

WORDS FROM THE WISE TO OPEN THE WORLD SOCIAL FORUM

A week before the World Economic Forum convened in Davos to discuss how to further the control of transnational capital over the world, people from every part of the globe gathered in Nairobi under the banner, "Another World Is Possible" and because of this said Desmond Tutu, "God is smiling."

The World Social Forum began with a march from Kibera (the largest slum in Africa) to Uhuru (peace) Park. Simultaneously, the ecumenical platform was holding a service in front of the Anglican, Basilica. Dispelling the capitalist myth that greed and competition should be the operating principles of social order, Archbishop Desmond Tutu declared, "We are made for interdependence and partnership. Each according to their ability, each according to their need. We are made for sharing."

"There can be no human being who exists on his own...That we are bound to one another is the fundamental reality of our being...The only way we can ever be free is together. The only way we can ever be human is together. The only way we can ever be safe and secure is together."

"We will never win a war against terror, never, as long as there are conditions in the world that make people desperate. Can you imagine the billions spent on arms? Just a small fraction of that could ensure that every person has a decent home, clean water, food, and affordable healthcare."

Desmond Tutu also had a message about Africa, one which was repeated throughout the forum: "Do not look at us as an object of pity and charity...For when there was plague in the holy land the people came to Africa. When the holy family was persecuted they came to Africa. We are a rich continent with a proud legacy. We have overcome slavery and apartheid. We in Africa have produced a Mandela...We can teach the world about forgiveness and reconciliation."

"You in Europe and the northern countries try to be a little honest with yourselves. Remember your history. You produced the Holocaust, fascism, and totalitarian communism. Among you is the first nation to use weapons of mass destruction."

Desmond Tutu concluded his remarks by deeming all those who work for peace and justice as angels who are wiping the tears from God's face. And he sounded a unifying call. "We must all say to our government officials, 'we will not tolerate corruption. You are leaders for the sake of man. You are there to serve. We will support you when you work for the benefit of the people, and we will oppose you with every fiber of our being when you oppress.'" •

BE THE MEDIA!

State of Disunion

NUMBER OF
NEW ORLEANS
RESIDENTS
that have not returned
after Hurricane Katrina:
175,000

AMOUNT THAT
LOUISIANA
was told it owed FEMA
for aid after Hurricanes
Katrina and Rita:
3,700,000,000

NUMBER OF US
HELICOPTERS
that have been shot
down in the last three
weeks in Iraq:
6

NUMBER OF
PARTICIPANTS
in this year's World
Social Forum:
60,000

AVERAGE NUMBER
OF BARRELS OF OIL
the US (number 1
consumer of oil) uses
in a day:
20,030,000

PERCENT OF THOSE
who have not returned
that are African
American:
80

NUMBER OF
ADDITIONAL
MILITARY POLICE
TROOPS
being sent to New
Orleans:
300

NUMBER OF US
TROOPS
that have been killed
in Iraq:
3121

NUMBER OF 20
POOREST
COUNTRIES
that are in Africa:
13

AVERAGE NUMBER
OF BARRELS OF OIL
China (number 2
consumer of oil) uses
in a day:
6,391,000

CALL TO ACTION

The Red Pill is looking for volunteers: graphic designers, writers, poets, cartoonists, artists, and photographers are needed. Get your work published now. Help distribute The Red Pill in your community, church, and school: contact us at gjredpill@hotmail.com. You can also do your part to keep us in print by donating time, paper, film, copies, and of course money (it doesn't print itself).



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A MOMENT FROM AN UNSEEN REVOLUTION



On January 27th, 2007, there was a massive anti-war march on the Capitol in Washington D.C. that received scant attention from the national media. The massive crowd was described in most reports as being in the 'tens of thousands' while the organizers, United for Peace and Justice, estimated the crowd at half-a-million. The Red Pill estimates that there were 300-400 thousand people in attendance.

