” that have become trademarks of the show.

The national V-Day organization was founded by Eve Ensler in 1998 as a way to combine art with activism. All proceeds from performances of “The Vagina Monologues” must be donated to local domestic violence response/prevention agencies. In the past, ASU V-Day has donated their proceeds to local shelters like Sojourner Center. This year, however, the funds will come directly back to ASU with the creation of Home Safe, an 24-hour anti-violence resource center on campus. Jessica Tartaro, Lauryn Vosberg and Connie Engel, three V-Day members, recently presented a proposal before the graduate and undergraduate student governments to ask for legislation that would make Home Safe a permanent part of ASU.

ASU was one of the first college campuses to participate in V-Day and many of this year’s performers are Vagina veterans, but the cast features new faces as well. Miranda Lilley, a theater major and V-Day vet, explains that she got involved with “The Vagina Monologues” because of the show’s politics. Her goal is “to use the show as a way of raising awareness about womyn’s issues, especially domestic violence and rape.” Ariana Mejia, another repeat performer, says that she got involved because “the show helped me realize that I’m not the only one who has experienced these issues and I

feel an obligation to help womyn control their own bodies.” Charlene de Guzman, a novice performer, explains that “the acting opportunity the show provides is only half of it because there is the activism component. It makes me feel like I can actually help someone.”

Promotional materials for the show use the phrase “Vagina Friendly.” Connie Engel, one of the show’s co-directors, defines “Vagina Friendly” as, “respect for the diversity of womyn’s bodies.” Jewel Kling, one of the show’s co-directors and producers, says “Vagina Friendly stands for empowerment. Men need to respect us, but we have to respect ourselves as well.” According to de Guzman, “the general public should know that this is not just some play. It’s about education.” Engel agrees that “the politics of the show should be mobilizing to help people take what they’ve learned to another place.”

“The Vagina Monologues” run March 6-7, 2004 in Neeb Hall. For tickets, please call the Herberger box office 480-965-6447. Tickets are \$13 in advance for students and \$16 for non-students. At the door, tickets are \$16 for students and \$19 for non-students.

Kick off Womyn’s History Month
The ASU Womyn’s Coalition presents . . .

FOCUS FEST



I Matter!

March 6th 10 AM – 3 PM
Hayden Lawn @ ASU

Featuring: Raped, Budget Sinatra,
Bella & Cameo Hill

Free music, food & health information from
Planned Parenthood, Arizona African
American Health Information Systems, Value
Options and more . . . Be there!



Sherman Austin, Cont. from Pg. 1

Although he was never formally indicted, Austin plead guilty to explosives charges in a binding plea agreement in order to avoid a 20-year sentencing enhancement under a 1996 law if the case went to trial. The government claims that Austin was “distributing information on how to make explosives with the knowledge or intent that the information would be used in a federal act of violence.” The information in question was a link to *The Reclaim Guide* that was posted to Sherman’s server by someone else. Sherman is not the author of the document. And yet because he offered free web hosting on his server, he is being held responsible for a “crime” he did not commit.

Sherman Austin’s case highlights the gross racial and class inequalities that are deeply embedded in Amerikkka’s (in)justice system. Sherman’s mother Jennifer says that she wasn’t formally involved with any activist groups before the raid on her home, but the magnitude of his case has thrust her into the international spotlight. The FBI kept telling Jennifer during the raid “this isn’t about you.” But as Jennifer points out, “this is my son and my house, so this is very much about me.”

Jennifer explains that Sherman’s persecution was intentional. For one, the raid occurred just a few months after the

events of September 11, 2001 and the passage of the USA Patriot Act. Jennifer believes that Attorney General John Ashcroft wanted to make an example of Sherman to serve as a warning to other activists. The government needed a test case to show what they were capable of now that law enforcement agencies have been centralized under the banner of “homeland security.” So the timing of the raid proves that the government was just waiting for the right opportunity to come along.

There are also substantial racial and class dynamics that helped to shape Sherman’s case. “They did their homework,” Jennifer says. “They knew that I didn’t have the kind of funds to wage a drawn out legal battle on my son’s behalf. He is a young black male who now has a felony conviction.” Jennifer points out that another teenager named Nick signed an FBI affidavit claiming responsibility for posting a link to *The Reclaim Guide* to Sherman’s site. However, Nick is white and comes from an affluent home in Orange County. And despite his confession, the FBI has never charged or arrested Nick. “This is definitely race and class based,” says Martin.

Austin’s case clearly reveals the extreme level of corruption within the US government. “It is my belief that the judge in this case was not randomly selected,” says Martin. “He is a conservative Reagan appointee. It was deliberate. That’s how corrupt the system is.” Sherman’s outrageous sentence and Judge Wilson’s comments during the hearings is proof that the judge was politically motivated.

Originally, Sherman was told that he would only serve one month in prison and five months of community service. But the judge came back saying the sentence wasn’t harsh enough. He wanted Sherman’s case to serve as a “deterrent to other revolutionaries.” And so Sherman wound up with a one year sentence with three years of probation. As part

of Sherman’s probation, he is prohibited from using a computer, digital organizer, pager, cell phone and any digital device unless it is first approved by a probation officer and constantly monitored. He is also prohibited from associating with anyone who wants to change the government. And this is all because the judge in this case admitted to using Sherman for political gain.

Martin says that her son was arrested based on a lie. “The FBI lied to the judge in New York and they lied to the media. They told them that Sherman was ‘a man on a mission’ who intended to blow up the Salt Lake Olympics even though Sherman has always advocated nonviolence and is nonviolent by nature. These people will say anything to get what they want. And unless you have money for good counsel, good luck!”

A public defender was appointed to represent Austin, but his handling of that case was anything but adequate. For one, he didn’t seek an independent analysis of the evidence the government had against Sherman and refused pro-bono analysis by the Electronic Frontier Foundation. He simply went along with the government’s interpretation of things. Moreover, the federal public defender had a low level of computer literacy and was dealing with a complex cyber case.

Sherman Austin, Cont. Pg. 6

Get it off your chest!



Tire of politics as usual? Got something to say? Well, write it down and send it to G-Spot . . . You’ll be glad you did!

