

NEWS BRIEFS

Military Recruiters' Vans Burned in Ft Collins

In early March, two military recruitment vans sitting outside of the military recruitment center were lit afire. An anonymous message posted on <http://colorado.indymedia.org> states, "These wars go on and on. We read about the dead....These flames are our way of remembering. We fight here."

Colorado Springs Illegalizes Camping

The Colorado Springs City Council passed an ordinance last month illegalizing camping on public land within the city. Some estimate there are 1000+ homeless in the city. The Colorado Springs Police Department began enforcing the new ordinance as soon as possible, and encouraged people to move out of their camps before the ordinance was in effect. Luckily, CSPD are issuing warnings, and a 48-hour notice to evictees.

March 4th Student Uprising

March 4th was a day of student walkouts, strikes, protests, and occupations around the country and the world. Higher Education continues to take the brunt of state budget cuts while foreign wars and the prison/police state continues full force. Students in San Diego occupied the Chancellor's office. Students at University of California Davis walked out and attempted to blockade Interstate 80. Students in Berkley, CA occupied a building, and in a roving party/protest/riot took to the streets for hours-long skirmishes with the police. Literally, millions of students around the country stood up, many for the first time, and took to the streets. Building occupations popped up on numerous campuses and these spaces were liberated into free spaces of education and self-learning; if the state won't fund the universities, we will run them ourselves! University of California Santa Cruz was shut down by two very effective pickets blocking entry onto the campus. In Oakland, 150 students were arrested blocking the interstate. Fifteen were arrested in Madison, Wisconsin, after attempting to occupy the administration building. Watch for a student uprising coming to a school near you.

Greece Rises Up Against Budget Cuts

The entire country of Greece has shut down business-as-usual, as a national general strike took to the streets. Everyone from police officers, to unionists, to molotov-chucking anarchists were in the streets challenging the state. The protests, riots, and general strike show no sign of ending any time soon.

State of Disunion

NUMBER OF MIGRANTS

that have died on the Arizona/Mexico border since October 2009: 85

NUMBER OF YEARS US troops have been in Iraq:

7

NUMBER OF US SOLDIERS killed in Afghanistan in 2009:

316

PERCENT OF TUITION INCREASE in California colleges:

32

NUMBER OF AMERICANS on probation, in prison or jail, or on parole in 2008:

7,300,000

ADDRESS OF GJ's SECRET ICE DETENTION CENTER:

571 S. Commercial Dr.

NUMBER OF US SOLDIERS killed in Iraq:

4385

NUMBER OF US SOLDIERS killed in Iraq in 2009:

149

NUMBER OF STUDENTS arrested in Oakland, CA protesting tuition increases:

150

AMOUNT OF MONEY spent nationally on corrections in 2006:

68,747,203,000

* Sources for the State of Disunion can be found at 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. 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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GRAND JUNCTION,
COLORADO

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH TAKE

The Red Pill



POLICE

THE POLICE

MARCH 2010

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MANY QUESTION GJ POLICE SHOOTING



Was lethal force needed to deal with a pocket knife? Couldn't talking him down for a minute, or even the use of less than lethal weapons have saved a life? Porras said that they had decided not to

release department guidelines on the use of force until after the investigation. When asked if department guidelines are usually public documents, she said most parts were public and that we were free to file an Open Records Act Request, which TRP promptly did, and was granted. The GJPD Directives Manual Code of Conduct states:

"an employee shall not use more force than is reasonably necessary in any situation to control the suspect(s), defendant(s), or any other person." The Use of Force section of the Directives Manual says that deadly force can be used to protect officers or others from serious bodily injury or death.

Porras would not comment on a Daily Sentinel article from March 2nd, in which the slain man's wife, Nancy Ingram, told the Sentinel:

"...the officers then dragged her husband's body to the doorway and removed his clothing. 'Even the underwear, his privates and everything were showing,' she said." This is serious. If the officers moved the body, they tampered with a crime scene. If they tampered with the crime scene by moving the body and stripping it, could they have tampered with it in some other way?