Under reported was a break away contingent of radical and revolutionary youth that scuffled through the police lines and occupied the steps of the Capitol for about an hour. Organized by anarchists and SDS, Students for a Democratic Society, a radical 1960s anti-war student group reincarnated recently, the anti-authoritarian march took to the streets in an un-permitted march from Dupont Circle prior to rushing the Capitol. Most of the coverage dedicated to the young radicals was about the Capitol being tagged with anti-war and anarchist slogans. Good for them.

Local DC activists told me that this was the first time that protesters had been able to push their way to the Capital since 1972.

About 700 hundred people occupied the steps of the capital, many had grown weary of 'peaceful protests' and preferred direct action and civil disobedience as a means of protest against this illegal war in the Middle East.

The symbolic nature of occupying the Capitol was reminiscent of the Yippies protest at the pentagon,

in October of 1967, which became a pivotal event for the protest movement, as did the protester take over of a statue in Chicago's Grant Park during the 1968 Democratic National Convention. But back then the media covered protests.

This was just a moment in a unreported and unheard revolution building. Nationwide revolutionary, radical, and anarchist organizations are on the rise. Collectives, cooperatives, radical bookstores, and underground or radical newspapers are also growing in strength and numbers, and not just in your liberal hot spots like Boulder, but also in towns like Colorado Springs, and Springfield, MO. This growing movement will become a force for change in the future.



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THE WAR ON PUBLIC HOUSING IN NEW ORLEANS



St. Bernard Projects

One of the battles being fought in New Orleans centers solely around the right of return and the future of public housing. In my time in New Orleans I marched with several hundred people and rallied in front of Mayor Nagin's home. The clap of hands and the shouts of, "the people united will never be defeated!" was a deafening war cry which nearly drowned out the sound of developers, HUD (Department of Housing and Development), HANO (Housing Authority of New Orleans) and the mayor counting money behind a closed boardroom door, but not quite.

The carpet baggers and the local and federal government have conspired to destroy a total of 4,534 public housing apartments in four separate housing developments (They plan to demolish 1,546 apartments in BW Cooper, 1,400 in St. Bernard, 723 in C.J. Pete, and 865 in Lafitte). Most of these homes were not even damaged by the storm, but after residents returned from their Katrina evacuation sites, they found all of their worldly possessions gone and their homes surrounded by fences and razor wire. Considering that New Orleans is in a deep housing crisis with rents rising from 50 to 300 percent, these actions can't be considered anything, but an act of war on the lower income African American community of New Orleans.

On MLK day, several hundred activists and residents tore down the fence, cleaned up their homes and occupied a part of the St. Bernard housing project in the hopes of saving the community that had given life and support to them. With the federal government seeking an injunction against the protesting residents and suing their lawyers for slander, in direct violation of free speech rights, the travesty of greed over justice continues.

On January 31, 2007, several of the people that I marched with that day were arrested in a SWAT-led raid for simply returning to their homes. How can that be considered breaking the law? They arose in such solidarity and strength that most Americans should be proud of such an action. Instead those Americans who claim to be patriots sit at home and let HANO and HUD's

decision to destroy the St. Bernard Project and replace it with "mixed income" housing continue.

Even in the simplest of economic terms, American tax payers should be outraged at the misappropriation of funds that was intended to rebuild New Orleans, 100 million dollars from a Community Development Block Grant and 34 million in the Katrina Go-Zone tax credits have been handed over to developers. Who are using the funds to destroy communities and then sell to private owners at a substantial profit. According to outside firms (and a leaked HUD document), the St. Bernard housing complex could be repaired for 41 million dollars, but to destroy it and rebuild a smaller amount of mixed income units would cost 197 million in tax payer's funds. On top of that, according to John Fernandez, a professor of architecture from MIT, concluded after an inspection that, "no structural or nonstructural damage was found that could reasonably warrant any cost-effective building demolition...Therefore, the general conclusions are, demolition of any of the buildings of these four projects is not supported by the evidence of the survey, replacement of these buildings with contemporary construction would yield buildings of lower quality and shorter lifetime duration..."