Email us:
gspotsubmissions@yahoo.com

Sherman Austin, Cont. from Pg. 5

Based on the public defender's advice, Sherman agreed to sign a plea agreement even though he was never formally indicted. He was afraid that a trial would mean that Sherman could go to jail for 20 years based on sentencing enhancements under a 1996 law that was authored by Diane Feinstein. When Jennifer asked if the law even applied to Sherman's case, the public defender called the prosecutor to find out because he didn't know. The prosecutor said no. However, when Sherman resisted signing the plea the prosecutor said the application of the terrorist enhancement was at the discretion of the court. The public defender kept telling Sherman that the government was doing him a favor by offering a plea agreement. But, says Martin, "the government never wanted this to go to trial because they knew they didn't have the evidence to convict."

For instance, during the raid, federal agents seized some empty ice-tea bottles that Austin had been saving for recycling. The search warrant that was finally produced instructed agents to look for "weapons of mass destruction." Because Sherman had empty ice-tea bottles in his house that were being saved for recycling and a gasoline canister in his car, the government claims he had the components of a Molotov cocktails. Jennifer explains, "The FBI first stated that Sherman had two fully functional Molotov cocktails in his room. This changed to one fully functional device, then to one partially assembled device and finally to components of a Molotov cocktail. It's important to note that the FBI kept changing their story."

So maybe it's not a weapon of mass destruction, but it certainly qualifies as an unregistered firearm according to the FBI. Far-fetched or not, this is what the government had to go off of. But as Sherman points out, "the only thing on my website related to weapons of mass

destruction were the weapons the US was using against millions of poor people all over the world."

One of the main documents that was used to support Austin's arrest was an IRC chat that supposedly took place between Sherman and the FBI's cooperating witness, Michael Reighley, sometime in 1999. Michael Reighley is a white supremacist from Huntington Beach, CA who met Sherman in a UFO chatroom. The problem with this so-called "evidence" is that IRC chats are not secure because IRC screen names are not password protected – anyone can log on under a screen name if it's not already being used at the time. And one of the AOL chats that was used to support the government's case took place while Sherman was imprisoned in New York City. A qualified attorney would have easily beat these charges if the case had actually gone to trial.

"Sherman's only crime was that he was naïve," claims Martin. "He let people of all political persuasions into his personal space. He didn't have a firewall for his site. He was an advocate of free speech and allowed anyone to post anything they wanted. He had no disclaimer. In retrospect, I should have cut the cord to the DSL line. But how can you know everything that's going on in cyberspace?"

I asked Jennifer if she was just saying this because she was Sherman's mother. "Of course I believe in unconditional love. But I also raised my children with a respect for consequences. I'm not one of those parents who can't admit when their child does something wrong. I am advocating on my son's behalf because I know he is innocent of distribution with intent and making Molotov cocktails. If I knew he was guilty, I would be the first one to speak out against him. But I'm advocating for Sherman because what they've done to him is wrong. What they did is a crime. They've been doing it to people of color all along.

This is my opportunity to expose the government for what it is."

Jennifer compares Sherman's case to psychological lynching. "Aggression is not just physical. They single out people of color because they are most threatening to the white establishment, especially when they start to take control of their own lives. They [whites] see the possibility of a huge revolt when people of color start to speak, to be present, and to organize. They did this to Sherman to shut him up. They lynched him in the press to destroy his character."

Martin says that she is intimately aware of how racism operates in American society. "I have the benefit of being an insider because of my race. Sometimes people would tell me things, this really racist stuff, because they didn't know that I have three African-American kids. Sometimes I couldn't even put up pictures of my children in my office at work because of what people would think."

This doesn't stop Jennifer from looking at life as a series of challenges that can be overcome. "My whole life has been a struggle, but I'm not a victim. I look at each challenge as a new opportunity to learn, a new way of viewing the world. Suffering is not a negative thing. When you're faced with struggles, you can let the experience wear you down or give you strength. I've learned how to overcome and move on."

Sherman Austin, Continued Pg.8

"We certainly want to reduce the level of terror . . . There is one easy way to do that . . . stop participating in it."

~Noam Chomsky

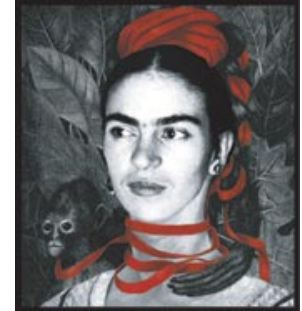
SHEROES



Harriet Tubman:
"The Moses
of her people"

"I had crossed the line. I was free but there was no one to welcome me to the land of freedom. I was a stranger in a strange land."

- Born into slavery 1819 or 1820 in Dorchester County, Maryland. Sold as a laborer at the age of 5.
- Seriously injured at the age of 12 by a blow to the head from a white overseer for trying to help another slave escape.
- Married John Tubman, a free African American, at the age of 25. She remained a slave but was able to sleep in Tubman's house at night.
- Lived in fear of being sent to the Deep South and in 1849 her fears became reality. Freed herself on the Underground Railroad. Settled in Philadelphia and began earning money to help free her family.
- Because she was so well-known, large rewards were offered for her capture. She continued her work and helped free 300 people.
- Worked as a Union spy and nurse during the Civil War. She had to fight to receive her Army pension.



Frida Kahlo
Artist

"I paint my own reality. The only thing I know is that I paint because I need to, and I paint whatever passes through my head without any other consideration."

- Born in Mexico City. She claims she was born July 7, 1910, but her birth certificate shows July 6, 1907.
- Stricken with polio at the age of 6 that left her left leg permanently disfigured.
- Involved in a bus accident in 1925 that broke her spinal column and left her flat on her back in a body cast for over a month. She began painting while she recovered in bed because she was bored. It became her life's work.
- Married Diego Rivera in 1929.
- 1953 Held her only exhibit in Mexico. Had to be carried in on a stretcher because she was so ill.
- Rumored to have committed suicide July 13, 1954. When her body was cremated, the doors of the crematory burst open and the gust of air caused her body to sit upright as her hair caught fire. It is said that a smile formed on her lips as she went out with a halo of fire.

ASU MAKING STRIDES FOR WOMYN?



You call this equality?

Womyn in America make 76¢
for every \$1 a man makes.*

Female professors @ ASU make 80¢ for every \$1
male professors make.**

What is your education worth?

