

## RED PILL NEWS BRIEFS

### Greece Nationwide Strike

On April 2, 2009, Greece labor unions called for a 24 hour strike against the government's response to the economic crisis. About 15,000 protesters swarmed the capital city. The government has called for a public sector wage freeze. During the protest flights were delayed for hours, some were canceled, and public transportation services were disrupted or shut down. Banks and schools were also shut down.

### Resist the G-20 in London

Anarchists, anti-capitalist, environmentalists and others converged in London's financial center on April 1, 2009 where protesters clashed with police on multiple occasions. Windows were broken of the Royal Bank of Scotland, right next to England's central bank. According to Reuters, "Police said they had deployed one of Britain's biggest security operations to protect businesses, the Bank of England, the London Stock Exchange and other financial institutions." Unfortunately, they were not protecting people, one passerby died during the demonstrations video contradicted the police story and show the police beating and shoving the man to the ground before he died, and many others were injured.

### GJAM Crashes Bourgeois Colorado Lamb Board Event in Vail

Five activist from Grand Junction Alternative Media, publishers of The Red Pill, passed out a "Special Edition" of The Red Pill that featured our stories about the abuse of H2-a visa workers in Colorado's sheep camps at the 5th Annual Colorado Lamb Cook-Off. The activist also passed out The Sheepherder Chronicles, a GJAM production featuring three short documentaries about the working conditions in the sheep camps.

"There were a lot of people that were less-than-happy about our presence at the event, but there were lots of people concerned about the work conditions Colorado lamb is raised under," said Jacob Carpenter. You can check out the video of the event at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUFVVYp9\\_eM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUFVVYp9_eM)

**BE THE MEDIA!**

## State of Disunion

NUMBER OF  
HOMELESS PEOPLE  
that were on the Island  
when the March 22nd  
fire broke out:  
3

NUMBER OF  
PROTESTERS  
at the 1978 Smoke-In:  
500

ESTIMATED TOTAL  
OF BAILOUT  
DOLLARS  
allocated before Obama  
took office:  
5,568,000,000,000

NUMBER OF CITES  
worldwide that have  
Critical Mass:  
350

AVERAGE ANNUAL  
WAGE  
paid to H2a sheep  
herders in Colorado:  
8,640

NUMBER OF  
HOMELESS PEOPLE  
on the Island that were  
rescued by the GJ Fire  
Department:  
0

NUMBER OF  
PROTESTERS  
arrested at the Smoke-In:  
23

NUMBER OF  
DOLLARS  
per week that Obama's  
tax cuts will put into the  
pockets of workers:  
13

DATE OF  
GRAND JUNCTION'S  
NEXT CRITICAL  
MASS:  
5/29/09

POVERTY LINE  
in annual income for a  
single person:  
10,400

\* Sources for the State of Disunion can be found at  
[www.gjredpill.org](http://www.gjredpill.org)

## 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](mailto: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).



The Red Pill is collectively produced by Grand Junction Alternative Media, with the aim of publishing stories and ideas that the mainstream media won't cover. It is distributed free, collects no advertising, and is completely staffed by volunteers. All materials are copyleft, no rights are reserved.  
**PHOTOCOPY AND DISTRIBUTE AT WILL!**

GRAND JUNCTION,  
COLORADO

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH TAKE

## The Red Pill



DO

SOMETHING

APRIL 2009

VOL. 7 NO. 4

## GJ FIRE DEPT. FIDDLES WHILE HOMELESS CAMPS BURN

In journalism, sometimes the story comes to you, envelopes you, and you become part of the story, and you really don't have a choice in the matter. Objectivity is impossible and yet the truth comes out. This is one such story.



GJFD stands around while the island burns.

The Red Pill prides ourselves on covering homeless issues more thoroughly than any of the corporate media in the Grand Valley. We have many friends within the homeless population in town, and people seek us out in times of emergency, because they know that we'll do what we can to help, or point them in the direction of someone who can. Sunday, March 22nd was punctuated by a large storm front moving through the Grand Valley, which brought with it heavy winds with gusts above 60 miles per hour. My first indication that something was wrong was when around 7pm I heard a hurried knock on the door; its urgency told me something was wrong before I got to the door.