The housing projects should be reopened to the people that lived within them before Katrina struck, period. St. Bernard and the other complexes were the centers of people's lives and now greed and governmental incompetence are taking that vital piece of life away. Two activists were arrested on January 31st and that sacrifice is double what the government has contributed to New Orleans. This war and forced diaspora on the citizens of New Orleans must be stopped. To bulldoze those projects, the government is essentially forcing a total of 49,000 people onto the streets, and as Congresswoman Maxine Waters intelligently pointed out, "there is affordable housing around the world, but why none here?" •

To learn more about the plight of New Orleans and the struggle that continues still, please check out the following web addresses:

<http://www.democracynow.org/article.pl?sid=07/01/31/1543227>, www.survivorsvillage.com, www.justiceforneworleans.org



Affordable housing activist take to the streets

OF MISSED OPPORTUNITIES AND REGRET...A PERSONAL ACCOUNT

It was really a night like most other winter evenings in the Grand Valley; cold and insignificant. I was riding along with my friend Jack down Elm Avenue. As we crossed 28 Road I noticed that some mysterious "something" seemed wrong, but I couldn't quite put my finger on what it was.

We continued to drive along in uncomfortable silence, knowing that something...something just wasn't right. When we turned south on 28 3/4 Road, I noticed that I couldn't see the traffic lights on North Avenue or the glowing eyesore of Sam Walton's legacy. It hit me like the proverbial ton of bricks; we were in the midst of a blackout, a huge one at that.

At once all of the possibilities flooded into my mind. With Wal-Mart dead ahead without any power, therefore no electronic security the potential was limitless. The employees and pseudo-security would be way too busy consoling panicking consumers to pay attention to little old me... It was almost too good to be true...

With visions of ipods, digital cameras, and other gadgets that I could pawn or otherwise sell dancing in my head, I excitedly told Jack of my glorious aspirations of playing a capitalistic version of Robin Hood in the darkness. Stealing from the rich (a faceless and oft-times immoral corporation) and giving to the poor (myself and my fellow wage slave friends).

"No!" Jack emphatically replied to my illusions of a looting heaven. It turned out that he was frightened of the ever-illusive specter of "getting caught." I tried to convince him that he didn't even have to enter the store if he didn't want to, I was more than willing to have all the fun, I just needed a get-away driver. "No!" Jack once again tried to burst my little bubble of brewing excitement. I then tried to convince him that he had only to drop me off and I'd find my own way home... It was all to no avail. Jack couldn't be convinced.

We had this wonderful opportunity staring us in the faces, right into our cold winter chilled noses. With every second that passed I knew the possibility of the power being restored at any moment, and thwarting my plans, was growing larger.

We continued our drive, albeit detoured, with me eschewing the vast potential of my idea, and expressing my disappointment at the missed opportunity.

Later, after my persistent questioning, I learned that Jack was not but a victim of his own "morality" (ironically imposed by our own decadent society in which corporations are king) and what he considered to be inherently "wrong." In this my great, grand, and glorious idea also fell victim to that misplaced sense of "right and wrong"...

Am I angry at Jack? No. Do I pity him? A little. Next time I'll just jump out of the moving car...Damn it... •



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Download the Red Pill at: <http://colorado.indymedia.org>.

Become our friend on mspace.com @ http://www.mspace.com/gjam_theredpill

Every Saturday • Noon

A Voice of Reason holds a lunch hour peace vigil to end the war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

At the intersection of 12th and North.