* Source: US Labor Bureau

** Source: ASU State Operating Budget 2002-2003

A public service announcement from **Guerrilla Girls of Tempe**, conscience of ASU

How the USA Patriot Act Destroys Civil Liberties

Serena Turley

How does the Patriot Act threaten civil liberties and what can you do about it? These were the questions addressed at the USA Patriot Act Forum that was held at Loyola-Marymount University in Los Angeles, CA on February 18, 2004. The Human Rights Coalition of LMU hosted the forum, which featured speakers from KPFF radio in Los Angeles, as well as Dr. Erwin Chemerinsky, professor of public interest law at the University of Southern California, and Jennifer Martin Ruggiero, mother of political prisoner Sherman Austin.

Dr. Chemerinsky spoke in depth about the government's expanded powers under the USA Patriot Act, beginning with a detailed history of the historical context that led to the establishment of the Patriot Act. In 1798 Congress passed the Alien Sedition Act, aimed at prosecuting those who criticized the policy of the government or government officials. Chemerinsky explains, "individuals were prosecuted and sentenced for speech as mild as what Jay Leno or David Letterman say on a nightly basis. John Adams used the law to put political opponents in prison. No court ever declared the law unconstitutional, but it clearly was," he says. "It didn't do anything to make the country safer. But people went to prison just for their speech."

Another example from history is the treatment of Japanese-Americans during World War II. "They were put in concentration camps based solely on their national origin," says Chemerinsky. "Race alone determined who was free and unfree." Chemerinsky goes on to say that "not a single Japanese-American was ever accused, indicted or convicted for espionage or any other crime against the United States during World War II. It did nothing to make the country

safer. But the loss of liberties was enormous."

During the McCarthy Era, people lost their jobs and their livelihoods just for being suspected of being a communist. In a Supreme Court case, *United States v. Dennis*, a group of Marxists was convicted for conspiring to advocate the overthrow of the United States government. "Notice," says Chemerinsky, "they weren't charged for conspiring to *actually* overthrow the government. They weren't even charged with *advocating* to overthrow the government. The literal charge against them in their indictment was conspiracy to advocate the overthrow of the government. And at that time they were each sentenced to 20 years in prison." The Supreme Court upheld the sentences saying, "when the evil is so great as the overthrow of the United States government, there is no need for any proof that the speech will increase the likelihood that this will happen."

It is against this backdrop that the USA Patriot Act was crafted. "John Ashcroft and George Bush are repeating the worst aspects of American history," Chemerinsky argues. "Taking away rights, but not in a way that makes us any safer." Chemerinsky points to three areas in which the government's power has expanded exponentially.

Sherman Austin, Cont. from Pg.6

Jennifer has a lot of sound advice to give activists in order to avoid becoming a target of the federal government. "For one, never discuss your politics with anyone online and don't say anything online that could get you into trouble. Check out your surroundings. Be careful at demonstrations and be aware of who befriends you. Don't rely on technology for communication because they can watch your every move and misconstrue your words. Don't take anything for granted."

Sherman is scheduled to be released from federal prison in late July. His mother is afraid that he will become an icon for people looking to further their own political causes. "I have no idea what his plans are when he gets out. But I don't want people to use him for their own agenda. Prison is not a status symbol. My family and I are the ones who have to struggle with this every day and worry about him. Everyone else gets to go home, but we're the ones left holding the cards when everyone disperses. Sherman has a huge following and a big responsibility when he gets out. But I don't want my son to be an icon or a hero. I just want what's right."

Sherman Austin, Continued. Pg. 9

Patriot Act, Continued Pg. 9



Sherman Austin, Cont. from Pg. 8



Sherman's case is far from over. When Jennifer petitioned to have the property returned that was seized during the raid, she was informed that some of the items would be held pending a further investigation by the L.A. District Attorney. Jennifer and her attorney met with the FBI Special Agent on February 24, 2004 and he returned all of the computers that were taken from Sherman's room **WITHOUT THE HARD DRIVES**. Jennifer explains, "his first explanation for not returning the Hard Drives was that 'ALL DATA WILL BE DESTROYED.' When questioned as to why he was destroying the data he stated that the drives were being sent over to the L.A. District Attorney pending review. This is typical FBI nonsense. They never say what they mean and never mean what they say. It's my opinion that they will NEVER give me back the data."

With a drawn-out legal battle ahead, financial support for Sherman's defense is critical. For more information on how you can help, please contact Jennifer Martin Ruggiero at jmi46@sbcglobal.net or visit www.freesherman.org.

Benefit shows in both Phoenix and Tucson are planned for April.



Patriot Act, Cont. from Pg. 8

The first is the unprecedented authority for the government to detain people without any sort of due process. The case of Jose Pedilla illustrates this point. Pedilla was arrested in Chicago-O'Hare airport in 2002 for allegedly attempting to build and detonate a "dirty bomb" somewhere in the United States. Although Pedilla has been detained for over 21 months, no arrest warrant has ever been issued against him, no grand jury has ever indicted him and no jury has ever convicted him. The Bush Administration has taken the position that by labeling him an "enemy combatant," he can be held indefinitely without any access to the courts.

"This has no precedent in American history," says Chemerinsky. "Never before has a President claimed the authority to say an American citizen can be arrested in the United States for crimes allegedly planned in the United States without any due process whatsoever. The Attorney General put it plainly that they can suspend the Fourth Amendment, which requires the government to issue an arrest warrant. They can suspend the

Fifth Amendment, which gives a person the right to due process. They can suspend the Sixth Amendment, which gives a person the right to a trial by jury. And this is solely based on the President's say so." When the US Court of Appeals for the Second District ruled that the President didn't have the authority to suspend these rights, the Bush Administration announced that it would appeal the decision to the Supreme Court.

There is also the case of Yasser Hamdi, who is also an American citizen. He was apprehended in Afghanistan and his situation is identical to John Walker Lind. But the key distinction between these two men is that charges were actually brought against Lind (who is white) and he was actually found guilty in a court of law. No charges have been brought against Hamdi.

Patriot Act, Continued Pg. 11

Going on a Rant . . . G-Spot Editorials

Jonathan Grindell

Graduate Student – Global Technology and Development

ASU Not So Womyn Friendly

I am a new member of the ASU community. I did my undergrad at Penn State. My first couple weeks here have led me to question the way womyn are treated at ASU. During the first day of classes, I was ambushed by anti-choice literature disallowing a womyn's right to choose. When I turned the TV onto SDTV (Channel 2) I was outraged at a video promoting Dos Gringos' "body shots." I have been told that womyn walking around there are constantly accosted.