Porras also refused to comment if

"SHOOTING" ON NEXT PAGE

"SHOOTING" FROM FIRST PAGE

moving a body after a shooting is standard procedure or not. "These are details that should be investigated and should eventually be released," Porras said.

TRP couldn't obtain a copy of the Incident Report and found that the "Daily Patrol Resume" had pages missing from nine in the morning on the day of the shooting until the next morning. The clerk would not answer why. The rest of the incidents from that time period



GJ PROTESTS POLICE BRUTALITY

BY BRAD SWEET

 In March 3rd and 5th, 10-15 protesters made their response to the February 28 shooting loud and clear in front of the Grand Junction Police Department. They were protesting police use of excessive force, i.e. killing and shooting a man who had a small knife. Some protest signs said, "Murder, Drag, Strip?" "Police Brutality," and "Could have used a Taser."

Motorists passing by the protest honked and cheered demonstrating wide-

spread concern about the behavior of our local police department. The band Dem Bones livened up the scene on Wednesday by playing folk music during the action.

The media coverage of the demonstration forced the police chief to make statements about the incident. He said that he wasn't surprised there was a protest, and discounted eyewitness reports of officers stripping and dragging the body as a 'rumor.'

should at least be public documents. Unless, perhaps there was earlier contact with PD and Ingram that day?

Starting at one in the afternoon on Wednesday protesters with many of the same questions picketed the Police Department with signs like, "Why did they move the body?", "Stop Police Brutality," "Can you say Police State?", "Why not Taser him?"

"The people want answers. We have serious questions," said Ken Wheeler. •

POVERTY AND CLASS WAR

 Poverty is more than being poor, it's a complex of painful issues. Needless to say, poverty sucks. Especially since it's largely avoidable.

Even if you object to higher taxes on the mega-wealthy (such as Warren Buffet, Bill Gates, and others of their like), we could simply opt to divert just ten percent off of the top of our military budget to solve the problem of poverty. Either way, there is enough money around to make food, clean water, shelter and health care available to all. Are there any reasons for this gap other than sheer greed or malpractice?

Turns out society has a stake in keeping the poor, poor. Herbert Gans, a sociologist, came up with several reasons to maintain a certain level of poverty and wrote about it in 1971 in the magazine, Social Policy. He cited several advantages that society enjoys by keeping a permanent under class.

First, having poor people ensures a workforce for "dirty," dangerous, and/or menial jobs. Jobs that are physically dirty and dangerous work tend to be temporary and low paid. Poverty functions to provide a low cost labor pool.

Because the poor are REQUIRED to work for low wages, they subsidize activities for the rich. Maids are a low cost luxury for wealthy women and men to free up time for professional, cultural and civic activities. In addition, the very poor support innovation in medicine by going to teaching and research hospitals, and working as guinea pigs for dangerous medical research.

The poor create jobs for occupations

that "service" the poor: police, criminology, pawn shops, non-profits, and cheap liquor stores in low-income neighborhoods.

In addition to the advantages listed by Gans, the poor also perform social functions, such as being identified as alleged deviants. To justify the need for 'hard' work, honesty, and monogamy, the poor are scapegoated as lazy, dishonest and promiscuous. Never mind that numerous studies have shown the poor to be as moral and law abiding as the wealthier class.

The poor are a direct cultural influence. For example, the blues, country music, punk and rap all started out as poor people's music, until the wealthy entertainment industry co-opted them.

Poverty helps fix a "bottom" for social status. People want to learn where they stand and the poor serve as a stark milestone.



CAPITALISM

Being powerless, the poor absorb the cost of change in society. They labor hard in neighborhoods that are gentrified, and then are squeezed out to make room for "progress." Colleges and hospitals typically expand onto cheaper land, uprooting poor families.