Every Monday • 5pm

Grand Junction's peace group, A Voice of Reason meets to discuss and act on issues surrounding the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Call 245-3720 for more info and meeting place

FORGIVE THE THIRD WORLD DEBT

Slavery, Colonialism, Cold War, Politics, Apartheid... Neoliberalism is but the latest phase in the unbroken chain of exploitation of Africa. The media portrays it as a poor continent, but if this were the case there would be no cause for "the scramble for Africa." Among the lesser mentioned resources being plundered by transnational capitalists are copper, cobalt, uranium, and platinum. But Africa also serves as a market for finished products from the global North as well as technical services such as cell phones, with monopolistic rates ten times those in the North. Meanwhile African nations are paying more in debt service than they are for healthcare and education.

There were numerous sessions at the World Social Forum in Nairobi dealing with corporate globalization in Africa and calling for unconditional debt cancellation. Following is a synopsis of those dialogues.

The debts were partially acquired for "development" purposes. The African Development Bank along with the World Bank have had an agenda of big infrastructure, which have served various interests, the least of which are Africans themselves (www.bicusa.org). Electricity generating dams are a common example of this. The biggest protest in these cases regards the displacement of local peoples (www.irn.org). The benefits of such projects are also difficult to distribute, and sometimes entirely misplaced. The power plant in Mozambique serves the wealthier South Africa who then sells electricity back to Mozambique at a much higher price. Must be an issue of competitive advantage.

Free market meets corrupted planning when it comes to foreign lending. The development banks advise these large infrastructure projects, which often become contracted to foreign companies. Foreign companies also provide the required inputs which are purchased in foreign currency. The need to obtain foreign currency with which to repay those loans encourages export industries, usually of raw goods or products whose labor-value is obscured/reduced by the global market. Such export orientation is rarely in the

interest of poor nations. And thus profit from debt is secured by multinational corporations and the cycle of dependency is maintained.

There is much discourse on illegitimate/odious debts, the prime example being those acquired by dictators. The emphasis here is that the creditors have to be responsible in their lending practices. There are countless cases where money was given to oppressive regimes. The I.M.F. lent four billion dollars to Zaire under Mbutu, even as there was evidence of what he was doing there. On December 5th, 1980, the IMF disbursed \$22 million to the government of Jean Claude Duvalier; a few days later \$20 million dollars were withdrawn from the same account. Four million went to the VSN, a paramilitary organization responsible for at least 30,000 Haitian deaths. The rest went to Duvalier's personal bank accounts. Should Haiti be required to use its scarce resources to pay the interest on such debt?

The World Bank has in fact, since 1996, been operating a debt forgiveness program, but is clearly a process of using leverage to mold national economies to conform to the global corporate agenda. The highly indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative requires countries to undergo radical economic restructuring. This entails deregulations which give more and more autonomy to corporations operating locally, and less power to the public for holding them accountable; liberalization, which means eliminating barriers to trade and thus forcing local farmers and businesses to compete with global manufacturers; and privatization—turning over public enterprises to multinational corporations, and the loss of state revenue that entails.

For all of these reasons and many more there has been and is still a strong social movement that calls for UNCONDITIONAL debt forgiveness. There is need for a legitimate international space where these odious debts can be contested and cancelled. In the meantime there are numerous campaigns and efforts to that end. To learn more and get involved look for Jubilee, 50 Years is Enough, AFSC Life Over Debt, African Network on Debt and Development.

Quote of the Day

"There are known knowns; there are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns -- the ones we don't know we don't know." ~ Donald Rumsfeld

NO OIL FOR BLOOD



It is said that Iraq sits on a lake of oil, but above that is a lake of blood" (Iraqi human rights activist). Although it wasn't the central focus of the World Social Forum, in Kenya, the discussions of the War in Iraq were powerful and productive. Various issues were addressed: the rise of Islamic fundamentalism in response to the Bush administration's fundamentalist doctrine and policies, the larger U.S. agenda in the Middle East, the implications of the new Democrat led Congress, of which it was said, "We can't count on them to lead but if we push hard enough they will follow," and the many and profound human costs of this war.