I recently argued with a professor over the use of the term "rape of the environment." While I'm as enviro-friendly as the next person and support radical groups like ELF and EarthFirst!, I was deeply offended by his use of the aforementioned expression. Speaking as a survivor of sexual assault and friend to others in same predicament, I did not need to hear him minimize such a tragic event. (FYI, I have no problem comparing slaughterhouses to concentration camps. The animal is placed a system of killing that is very comparable, I'm sorry to say.)

It has also been brought to my attention that "The Buzz" has been distributed around campus. This "publication" objectifies womyn to the fullest. It has advertisements for escort services and displays what our sexist society deems as sexy pictures of womyn. Remember, there are three billion women who don't look like supermodels and only eight who do. Then to compliment this work of art, "Nu Image" was unleashed to the public. This "magazine" advertised breast augmentation and plastic surgery. In other words, if you don't have the body, here's the way to get it. A psychological study in 1995 found that three minutes spent looking at a fashion magazine caused 70% of womyn to feel depressed, guilty, and ashamed.

This is a public place of education and higher learning. There is no place for the aforementioned mistreatment of womyn. As a man, I am horrified by it and fear its effects on womyn. Sexual assaults were prevalent at Penn State and I am told they are here, too. This is no way to combat such a societal problem. One thing I can recommend is joining a new organization that is out to promote the political, economical, and social equality of womyn. The Feminist Organization at ASU meets Mondays at 4:30 in the Hohokam Room (208b) on the 2nd floor of the Memorial Union. They will be fundraising all semester to benefit a trip to DC at the end of April to participate in a march for Womyn's Rights. Hope to see you there!

Reject Sun Card Exploitation

I have been told that ASU's "Sun Cards" used to be free. I have decided to protest the \$25 card fee for the duration of my time here. I just arrived in January and have not needed the card yet. Here's why:

- *The card is primarily used as an ID card.* I simply show my NY Drivers License, although I don't have a car (bad for the environment/I can get rides with friends). I ride my bike!
- *The card is used for meal plans in the dining halls.* Nasty food brought to you by Sodexo/Marriott, a corporation that supports prisons and slave labor. Support the Co-op and/or local veg-friendly eateries!
- *The card can be used as a debit card.* I have my own ATM cards ... unfortunately!
- *The card can be used as a long-distance phone card.* I get a better deal with my phone card. Others can use their cell phone.
- *The card can be used to work out at the on-campus gym.* Who needs to wait in line when you can do yoga in your room? I saw some coupons for free trial memberships to local gyms.
- *The card can be used for discounts on and off campus.* Don't support the MU! Most of the off-campus establishments are evil, too. The Co-op offers a 10% discount to students on Mondays. They give you the option of showing your class schedule as proof instead of your Sun Card!
- *The card can be used to put money on it for printing.* Tough to avoid, but we need to realize that printing uses paper which kills trees. Try taking notes from online readings instead of printing them out. It is sometimes unavoidable when you need to print out a paper. For this, I go to my residence hall where I can print up to 10 pages a day for free. Otherwise, I use a friend's printer.
- *The card can be used to take books out from the library.* I used my driver's license and gave my ASU ID#.

Wish me luck that I don't need the card before I get my Masters! Tell new students to join me in the protest!

Vegan Cheap Eats

I'm not one to ever support fast-food chains, but Kyoto Bowl is different. They have tofu and vegan sushi! Try the side salad with ginger dressing (\$.39) with a side of rice (\$.50) and a cup of water (free) and have a quasi-meal for under \$1!

Patriot Act, Cont. from Pg. 9

Instead, the Administration has taken the position of calling him an "enemy combatant" so they can hold him forever. The Fourth Circuit of the United States Court of Appeals accepted the Bush Administration's criteria and said that Hamdi has no right to a review by any court in the United States. The Supreme Court will decide on this case this Spring.

According to Chemerinsky, "this shows the enormous power that is being claimed by the Bush Administration. They are claiming that they have the power to hold a person literally forever without any judicial review by calling this person an enemy combatant. What's to stop the Bush Administration and the Ashcroft Justice Department from declaring political dissidents enemy combatants and holding these people forever?" Chemerinsky explains that this framework could be used to attack anyone the Bush Administration doesn't like, ranging from drug offenders to immigrants. "This is an enormous, unprecedented power."

The third example that highlights Chemerinsky's argument is that over 600 people have been held in Guantanamo Bay for more than two years now. The administration has admitted that many people being held in Guantanamo are there by mistake. Many people were rounded up in Afghanistan based on information provided by warlords who were given money by the US government. Sometimes these warlords gave names of their own political opponents, stating that they had connections to Al Qaeda. "The Bush Administration is taking the position that these individuals can be held until the end of the war on terrorism, which may be well beyond our lifetime, without any sort of due process or judicial review whatsoever," says Chemerinsky. "This is clearly a violation of international law, not just American

civil law. Under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, even prisoners of war are guaranteed the right to due process. But this is being denied to those who are imprisoned in Guantanamo Bay, even if they are so-called 'enemy combatants.'"

Dr. Chemerinsky also points to the extreme policy of secrecy under the Bush Administration to illustrate the dangers posed by the USA Patriot Act. "I want to ask you a very simple question. How many people are now being held or have been held by the Bush Administration since September 11th? I'll bet that no one in this room has any idea of that number because they're not saying. They will not tell us the number of people who have been held."

Similarly, right after September 11th, the head US immigration judge issued a blanket order of total secrecy regarding immigration hearings. "These are cases that appear on no docket sheets, no one is allowed into these hearings except for the person who is about to be deported, and all participants are sworn to secrecy. Democracy denies in secret. But the Third Circuit Court of Appeals upheld this decision and the US Supreme Court has denied its review." It seems clear, then, that the US government is intending to target immigrants of color based on the assumption that a person is suspect for merely having the wrong skin color.

The third example of abuse under the USA Patriot Act Chemerinsky discussed was the enormous invasion of privacy that has been authorized since the law's passage. It is important to note that the USA Patriot Act was initially proposed under the Clinton Administration. At that time in 1996, the Republican controlled Congress rejected the measure because it was too great of an invasion on personal privacy. But after September 11th, nobody in Congress wanted to be seen as "unpatriotic," and without any

public debate whatsoever, the bill became a law. Chemerinsky points out that immediately after the passage of the Patriot Act, both the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and National Rifle Association (NRA) condemned the law as being unconstitutional. "It's not very often that you get the ACLU and the NRA to agree on anything," he says. "It's quite discouraging that even senators like Barbara Boxer and John Kerry voted in favor of the Patriot Act. And it was all a part of the rush to act right after September 11th."