There are other ways the poor serve a function in society, but these are enough to warrant an outrage. America is supposed to be the land of limitless opportunity, but it isn't. It has discreetly maintained a permanent underclass for the benefits of the wealthy.

This systemic injustice feeds the energy of the activist, revolutionary, anarchist, and socialist. These reasons (and many more) are the spark that ignites the inflammatory rhetoric of "No war, but Class War."

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS LOWERY

You who touch my face, see the night upon my face
running faster than the race
for you are the breath the sun cannot embrace
You'll always be in first place
You who saw upon my face
—Dennis Lowery—

 met Dennis in the park at a Solidarity Not Charity feed, in late 2008. He was extremely polite, and always had a few kind words to say at just the right moment, to just the right person. He had surprising charm, and a classy demeanor. Dennis died at his camp sometime in November of 2009, and was found about two and a half months later. He gave me a copy of this poem one sunny day in the park. Thank you, Dennis Lowery. RIP.

"THE 4 R'S" FROM PAGE THREE

among juveniles, cannot be divorced from the social conditions that foster it.

As Taylor goes on to note in his article, by the year 2000, Amnesty International estimated some 200,000 children were being prosecuted in adult courts each year in the U.S., despite the fact that only one half of one percent of youth 10-17 were arrested for violent crimes, according to figures provided by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. In fact, two thirds of children prosecuted in adult courts nationwide were nonviolent offenders. Every year, hundreds of young men in Colorado between the ages of 14 and 19 are tried in adult courts for crimes such as burglaries, theft of drugs or guns, drug dealing, assaults, and murder. Many, like Gonzales, have already served time in juvenile facilities like Lookout Mountain. With a 30 percent higher recidivism rate than the state's already abysmal 70 percent, the chances of such offenders being able to live outside the walls of a prison are not good. Yet in 1994, the federal government made prisoners ineligible for Pell Grants to attend college while incarcerated, and two years later banned most of those convicted of selling drugs—the largest single group in prison—from doing so even after their release.

Taylor cites Professor Fox's incisive

comment in *Newsweek*: "When it comes to crime politicians believe in the 3 R's Retribution, Revenge, and Retaliation, which takes them to Re-Election." With African-Americans having a one in three chance of going to prison, and Latinos a one in six chance, as opposed to a one in seventeen chance for Whites born in 2001, maybe the professor should have mentioned racism. While Colorado's prison population has grown by 604 percent since 1980. Nationwide 587 percent of that increase has been since 1990 alone and everywhere this increase has come at the expense of schools, housing and healthcare.

State governments have found limitless resources to imprison a whole generation of young minority men, and a growing number of low income whites, for such reasons as Gonzales' 15 hours of stolen freedom. Yet they have no resources to help such men get out and stay out. With the children of prisoners saddled with the grim prospect of being five times as likely to go to prison as other children, the states can either keep building prisons, or they can build a better society.

Convict writer Tom Gomez is serving 4 years in prison for commercial burglary. More of his articles are available on colorado.indymedia.org

THE 4 R'S OF POLITICS, PRISON AND POVERTY

~BY TOM GOMEZ~

At only 23, Gilbert 'Cash' Gonzales has already spent more than ten years of his life in the juvenile and adult prison system. Now Gonzales is facing new charges for escape in Adams County. Those charges, stemming from Gonzales' decision to walk away from a halfway house, may result in a sentence of as much as eight additional years, should Adams County prosecute him as a habitual offender. Despite the fact that Gonzales was gone only 15 hours from the halfway house, Colorado law allows him to be charged with felony escape after as little as two hours. In addition, the DA has up to three years to bring the charge. Gonzales learned about Adams County's decision to prosecute him ten days before his scheduled release from prison, and won't know if the DA will press a habitual criminal charge against him until he is arraigned and has a chance to meet with his public defender.