There is a law in the works which would give oil contracts to multinationals, under the name production oil sharing agreements (P.S.A.s). The language and terms are tricky, giving the appearance of state ownership. They are the closest thing to privatization that the corporations can get. P.S.A.s are normally instituted in places where oil deposits are uncertain. They serve to

place the risk and reward of development in private hands. In Iraq there is no risk. The potential profits over the period of such contracts, however, numbers 74 to 194 billion dollars (www.crudedesigns.org).

The contracts would range from 15 to 40 years, and once in place are extremely difficult to renegotiate. A bill will be submitted to the Iraqi parliament soon (within the next month). Nine corporations were consulted in its formulation. If/when the parliament ratifies it, its specific content will be made public, at which time international protests and direct actions against companies such as Aamaco, Chevron, B.P. and Shell are called for to show solidarity with the Iraqi people to maintain control over their oil reserves (www.basraoilunion.org).

The imperialist mission in Iraq is not yet complete. They still have not got what they came for. Four years ago when we attempted to prevent this war, the cry was "No Blood for Oil." Now at this pivotal moment let us with even greater strength call out "No Oil for Blood!"

OHIO CONVICTIONS FIND 'RIGGED' '04 ELECTION

In January 24, 2007, Jacqueline Maiden, elections coordinator, and Kathleen Dreamer, ballot manager, of Cuyahoga County were convicted of a felony count of negligent misconduct and one misdemeanor count of failing to perform their duties as elections employees. The 2004 was, according to county prosecutors, "rigged."

Suspicious vote counts and irregularities triggered a recount in Cuyahoga County, where Democrats usually take the majority.

Under directions of Secretary of State, Kenneth Blackwell (R), Ohio State co-chair for the Bush-Cheney campaign, random sampling, a requirement

by law, was not done throughout the entire state. Poll workers chose sample precincts for recounts. All other ballots were machine counted, making the results useless.

Of these 'random' samples, several predominantly black precincts showed a 30% turnout, where overall turnouts were 60%. One showed a 7% turnout.

Dreamer and Maiden will be sentenced in February. Now we need to ask ourselves: Should these prosecutions reach higher in the ranks of elections officials? Will the 2008 election be rigged as well?

CALL TO ACTION

Do you have a political event, meeting, movie, or protest planned? We will get the word out FREE. E-mail us your events at least three weeks prior, at giredpill@hotmail.com

Saturday, February 17th• 12PM-1PM

A Voice of Reason will be holding a peace vigil on the corner of 12th and North with thousands of others around the country to say no more money for war.

Corner of 12th and North Ave

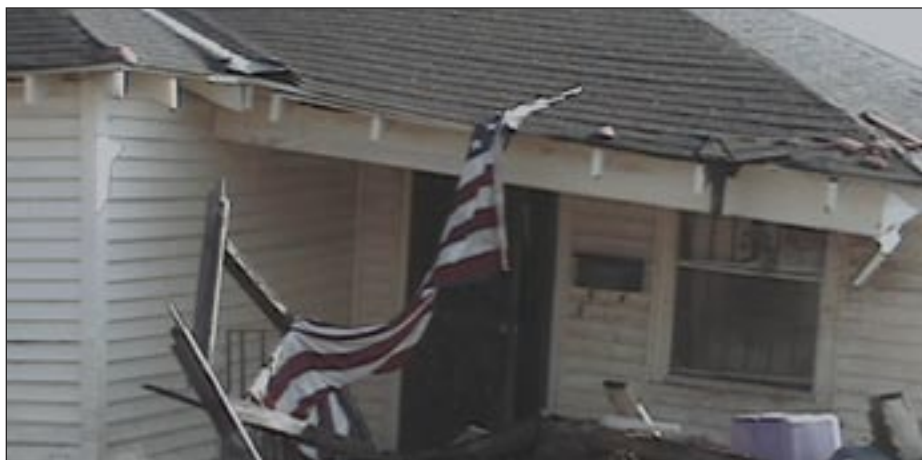
February 23-25th

9/11 Accountability: Strategies & Solutions Conference
Speakers, Workshops, panel discussions, Documentaries about 9/11 truth.