One of the worst aspects of the Patriot Act is its very broad definition of terrorism. "The justification for expanding the power of law enforcement is supposedly the prevention of terrorist activities, so the definition of terrorism is very important," explains Chemerinsky. "The law says that terrorist activity is 'an act intended to intimidate or coerce the government or civilian population.' That's the exact language. Look at how broad that is. Almost any crime is about intimidating or coercing someone. But, think of a protest against the war. What if things get out of hand and someone throws a rock through the window of a federal building? Under the Patriot Act, that's a terrorist act. And history shows us that when broad laws are passed, they are applied in ways that were never envisioned or intended."

Here's how the Patriot Act violates your right to privacy: For one, the government can monitor your e-mail just by saying that the information is relevant to an on-going criminal investigation. They don't even have to have probable cause or reasonable suspicion that you are involved in any sort of crime. "The reality of the situation," says Chemerinsky, "is that any time you send out an e-mail or do a search on the web, you can expect that if the government wants to, it can be monitoring your activity."

Patriot Act, Continued Pg. 13

Feminist Majority Foundation Sponsors Leadership Summit

Cami Kalman – Voice for Choice

On February 21st, 2004, the Feminist Majority Foundation held a leadership summit for student activists. The summit created an opportunity for Arizona campuses to learn different strategies on how to get active on campus and provided a way for the campuses to network and share ideas. The summit was led by West Coast Campus Director, Debbie Castro. Additional speakers were campus organizers Claudia Carballo and Laura Mastrangelo. All three speakers discussed the current campus campaigns the Feminist Majority is focusing on right now. FM's three most pressing campaigns are the March For Women's Lives, Get Out Her Vote 2004, and Prescribe Choice.

The March For Women's Lives in Washington, DC is set to take place on April 25, 2004. The march organizers are setting the goal for attendees at one million in order to emphasize the pro-choice majority. The march organizers include Feminist Majority Foundation, American Civil Liberties Union, Black Women's Health Imperative, National Organization for Women, NARAL Pro-Choice America, National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health and Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

Get Out Her Vote 2004 is a campaign to get people registered to vote and to specifically get women registered to vote. The gender gap proves very important during elections. Women vote differently than men do and because of that, the Feminist Majority is aiming their campaign at young women. It is time for young women to get involved in the political climate that surrounds them and well past time for young women to exercise their right to vote.

Prescribe Choice was the last campaign discussed. Prescribe Choice gets student activists involved in reproductive health. Through this campaign, students work with student health centers to ensure that reproductive health services are available and accessible. Emergency Contraception is the most important reproductive service being addressed right now. The Feminist Majority is working towards making EC available over the counter so that women will have access to EC at all times. For more information on EC go to:

www.feministcampus.org/act/prescribechoice.

The Summit gave student activists important tools for organizing and getting involved at the campus level. With the upcoming presidential election in November and reproductive choice being precarious at best, it is time for all student activists to unite to protect women's rights and ensure that our voices are counted.



GSWA Organizes Celebration For Diverse Couples

Julia Voye

The Gay/Straight/Whatever Alliance is a coalition of students on campus who seek to bridge the gap between the straight and queer community, as well as promote acceptance, tolerance and equality for LGBTQ individuals.

We will be hosting our annual Cut Out Campaign on March 26, 2004 from 10 AM – 2 PM on Hayden Lawn. The purpose of this event is to celebrate diverse couples. To find out more about the Cut Out Campaign or to volunteer, please contact Julia Voye by sending e-mail to **Sactgrrl@aol.com**.

The National Day of Silence is on April 21. This is a silent protest to stand in solidarity with people who are still in the closet and afraid of coming out. Our forced silence is a protest against erasure of LGBTQ identity (in the media, in our classrooms, etc.) that contributes to shame people feel about being queer or queer-allied which prevents many people from coming out. Anyone can participate. Visit the National Day of Silence website at **www.dayofsilence.org** for more information.

*If you've ever had an abortion...
If you know someone who's had one...
If you're concerned that your friend, daughter, spouse
may need one someday but won't be able to get it...
Raise your voice on...*

March 10th National Abortion Provider Appreciation Day

Be sure to say thank you for their perseverance,
courage, and commitment to womyn!

Global Day of Protest on the One-Year Anniversary of the Iraq War

The World STILL Says No to War

**SATURDAY
MAR 20
11 AM**

Rally- Los Olivos Park
1 block north of
Indian School and 28th Street, on
Devonshire

March to Republican HQ

*The Trail of Blood,
500 Americans,
10,000 Iraqi Civilians*

For info, contact the March 20 Coalition:
March20coalition@yahoo.com
480-894-2024

They had to knock first and leave a record of any items that they took. But under the Patriot Act, courts can authorize these sneak and peak warrants for the government to go in and snoop around without even telling a person that they've been there.

The Patriot Act also allows for roving wiretaps. This means that all cell phone conversations can be monitored by the government. A roving wiretap also allows the feds to tap any phone they think a suspect might use, including pay phones the person might pass on their way to work, all the phones in the building where you work or the stores where you shop, or the phone at a friend's house they just might happen to visit. "With enough roving wiretaps," concludes Chemerinsky, "the police can

listen to any phone conversation they want to at any time."

"I am always surprised and a bit amused when I debate government officials about the Patriot Act," exclaims Chemerinsky. "They always say, 'oh, the Patriot Act doesn't give the government much in the way of new powers. But, we *really* need it in order to combat terrorist activity.' Well, you can't have it both ways. Either, things haven't changed very much, in which we're defenseless. Or, things change a lot and we're willing to carve up civil liberties."