On my front porch were three homeless men and one woman, she was crumpled in a mass on my front stairs. I knew all three of the men, but not the lady. Paul (all names have been changed at their request) was wide-eyed. Black soot clung to his face and hands. His clothes didn't fit and he didn't have any shoes on. "We're in a real bad way, I didn't know where else to go. I'm sorry," were the first words out of his mouth. I noticed burns on

his hands starting to blister. "The Island is gone," Paul said over and over again.

The third man left having helped to get the island refugees to safety. Once inside, Paul was able to tell me what happened.

Lindsey and Paul were sleeping at his camp on Walker Island in the Colorado River,

when he awoke to a tent full of smoke and fire. They got out of the tent in the nick of time suffering from smoke inhalation and minor burns. Paul's boots and backpack went up in flames with everything else. Paul said that he tried to fight the fire for a while, but it was no use against the 60mph winds. Paul carried Lindsey across the river because she had drank too much, both in bare feet. When they neared the bank a fireman asked them "So how do you get across? Where is the bridge?" According to Paul, the firemen made no effort to provide any aid to the couple. Unaided, the pair walked into town. They found some clothes in a dumpster (she escaped in only a bra and panties). In Whitman Park, some other homeless people gave them some more clothes, and they met up with Paul's campmate Josh, who now had nothing but what was in his backpack. They made their way to my house, still shoeless.

Once I got them settled into the garage for the night and fed them some food, I called a friend with a police scanner to see what

**"FIRE" ON PAGE TWO**

## THE PROBLEM OF PEACE IN PALESTINE

Foremost in Obama's January speech on Israel's offensive against Gaza was a focus on Israeli security and "defense." As usual the word occupation was not mentioned, let alone the possible validity of resistance on the part of those being occupied. In fact, the blame for the attack was laid squarely on the victims. Palestinian - American businessman Sam Bahour imagines Martin Luther King in attendance at that speech, wearing a black and white checkered kaffiyeh, holding a sign saying "Mr. president - stop the Gaza nightmare - no more false hopes and delayed dreams - end the occupation now!" He also points out that MLK, in his time, spent precious political capital speaking out against the war in Vietnam and suggests that Obama's spending some

domestic political capital denouncing Israel's treatment of the Palestinians would increase our desperately needed international capital.

The facts of Israel's "defensive" destruction in Gaza speak for themselves:

- \* 1,334 killed - 1/3 of them children
- \* 5,450 injured - 1/3 of them children
- \* 100,000 displaced, 50,000 made homeless
- \* 4,100 residential homes and buildings destroyed - 17,000 damaged (this total accounting for 14% of all buildings in Gaza)
- \* 29 destroyed educational institutions - including the American International School
- \* 92 destroyed or damaged mosques
- \* 1,500 destroyed shops, factories and other commercial facilities
- \* 20 destroyed

"PALESTINE" ON PAGE SEVEN

### "FIRE" FROM PAGE ONE

was going on. My friend told me that scanner traffic indicated that the decision was made early to just let the fire on the island-long known to be the location of many homeless camps-burn. My friend also said the scanner mentioned that the police had detained a possible suspect in the fire. Both the decision to let the fire burn and the suspect in custody were both reported by the Daily Sentinel in the breaking news section, but was later removed from future reports after the fire jumped the river and burned down a building at a salvage yard.

I asked Mike Page of the Grand Junction Fire Department why the decision was made to let the Island burn. "Fighting the fire wasn't an option, with 50-60mph winds and



*A lone homeless person fights the flames.*

not a good water supply. We wanted to prevent the fire from heading east," Page said. I also asked Page about why aid was not given to those homeless people that rescued themselves from the island. "I can't answer, my guess would be that they were not dealt

with directly. I only saw one person leave the Island, and he was given a blanket and allowed

to return to his camp to get some things," Page said.