Chandler, Arizona

www.9/11accountability.org

RACE AND REBUILDING: NEW ORLEANS 16 MONTHS LATER



With a load of personal stress on my mind, I hit the road wanting to put miles of pavement between myself and it. I traveled from the West Coast to the Great Lakes, in some places I gained new laugh lines and others I left blood on the concrete. At the end of my yellow lined road I ended up in the aged, original city of outlaws and vice-New Orleans. A city of rich history and beautiful music, a city of extreme joy and excruciating pain and rage. For five weeks I lived in a Catholic middle school that had been converted into a hurricane relief volunteer housing center and I don't think I will ever be the same. As they say, "New Orleans will either change you, kill you or leave you broke and with the worst hangover of your life." Thank the heavens that only the first and last applied to myself.

New Orleans is literally at the forefront of class warfare in this country. You can't hide it like they do in the suburbs with single families living in homes that the bank owns, slaves of the corporate model looking only to the weekends for relief from their shallow pre-programmed drudgery. In the ninth ward of New Orleans, traditionally one of the poorest neighborhoods in the country, 90% percent of the people owned their homes outright. No loan officers, mortgages and very little corporate sprawl, almost every business that existed there had been small and family owned. The ninth was a true community, not one designed on Wall Street with cute names like Bubbling Brook or Sunset Ranch.

Now the ninth is a post apocalyptic land, walking through the foggy nights, the only light coming from scattered street lights, that looked like weak fireflies in the distance, empty broken windows and sagging roofs stare at you almost imploring you

to help bring back the children and families that once laughed, lived and loved within their walls of brick and plaster (This is only in the upper ninth, in the lower ninth concrete stoops and steps are scattered like gravestones, the homes they served so well are now gone washed away, never to return). As in a nuclear blast the only things that seemed to live were cockroaches, rats and crack heads scurrying through the shadows, doing things that are only within their nature to do.

Those nighttime creatures were far more understandable than the true carrion flying over the ninth waiting for it to die. Politicians, real estate developers and corporate America have put a strangle hold on the lower income African American communities of New Orleans. Public housing is up for auction, people who left their homes as part of the evacuation returned to find fences and razor wire surrounding the complex's that they once lived within. In some neighborhoods the city is forcing people to sell their homes and land in order to create "green spaces," but how can it be a park when the money going to purchase or push people off of their land comes from the private sector?

For most of my time in New Orleans I gutted houses that had been ravaged by the break in the levees. Homes filled with clothes, books, photo albums and everything else that makes a home warm and comfortable. Black mold and six inches of toxic mud had replaced the residents and I struggled day in and day out, stripping the house's of everything, but the two by fours, roof and floors. Taking breaks to hold alternative versions of my mother and father, people who held onto me and cried until my shirt was

wet with their gratitude and loss. It was hard having them thanking me profusely for being a fellow human that actually cared, when all I could give was the labor of my two hands.

Gutting houses is a strange form of destruction, it's like the forest fire that clears out the old dead growth to make room for a new rebirth. In New Orleans though a true reemergence of culture and community is threatened by the bland homogenization of corporate America. In the ninth, if people don't clean out their homes by a certain date, the city will come in and forcibly take their home and land from them. Private contractors charge up to 5,000 dollars for this service, but when one has lost everything and their own family is scattered across the U.S., how could one possibly afford to come back and rebuild after only seventeen months? They can't, so the bulldozers come in and the neighborhood that they raised their children in becomes a CEO's wetdream.