Jerry Quickley of KPFK radio agrees. "The Patriot Act is a bludgeon to be wielded by federal prosecutors to scare people into silence with the enhanced sentencing." Commenting on Sherman Austin's case, Quickley argued that "this forces people into these draconian plea agreements because they're afraid of what will happen if they go before a jury. Now,

I don't know how you would feel if you were facing down the barrel of a 20-year sentence, but there is a real desensitization that's taking place in this country on exactly what it means to serve time in prison." Jerry explains that if the law isn't really designed to "stop terrorists. A 20 or 30-year sentence isn't going to mean anything since these are people in many cases who are willing to trade their lives to cause great acts of destruction. But the people who are really being affected by the wrath of these sentences are people who are either a-political or slightly political or anarchists because when you have that weapon to wield against them, it really chills them into silence. You'll only go so far because you might end up like Sherman."

A prime example is what happened recently at Drake University in November of 2003, when the campus hosted an anti-war rally. The Joint Terrorism Task Force issued a subpoena on February 4, 2004 ordering the university to turn over all its records relating to the event, especially the names of those responsible for organizing the rally. This information was then turned over to a grand jury.

Usually, grand juries operate in total secrecy and a gag order is issued to prevent people from even knowing that a grand jury has been convened. But in this instance, a gag order was never issued. Jerry says, "they didn't issue a gag order on purpose. Because even if they had lost in court or the subpoena had been withdrawn, which is what eventually happened, it sends the message out very, very effectively that this is what's going to happen if you come to events like this one. Not only will you perhaps end up on a government list or file somewhere, you might become an active target of an investigation."

Patriot Act, Continued Pg. 15

Patriot Act, Cont. from Pg. 11

Another example of abuse under the Patriot Act is the government's broad authority to obtain records that they deem relevant to a criminal investigation. This includes library records about what books a person checks out or sales receipts from a bookstore to find out what kind of books a person buys. Over 150 libraries have had their records subpoenaed under the Patriot Act. What's more, the law prohibits librarians from telling a person that they've been subpoenaed to provide that information. Likewise, the Patriot Act gives the government authority to demand educational records about students.

Another provision gives the government much greater authority to engage in "sneak and peak" activities. Previously, the law generally required law enforcement to notice a person if their home was about to be searched.

Wheels of Justice Roll Into ASU

Serena Turley

Anti-war veterans from the group Wheels of Justice visited ASU last week to spread their message of peace and nonviolence. The group was originally founded in Chicago by Kathy Kelly in 1996 when delegates traveled to Iraq to witness the effects of US-led sanctions firsthand. Since that time, the Wheels of Justice platform has expanded to demand an end to the occupation of Palestine since both situations are connected.

Bill Hill, a Vietnam veteran, explains "we speak at high schools, colleges and churches to help people see the other side of war. We're not here to say that we're right and everyone else is wrong. But we do want to provide people with information that they're not going to hear on the 6 o'clock news."

For example, "the only time you hear about Palestine on the news is when a suicide bomber sets off a bomb. Americans have no idea what's going on over there," says Brian Avery, a former volunteer with the International Solidarity Movement. Avery traveled to the West Bank in January of 2003 to challenge Israel's military occupation of Palestine and provide a witness of what was happening to the Palestinian people. "This occupation has gone on for 36 years and is becoming increasingly violent. The people who are being killed by the military are not seen as civilian casualties. They're seen as collateral damage."

Avery explains that the difference between the International Solidarity Movement and other aid groups is that "we actively intervene with the military when they're attempting to bulldoze houses and terrorize civilians." Avery was shot in the face by Israeli soldiers when he and a group of volunteers tried to prevent them from opening fire on a group of civilians. His experience proves that "Israel is willing to murder activists and journalists to prevent them from documenting the situation. But for the Palestinians and their allies," says Avery, "it's death or liberation."

Another WOJ speaker, Dennis Kyne, is an ex-army medic who served in the first Gulf War. Kyne spoke out about the horrors of Gulf War I that are related to the army's use of depleted uranium weapons. "We dropped 300-350 tons of this stuff and then sent in ground troops. Now, Army officers are going to tell you that humans can withstand high levels of radiation. But why is it, then, that more than half of the soldiers from Gulf War I suffer from uranium sickness or have died from it? During the current Gulf War we've dropped over 1000 tons of artillery and haven't used anything but depleted uranium. They're using the troops and the Iraqi people as guinea pigs. This isn't just genocide, it's omnicide, because it's killing everything in the area."

Kyne urged his audience to become actively involved in efforts to end the occupation and prevent a reinstatement of the draft. "Once you've accepted what we're telling you about the effects of war, you have to do something about this. I would take people to the VA hospital so they can see what these weapons do to people. Cheney has gone on record as saying that our troops are just going to be fodder for the cannon. For humanity's sake, you have to commit yourself to spreading the truth, even if you can only reach one person a day."

Fuck the Draft! Refuse & Resist!

Serena Turley

With the one-year anniversary of the Gulf War II on the horizon, many people are wondering if Bush is going to reinstate the draft. There is plenty of evidence that would support this assumption. For instance, there are bills in both the Senate (S.89) and House (H.R.163) that would make military service mandatory for all men and womyn between the ages of 18 and 25. Also, Bush has launched a major recruiting drive to encourage high school students to enlist in the military, filling their heads with lies about scholarships for college and job security. And, \$28 million has been added to the 2004 Selective Service System (SSS) budget to prepare for a military draft that could start as early as June 15, 2005. SSS must report to Bush on March 31, 2005 that the system, which has lain dormant for decades, is ready for activation.

Although the reinstatement of the draft seems to be a foregone conclusion, there are many things we can do to forestall the seemingly inevitable. ASU Students for Liberty has started a petition drive to pass a state law that would make draft registration voluntary. Petitioners will need to collect 122,000 signatures statewide by July 9th in order to have the initiative placed on the ballot. To get involved with the petition drive, students should contact Craig Straitar by e-mail, asuliberty@yahoo.com, or by phone, 480-730-3238.

However, it is not enough to simply make military service voluntary, especially with all the pro-military propaganda bombarding us these days. David Winkler of Veterans Teaching Peace explains that, "recruiters tell high school students a lot of misinformation to sell them on military service." Veterans Teaching Peace conducts workshops at local high schools to provide young adults with another perspective on war. "We tell them about our experiences and try to provide alternative information so that they can make up their own minds."

Start a counter-recruiting campaign of your own. Arm yourself with facts and talk to high school students about the realities of war and military service. Put your web-surfing skills to work. Sit in on the Army's recruitment chatroom at www.goarmy.com. High school students go to the chatroom to ask questions about military service, like, "how much money can I get for college?" You don't have to lie or pretend to be a recruiter. All you have to do is provide an answer to their questions. Need help finding the information? Download a fact sheet from www.objector.org and help counter the propaganda machine.