By the next morning, with a call to Solidarity Not Charity, we were able to re-outfit the folks with enough supplies to start a new camp, some clothes, shoes, food, and backpacks. Me and another Red Pill writer decided to head out to the Island to take some photos of the fire's destruction. When we got there the wind was starting to pick up again, and hot spots were flaring up on the Island, without a firefighter in sight (seemed like an oversight considering the size of the fire the day before and the strong winds) we drove to the nearest gas station and used the phone to call 911.

"911, what's your emergency?" the operator said.

"It's not really my emergency, you guys should finish putting out yesterday's fire on the island. It's flaring up again in the wind, right now," I said.

Like I said sometimes you just become part of the story.

*Photos by Gretel Daugherty of the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, used for not-for-profit use, and for educational purposes and constitutes a fair use of materials.*

## CRITICAL MASS

Critical mass is a spontaneous ride of bikes, skate boards, roller-skates, and other environmentally-friendly transportation. The ride originated in 1992 in San Francisco as a means to bring attention to the unfriendliness the city showed to cyclists, and it soon became a worldwide event. There are now over 325 cities around the world that participate in critical mass on the last Friday of every month.

Many perceive critical mass as a form of protest because they sometimes happen at mass mobilizations (DNC/RNC, G20, etc.) to bring attention to issues like global warming and war. Critical mass is a direct action; it's the reclamation of public space. It generally has no set agenda, except community building



12th and 7th Streets, and several other busy streets. We will ride again the last Friday of every month in solidarity with the other 325+ cities around the world in the hope of building a stronger community and having fun! Meet at 6pm Lincoln Park flag pole!•

and having lots of fun!

Grand

Junction hosted its first critical mass on March 20th, 2009. We were not a protest but a community ride. We had one encounter with the police where our group of around 20 scattered, but we regrouped but for the most part to continue our ride. We received support from local motorists we were able to take North Avenue,

### "PALESTINE" FROM PAGE TWO

ambulances \* 50% of agricultural land ruined  
\* \$1.9 billion in total estimated damages

Even as Israel claims to want peace, they continue to consume Palestinian lands, torturing, beating, and imprisoning Palestinians as a matter of course. It is clear that Israel does not want to give up the West Bank for a Palestinian state. It is also clear that until America puts pressure on Israel to move the settlers out of the West Bank, there will be no peace, only more occupation, more brutality, more violations of international law, and more bloody slaughters of civilians such as the one recently witnessed in Gaza. Anything short of ending the occupation leaves Israel in control, and leaves America with more enemies, not only in the Middle East, but around the world.

When Israel attacks Palestinians, as during the recent assault on Gaza, its instruments of destruction are U.S. fighter jets, attack helicopters, missiles, white phosphorous and Caterpillar bulldozers. All this American made destruction is clearly identifiable to those watching television throughout the Arab and Muslim world, who receive a constant stream of news showing Palestinian civilians being killed by weapons made in the U.S.A. It is from this population, which identifies with the Palestinians and feels itself to be under assault from the U.S., that terrorists such as Osama bin Laden are able to find willing recruits.

Furthermore, the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act stipulates that no aid may be provided to

a country that engages in a consistent pattern of violations of international human rights laws. Israel has been charged by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch with just such violations during the Gaza assault and in past attacks. Israel also violates the Arms Export Control Act which stipulates that U.S. weapons must be used only for internal security.

In addition, the arms package we provide to Israel seriously undermines the mission of U.S. peace mediators such as former Senator George Mitchell, appointed by President Obama as envoy to the Middle East. As long as Israel can rest assured that it will receive an annual arms package in the millions, it will have no incentive to heed Mitchell's mediation efforts, to make the territorial concessions necessary to reach a peace agreement, to stop building settlements and other infrastructure in the occupied Palestinian territories, or to stop its attacks on Palestinians. By committing itself to providing arms to Israel, the United States is undermining with one hand the very peace agreement it is trying to promote with the other.