It's not just a class war in New Orleans, but a race war as well. The city council has been shut out of the rebuilding process. In their place, mayor appointed councils and outside experts, mostly wealthy white conservatives, have set into motion a machine that will grind a black democratic city into a vacation ground and second home site for the elites of the country. The congressman from the 4th district of Massachusetts, Barney Frank has labeled this, "a policy of ethnic cleansing by inaction." President Bush is even attempting to impose his cronies upon the city and completely close the voters and residents out of the rebuilding process of their home.

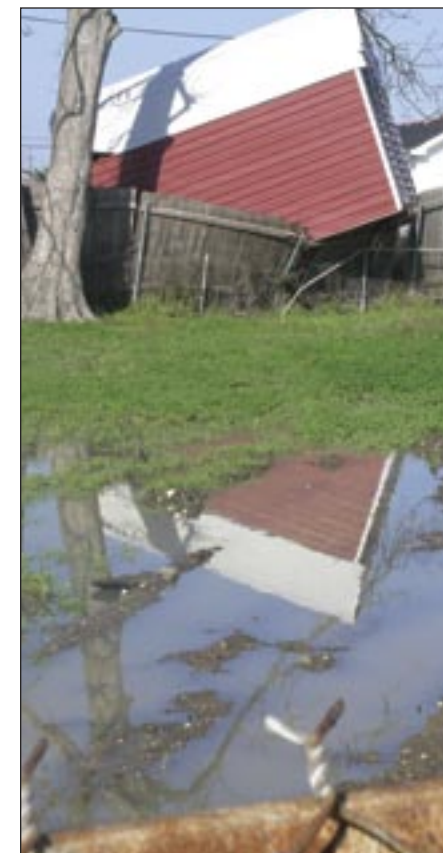
The only action that the Bush regime has taken in the poor neighborhoods of New Orleans is to impose a military presence upon the people. So the government can rebuild the French Quarter and Uptown in a matter of months, but the only aid the working class received came in the form of Hummers and soldiers with M-16s. It didn't seem like a part of America to me, it seemed like a foreign country that the Neo-Cons had conquered and now occupied. So the rich get richer and the poor are either shipped out of state, imprisoned, or completely disempowered and shut out of the Democratic process. With 60% of the voters and 80% of the African American community living as refugees how can the American public close its eyes to the devastation that is still in New Orleans and only being exasperated by the money hungry and greedy.

After five weeks of a rollercoaster of experiences and emotions, highs and lows, love and loss, I hit the road out of town. I may have left New Orleans, but its story and example will be on my mind for a lifetime. It's amazing how people from Noam Chomsky to a ninth ward homeless resident named Batman could see the faults and cracks within our system and society at large. It's even more amazing though that the majority of people in this

country go home at night, turn on the television and pretend that everything is fine with the world. If we allow a corporate and governmental sin to continue in the rebuilding of New Orleans, then how many more wrongs will we allow to be carried out in the world with our silence and complacency. Why are we willing to place hundreds of thousands of young people in harms way in the Middle East? When it would be better to put their hands and hearts on making levees, rebuilding lives, not war.

To learn more about the plight of New Orleans check out these sites on the web:

<http://communitygumbo.blogspot.com>
www.justiceforneworleans.com
www.commongroundrelief.org



March 2-4th • All Day

6th annual Local to Global, El pueblo Unido in global solidarity. Teash-in at Arizona State University.
 Tempe Arizona.
www.localtoglobal.org

Saturday, March 17th • All Day

On the 4th anniversary of the invasion of Iraq ANSWER Coalition and Troops Out Now Coalition will be leading a march on the Pentagon.
 Washington DC
www.troopsoutnow.org

Saturday, March 24 • 10AM-6PM

Denver ZineFest and Small Press Conference. Zine and small press expo, demo's, and conference.
 For more info go to:
www.denverzinefest.com

Sunday, March 25th • 12PM-3PM

A Voice of Reason will be commemorating the 4th anniversary of the invasion of Iraq with a peace rally and march with numerous speakers, music, and entertainment.
 Lincoln Park on 12th St. Grand Junction