Patriot Act, Cont. from Pg. 13

Sonali Kolhatkar of KPFK's Uprising and vice president of the Afghan Womyn's Mission says that this isn't about terrorism. "This is something that was in place long before the events of September 11th and they seized on the opportunity. We have to look at it in the larger context of oppression in this country. The Patriot Act specifically targets people who are immigrants and those people are generally people of color. According to the ACLU, the US has detained over 8000 Arab and South Asian immigrants without any evidence of wrongdoing since the passage of the USA Patriot Act."

John Ashcroft has gone on record as saying, "The USA Patriot Act is not been a source of abuse. It is a source of protection." "Americans buy into this because they feel powerless," says Kolhatkar. "And when you have Bush up there going on and on about Iraq and its weapons of mass destruction, its no wonder people believe it."

Amnesty International issued a 2002 report stating that most of the provisions under the Patriot Act constitute a gross violation of human rights. Kolhatkar explains that when the Justice Department conducted its own investigation, "the final verdict was, just like when *any* governmental agency investigates itself, that there was no wrongdoing. It said it found no civil liberties violations, specifically in relation to the Patriot Act. But the devil, of course, is in the details. It found other civil rights violations, yes, but nothing specifically in relation to the Patriot Act."

One of these violations is a proposed bill that authorizes law enforcement officials to "investigate, apprehend, detain and remove aliens, which is people like me, who are discovered within their regular law enforcement duties." Kolhatkar says that "what you have, then, is a situation where I could get pulled over and the officer could ask to see my

documentation to be in this country. In fact, it would even be their responsibility to ask for my identification. Now, I don't know what kind of discretion they would use, but most of black America knows what 'driving while black' means. What does this mean for immigrants of color? Because they're not going to go after European or British or Canadian immigrants. Who do you think they're going to go after? They're going to go after people who look like Mexicans, South Asians, people who are from Arab countries, people with a thick accent and dark skin and hair. This is what this particular legislation does." Although the bill is still before Congress, it has 115 sponsors in the House.

One of the bright spots in our country right now is the overwhelming number of city councils who have passed resolutions condemning the USA Patriot Act. For instance, in New York City, they passed a resolution refusing to enforce the USA Patriot Act. And New York is among 260 other municipalities going on record against the Patriot Act. And three states, Vermont, Alaska and Hawaii, have gone on record against the Patriot Act. As Kolhatkar points out, "this is definitely a step in the right direction."

Chemerinsky agrees. "There is so much that each of us in this room can do," he says. "We can write letters to our Senators and Representatives that we don't want the provisions of the Patriot Act to be extended under Patriot Act II when they expire in 2005. We need to communicate with our leaders not to extend these provisions. We need to communicate to our representatives that we actually want these provisions repealed. Each of you in this room belongs to other organizations. Use them to get out the word about the Patriot Act. Use their members to communicate with our representatives in Washington. And we all need to find a way to make this an election issue since this is an election year."

Contact your elected Representatives today:

SENATE:

Senator Jon Kyl

730 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
DC Phone: (202) 224-4521
AZ Phone: (602) 840-1891
Web: kyl.senate.gov

Senator John McCain

241 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BLDG
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
DC Phone: (202) 224-2235
AZ Phone: (480) 897-6289
Web: mccain.senate.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

To find out which Congressional district you are in, go to:
www.house.gov/writerep

If you live in Tempe, write to:

Representative JD Hayworth

2434 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
DC Phone: 202-225-2190
AZ Phone: 480-926-4151
Web: www.house.gov/hayworth

SAMPLE LETTER:

Dear Senator Kyl,

I am opposed to the proposed Victory Act that would extend sections of the USA Patriot Act. I agree with both the ACLU and the NRA that the Patriot Act erodes civil liberties, including the right to due process and a trial by jury, as well as protection from unwarranted search and seizure. We are no safer from terrorist attacks than we were before the Patriot Act. The law merely repeats some of the worst chapters in US history.

Please vote against the Victory Act when it comes up for a vote and allow the Patriot Act to expire in 2005.

Sincerely,
YOUR NAME



“Sleeping Shouldn’t Be a Crime! We Need a Shelter, Now’s the Time!”

Elizabeth Venable – Free to Camp Coalition

The Free to Camp Coalition, along with East Valley and Phoenix Food Not Bombs, and Local to Global Justice, launched a march on February 21st in protest of the Urban Camping Ordinance, and to highlight the lack of homeless services in the City of Tempe.

For the record, Tempe has no overnight homeless shelter. The group erected a mock homeless shelter, a cube of negative space made of PVC pipe with a hot pink swath of fabric decorating it and a banner proclaiming that “We Should Be Free to Camp!” The group mobilized over 100 people, including nationally-known protest musician David Rovics, who played up and down the street, singing in favor of human rights at home and abroad. The group moved up and down Mill Ave, shouting chants about the criminalization of homelessness, waving banners about homeless rights, and “erecting their shelter” in various places.

It is illegal to erect any form of shelter in the City of Tempe under the Urban Camping ordinance, but the police department chose not to harass the many “camping” protestors who were involved since the media was there in

force, even in the face of obvious defiance. However, this lapse in punishment allowed for a very fun, creative, and active evening.

Throughout the night there were various sit-ins in defiance of the Sidewalk Sitting Ordinance, impromptu concerts, and “sleep-ins.” At one point, several people, almost all members of the Tempe community, spoke to the crowd about their opposition to the ordinance, which criminalizes laying down bedding, sleeping in cars, preparing food, erecting structures, and storing belongings in any public space in Tempe, with no exception.

The law was explicitly targeted at the homeless teen population in Downtown Tempe. The marchers believe that urban camping should be immediately decriminalized and that, in addition, more services should be provided for the homeless population. The marchers do not believe that creating a shelter will be the ultimate solution in and of itself because they believe that laws that specifically discriminate against one special, vulnerable group are a violation of the civil rights of that group. Members of the group believe that the lives of homeless people should not necessarily be mediated by law enforcement, and that basic respect for the rights of homeless people to make their own decisions should be maintained.