Sadly, Gonzales' situation is not unique. According to figures supplied to the Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition by Department of Corrections in its monthly population and capacity report, 285 of the 2,030 prisoners housed in Colorado's community correctional facilities were returned to custody as of January 31, 2010. Many, like Gonzales, will face new felony charges for little more than, essentially, technical violations of their placement conditions. By contrast, of 779 prisoners on I.S.P. (Intensive Supervised Parole) only six were returned to custody during the same period. The decade Gonzales has already spent in custody has now cost the state over \$300,000, and there is no end in sight. If Gonzales were to spend the next eight years behind the walls of Colorado's State prisons, plus an additional three years of mandatory parole, the cost of his incarceration will have run to over \$500,000. By then he will be 35 years old and his chances of being able to live outside the walls of a prison may be slim to none.

Gonzales himself is optimistic. He's certain that his adult criminal record, consisting of only the one conviction for selling drugs, is not serious enough to allow him to be prosecuted as a habitual offender. Based on conversations he has had with other prisoners, he is confident Colorado's state district attorneys are no longer prosecuting prisoners as habitual offenders for 'escapes' such as his, and believes the short amount of time he was gone from the facility will result in his charge being reduced to a misdemeanor. In fact, the application of

sentencing enhancements like the habitual criminal statute, and prosecution of juveniles as young as 14 years old as adults, seems fairly arbitrary with prisoners prosecuted in different jurisdiction—or even within the same jurisdiction in some cases—receiving wildly divergent sentences for the same offenses despite similar records.

Between 1995 and 2005, the number of juveniles incarcerated in the US doubled, despite the lowest rate of juvenile crime in over 50 years. During the first half of the 90s, state legislators passed a host of anti-crime legislation allowing children as young as ten years old to be tried as adults, with 20 states setting no minimum age at all. Today in Colorado, teens convicted of felony charges between the ages of 14 and 19 account for over 200 prisoners in the state's adult prison system. Many, like Gonzales, were first incarcerated as juveniles. As prison writer, Jon Mac Taylor notes in his 2001 essay, "Where Have All the Superpredators Gone" (published in *Writing As Resistance: The Journal of Prisoners on Prisons Anthology 1988-2002*), youth incarcerated in the adult prison system are five times more likely to be raped, twice as likely to be beaten by staff and eight times as likely to commit suicide. Many will join gangs. More than half are Black, Latino, or Native Americans, and almost all come from low-income families and neighborhoods. Regardless of race or ethnicity, such youth are 30 percent more likely to return to prison and commit new crimes according to Taylor's article, citing figures provided by the Children's Defense Fund.

During the 1990s, corporate media fueled a climate of hysteria over juvenile crime, driven by events like the death of over 100 young men in gang-related violence in Denver during the summer of 1993. The media ignored social conditions, like the lack of economic opportunity in low income neighborhoods, the easy availability of guns, and declining public spending for income support to needy families, job training, and affordable housing. Instead, backed by a host of overwhelmingly white experts on crime among predominantly Black and Latino youth, like Northeastern University professor Aman Fox—who labeled such youth 'the young and ruthless'—and Professor John J. Dilulio, warned of an explosion of 'superpredators,' corporate media promoted a gospel of 'personal responsibility.' Ignoring the obvious fact that crime, especially

ACTIVIST CALENDAR

EVERY TUESDAY • 1:30PM

Housing First! No More Deaths! meets to devise creative grassroots solutions to homelessness, and prevent homeless related deaths.
Whitman Park, Grand Junction

Wednesday, April 7th • 5PM

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

EVERY SUNDAY • 12pm

Get Involved with The Red Pill
For more info: 245-3720

EVERY TUESDAY & SATURDAY • 5:00PM
Solidarity Not Charity meets at Whitman Park to serve free food for free people.
For more info: 245-3720

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"THE 4 R'S" ON PAGE SIX

NOGALES: A TOWN DIVIDED

—PHOTO ESSAY—