It is ironic that the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is also the 60th anniversary of the plight of the Palestinian people. Brutality is the natural by product of an occupation that is necessary in order for Israel to keep the land they have stolen from the Palestinians. The peaceful residents of Gaza are in desperate need of change. Hopefully, with our urging, President Obama will put that change into motion. •





# ACTIVIST CALENDAR

## Monday, May 4th • 6PM

Solidarity Not Charity has its monthly meeting the first Monday of every month to discuss the numerous projects going on throughout the community.  
*Confluence Books 600 White Ave Suite 302*

## Wednesday, May 6th • 5PM

Drinking Liberally gets together to drink and talk politics the first Wednesday of the month.  
*Kannah Creek Brewery, Grand Junction*

## Friday, April 24th • 6PM

Critical Mass. Bring your bike or skate for a community ride. We are traffic.  
*Lincoln Park, Grand Junction*

## Friday, May 1st • 1-5PM

May Day Festival with games, food, really really free market, and lots of fun.  
*Iris Park aka Riverfront Park Durango Colorado*

## EVERY SATURDAY • 3PM

Free Yoga For Free People  
*HeartFelt Foundation  
600 White Ave Suite 304*

## EVERY SATURDAY • 5:00PM

Solidarity Not Charity meets at Whitman Park to serve free food for free people.  
*For more info: 257-9520*

## Friday, May 1st • 7pm

Movie screening: Seriana  
at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Grand Vally.  
*1022 Grand Ave. GJ*

## EVERY SATURDAY • 12:00PM

The Red Pill meets at Confluence Books.  
GET INVOLVED!  
*For more info: 245-4442  
600 White Ave. #302 Grand Junction, CO*

## RED PILL LOCATIONS

You can pick up your copy of The Red Pill at the following locations: Planet 9, Heart of the Dragon, Third World Imports, Planet Earth, Moe Ping's Kool Things, The Hot Tomato, Kleen Sting, Colorado Java, Contemporary Glass Works, Change Skateboards, Coffee Muggers, Triple Play Records, Pretty Things, Dream Child Entertainment. Download the Red Pill at: <http://www.gjredpill.org>  
Become our friend on myspace.com @ [http://www.myspace.com/gjam\\_theredpill](http://www.myspace.com/gjam_theredpill)

## ACTA, SECRECY, AND NATIONAL SECURITY

In 2007 trade representatives from the wealthiest nations began negotiating a trade agreement in secret called the "Anti-counterfeiting Trade Agreement" (ACTA). It doesn't deal with counterfeiting currency but rather intellectual property rights.

ACTA would basically rewrite copyright law to be much more severe and encompassing. Much of how the internet functions, like linking to copyrighted information for example, or the 'copies' of web-pages that the google algorithm uses to make the web searchable, or the anonymous whistle blowing that takes place on primary source based investigative journalism sites like wikileaks.org, could be made illegal. ACTA would shred what's left of the "Fair-Use Doctrine" which holds that if the work was copied for educational and/or nonprofit use, or to criticize the media itself, that these were fair uses of copyrighted material.

The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) has long sought changes in copyright law to curb peer-2-peer file-sharing, and has sued tens of thousands of Americans, though they have recently quit

suing downloaders because the strategy wasn't working. Instead of trying to change U.S. copyright law within the U.S., the RIAA has tried to influence in the shadowy, undemocratic world of international trade agreements. International agreements (i.e. Treaties) once ratified by the senate become "law of the land" on par with the constitution.

ACTA is a mass media wet dream, and would stifle the free exchange of ideas and information on the internet. Though this trade agreement began under the Bush administration, it has continued under the Obama administration. The media loves Obama and ACTA would be a generous way he could repay the 'love.'

On March 10th, the Executive Office of the President's Office of the United States Trade Representative denied a Freedom of Information Act request from Mr. James Love, Director of the Knowledge Ecology International, because the "information...is properly classified in the interest of national security pursuant to Executive Order 12958."