After the protest there were reports of higher than usual levels of homeless harassment. Apparently the police had waited for the media to depart before stepping up their defense. According to sources, various campsites were destroyed and levels of enforcement and warnings were elevated. The Free to Camp Coalition found it unfortunate that the police decided to act in such a manner. Hopefully, the time will come soon when these laws do not exist and the police have no jurisdiction for such discriminatory behavior.

The Free to Camp Coalition has previously coordinated other protests in opposition to the Urban Camping Ordinance, collected 1170 signatures against the ordinance and presented them to the Tempe City Council, has spoken in many forums, invited other speakers to ASU, and organized other events such as movie showings about queer homeless youth. The group intends to continue these types of events, as well as pursue legal challenges to the Ordinance. The group has decided to resort to the courts as it does not appear that Tempe City Council members are listening to the message.

To become involved with the Free to Camp Coalition, please visit www.geociies.com/freetocampcoalition or e-mail freetocamp@bust.com.



Book Reviews

Meena, Heroine of Afghanistan

Melody Ermachild Chavis (St. Martin's Press, 2003)

Serena Turley

Chavis provides detailed information about the life of Meena, founder of the Revolutionary Association of the Womyn of Afghanistan (RAWA). The book is written at a level that a high school student could easily understand, but this is not to say that it isn't a thought-provoking read. For instance, Chavis describes the use of the burqua as a tool that enabled the womyn of RAWA to mask their identities as they carried out their work. How many times we condemn practices in other cultures without understanding the complexity of the situation?

Moreover, the recent history of Afghanistan gives the reader much to ponder as she thinks about the willful ignorance of the United States government during the 1970s and 1980s towards the plight of Afghani citizens. Chavis aptly points out that the Taliban rose to power because of the civil unrest that produced a generation of orphans who grew up in the refugee camps of Pakistan without any sense of social stability. The closest thing to stability that most young Talibs knew was that provided by the mujahedeen training camps which provided them with the basics of foods, clothing and shelter.

However, it is disturbing that Chavis paints a picture of the US as the liberator of Afghanistan without ever questioning the connection between Osama bin Laden and American corporations. Chavis ends the book with the image of the American soldiers coming into Afghanistan to save the Afghani people from the likes of Osama bin Laden. What Chavis fails to mention is that the US put its own puppet government into place that would serve the interests of American oil and gas companies like Unocal whose sole interest in Afghanistan is purely commercial.

While I appreciate Chavis's efforts to provide information on a very important revolutionary like Meena, I wonder how this book will be received and interpreted by Western audiences, especially the younger readers to whom the book seems to be addressed. Many young girls who read this book will certainly be inspired by the fact that Meena was very active even at a very early age. That inspiration will be undercut, however, if they do not recognize that the same forces that worked to oppress Meena are at work here in the United States and that they should be actively resisting those forces here at home at the same time they mentally forge a bond with the womyn of Afghanistan. After all, the best thing anyone of us can do to "help" the womyn of Afghanistan is to destroy the fascist regime in our own country that is exporting oppression abroad.

Mother Teresa

Paul Williams (Alpha Books, 2002)

Rachel Anderson

Paul Williams states that he approached the subject of Mother Teresa with considerable trepidation. With that introduction I felt I could safely read a book that would accurately portray the life of woman who the world feels is a "living saint." I was sorely disappointed. While I was made aware of Mother Teresa's many astounding accomplishments, I was also demoralized by the author's opinion of why she is not worthy of sainthood.

I give credit to Dr. Williams for his very methodical and complete listing of the accomplishments that Mother Teresa made throughout her life. I wish he would not have accompanied each event with a negative observation of his own. I am not Catholic. But, I do want to recognize others for the good they do. What purpose is served by attacking them when they are dead and no longer able to defend their actions?

I am happy to have learned of a humble woman born in Albania who struggled for what she felt was her mission from God, against the prime tenets of the Catholic Church and its powers. Mother Teresa rose up beyond her circumstances and elevated those she associated with to the beautiful life she envisioned. I was awed to discover how many countries she traveled too, how fearless she was and unstoppable in her determination to bring a peace, food, and loving care to the world's poor, sick and dying. Her example of true Christianity is one to follow. She openly invited diversity and inclusiveness in a world where hate, war, separatism and racial prejudice abide.

Mother Teresa made strides that women had not done before, both within the Catholic Church and through the world. She was a friend to world leaders who were enemies, she managed to raise more money for her sisters of charity than any other charitable organization, and she won the Nobel Peace Prize (which Williams would have taken from her if he could, stating she was undeserving). Williams constantly berates her throughout the book for not being educated. I suppose he feels he has the right to do so because of his doctorate degree. He also denounces her for her non-accountability. I personally say "Hallelujah" that someone can focus on their mission in life, and not on where every penny came from or went to. Williams also decries the fact that she was so tenacious that she never gave up the reigns until she passed from this life. I say that only shows how much she felt personally responsible to serve with every fiber of her being. Mother Teresa is a benchmark for women, without complaint or drawing undue attention.

Reading this book will be educational. It will not give you a good impression of the Catholic Church. It did not give me a respect for the author. It did, however, give me respect for a tolerant woman who triumphed in spite of bigotry in a man's world.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

march

| Sun. | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri. | Sat. |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 Living the Border Film Festival: "Señorita Extraviada" 6:15 PM ECG 237 | 4 Dr. Cynthia Bejerano: Commodification of Womyn 3-5 PM SCOB 228 | 5 Cut Out Campaign 10-3 Hayden Lawn | 6 Focus Fest 10-3 Hayden Lawn Vagina Monologues 7:30 PM |
| 7 Vagina Monologues 1 PM & 5:30 PM | 8 Intl Womyn's Day Celebration 10-2 Hayden Lawn | 9 Living the Border Film Festival: "Frida" 6:15 PM ECG 237 | 10 Poetry Reading by Francis Payne Adler 6:30 – 7:30 PM LL 270 | 11 Womyn Inspiring Hope & Possibility Noon – 1 PM Armstrong Hall 105 (College of Law) | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 Spring Break! | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 Dr. Rose Weitz Ponytails & Purple Mohawks 3-4 PM ECA 216 | 24 | 25 | 26 LGBTQ Student Success & Resources Workshop 9-4 MU Alumni Lounge | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 Living the Border Film Festival: "Salt of the Earth" 6:15 PM ECG 237 | | | | |

For a complete description of events, please visit the Women's Studies Department homepage:
www.asu.edu/clas/womens_studies