So much for change. Big Government and Big Media conspire in secret against us again. •

## DARWIN DOES ROSWELL —POETRY—

What we sometimes fail to grasp  
clumped as we are in the grip  
of our own gravitational pull  
is that we are aliens.

Great apes gone  
bad!

And what's at risk is everything  
that impedes our explosive swarm.  
Anything we don't domesticate. Even  
what we suck on or pamper as pets.

Flying saucer head  
fuckups!

*art goodtimes / union of street poets  
vincent st. john local / colorado plateau/  
aztlan kuksu brigade (ret.) / san francisco  
23sep15008 [v10708]*

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**600 WHITE AVE. SUITE 302  
GRAND JUNCTION**



Grand Junction is such a conservative city that when we first heard rumor of a 'smoke-in' in Grand Junction that ended in a riot, we just couldn't believe it. The riots following the Bronco's Super Bowl victory in 1999, on the other hand, were easy to believe. But the rumors of the pot riot turned out to be true and even more unbelievable than the tale we were told.

The year was 1978 and local activist, David W. Burnis, member of Western Slope Youth International Party (Y.I.P. or Yippies), and his group organized the "Western Slope Free Festival." The posters, distributed statewide and published in the national Yipster Times, advertised "Free Music, Free Love and Free Marijuana." The posters also referred to the event as a 'Smoke-In,' which is what caused the city to revoke the permit for the festival the Monday before the Saturday event. The then police chief Ed Vander Took was quoted by the Daily Sentinel as saying, "What these people have said, though, is they are going to break the law. Our job is to enforce it, and that's what we're going to do." In the same article entitled "Smoke-in—GJ Police to Uphold Law" dated April, 11, 1978, the Daily Sentinel quoted Jim Wysocki, then city manager as saying "The City of Grand Junction can in no way condone this type of thing." The city even decided to keep court open on the day of the festival to process arrestees.

Burnis told the Sentinel, "We are urging everyone who is arrested not to give any information to the police. We intend to fill up the jails to prove our point." Yippie Lawyers were also in town to help those arrested according to Burnis.

An article published by the Daily Sentinel the Thursday before the event, focused on the "free marijuana" advertised on the Free Festival posters. Burnis clarified that his group would not be passing out marijuana "This is an organized protest against current marijuana laws. We're reasonably sure people will bring their own." In the same article Burnis stated that they were not going to passively let their people be hauled off to jail, "What we're suggesting is passive resistance. If one of our group gets led to jail we will physically hang onto him. If we all go to jail, we'll stay there until the charges are dropped." Burnis also said that the local "climate is ideal for growing certain herbs. In fact we're going to have a 'harvest festival' October 28th."

Lines were drawn. The police pledging to uphold the law, the Yippies pledging to break it and resist arrests. The city pulled their permit to gather; the Yippies said that they

# HIDDEN HISTORY: GJ POT RIOT 1978

**Sunday The Daily Sentinel**  
April 16, 1978  
Grand Junction, Colorado  
35¢ Newsstand  
152 pages today

**LEGALIZE MARIJUANA**

**Smoke was seen drifting...  
...and 23 persons finish protest in jail**

By MINDY PRATT  
Sentinel staff writer

Until Saturday, some said, the biggest event in town was Perry's Auction.

Then the Yippies came, with their promises of free marijuana, free music and guest speakers for a "Free Festival" in Lincoln Park. Posters advertising the event were displayed statewide. A double-page ad in the Yipster Times received nationwide coverage. A throng of 400-500 persons—one-tenth of that number uniformed and plain-clothes officers—milled around in the park Saturday.

**Related story, page 17**

**ties some of them out empty**  
A few more isolated arrests were made, but not all were related to marijuana. A spokesman for the Grand Junction Police Department said at approximately 8 p.m., "We don't know how many have been arrested by now. I stopped counting about an hour ago after I got past 20." Rector later confirmed 20 persons were arrested by law enforcement officials.

Arrested in the first incident were six Grand Junction residents, including one juvenile. David Burnis, local organizer of the

were going to gather with or without a permit. A letter signed by 18 inmates of the Mesa County Jail, all incarcerated on Marijuana charges, and sent to The Daily Sentinel & published in the April 16, 1978 edition of the paper, summed it up well "...protest to any law not representative of the people as a whole, is provided for in the Bill of Rights. We wish to appeal to the law enforcement agencies as well as demonstrators, to keep their heads in confrontations which will in all probability be unavoidable."

Saturday, April 15th saw 400-500 people in Lincoln Park for an afternoon of free music, speakers, and marijuana. Almost immediately the Grand Junction Police Department (GJPD) made their first arrest. True to their earlier promises of passive resistance the Yippies held on to their arrested comrade and eight people were hauled off to jail, including organizer and spokesman David Burnis, according to the Daily Sentinel's coverage. One patrol man Jim Miller was taken to a hospital for stitches to his head after a hail of beer bottles were thrown at the police. About thirty Yippies left the festival and marched to the courthouse and chanted

"Free the Heads, Jail the Fed." But according to the Daily Sentinel, they were at the wrong courthouse. Many of the early arrestees were able to go to court and rejoin the festival.

An uneasy truce held between cops and protesters until 5:30pm when another arrest was followed by a volley of beer bottles. Another man was arrested while speaking to the crowd, "That's a violation of our first amendment rights," he said while being hauled off stage.

At 7:20pm another confrontation between cops and protesters was put to an end by use of tear gas. A Fruita Monument and Central High School Baseball game was delayed 27 minutes while tear gas drifted through Stocker Stadium.

"By 8:30pm the festival goers were gone—many of them a little damp from a fire hose, dispatched to put out a bonfire. The hose ran amuck and somehow put out the crowd while the bonfire burned," the Daily Sentinel reported glibly. I interpreted this to mean as "the firemen came and had a turn beating some yippies." Daily Sentinel April 16, 1978.

By the time it was over, 23 people had been arrested, including five minors, and the rest had been tear gassed, maced, batoned, and sprayed with a fire hose.

David Burnis and three others were still in jail two days later. Burnis was charged with resisting arrest, public consumption, and inciting a riot.

Another article in the Sunday paper following the 'Smoke-In,' quotes two Mesa State College professors in what amounted to a hit piece. Morton Perry and Associate Professor of Political Science was quoted as saying about the Youth International Party that "It's a pop cultural movement. They lack the discipline of hardcore leftists. They appear to be anarchists, but they do not have the discipline or sense of history to identity [sic] themselves with the classical anarchist thinkers. They are wanderers without a cause." Sociology Professor Gene Starbuck said that the Western Slope Y.I.P. are alienated youths and "in being so they choose to cut their ties with the social order."

In the April 20th edition of the Daily Sentinel, much of the opinion page is dedicated to talking shit about the smoke-in. Bill Hams, the Editorial page Editor, in his column "The Crows Nest" debates letters to the editor that the Sentinel received but didn't publish, some of which deserves to be quoted at length:

"The Sentinel has received a number of letters from persons involved in the Lincoln Park affair or who observed it. Many of the writers (whose letters the Sentinel never publishes) are blaming the law enforcement authorities for the out breaks of violence and for acts which may have endangered life and limb.

Generally the argument is that if the "pigs" had stayed away the 'Smoke-In' would have been a love-in.

That might be true but that wasn't the original purpose of the 'Smoke-In.' It was conceived as a challenge to the mores of Grand Junction residents and was designed to create a confrontation with law enforcement. It achieved both aims."

It's always hard to use just one source for a historical event, especially so with the Daily Sentinel, which was as biased then as it is now. One of the spins The Sentinel put on the story was that it was outside agitators that put on the event and fought with police, but the list of arrestees printed in the April 17th Daily Sentinel show that most arrestees were locals. The Sentinel's reporting was clearly biased against the people who gathered in Lincoln Park, and on the side of local authorities. We have spoken with a number of locals who attended the Festival but didn't want to be interviewed, and they confirmed that the Sentinel had the events of the day correct, but to see what really happened you must read between their lines. •