

URPE Newsletter

Union for Radical Political Economics

URPE at ASSA Philadelphia January 7-9, 2005

URPE is sponsoring 18 panels at the Allied Social Sciences Association (ASSA) meetings in Philadelphia in January 2005. The URPE program is an exciting one, and we look forward to the participation of many people including both URPE members attending the conference and non-URPE members interested in the perspectives provided by radical political economists.

The conference begins with a "Reality Tour" of Philadelphia. The tour is organized by the Review of Radical Political Economics and will be led by the Kensington Welfare Rights Union (www.kwru.org), a multi-racial organization of, by, and for poor and homeless people in the state of Pennsylvania. This will be followed at 4:00 p.m. by a panel (back at the Loews Philadelphia Hotel) entitled *Welfare to What? Dilemmas and Visions of Providing Economic Security*.

On Saturday morning there is an 8:00 a.m. panel entitled *Black Political Economy in the Twenty First Century: Exploring the Interface of Economics*

and *Black Studies*. This is followed by *Black Political Economy: Round Table Discussion*. Saturday will also feature a 10:15 a.m. panel discussion entitled *In Commemoration of Paul Sweezy*, which will feature evaluations by contemporary political economists of the contributions made to radical political economics by the late Paul Sweezy.

On Saturday afternoon, at 2:30 p.m., URPE is co-sponsoring with the American Economic Association (AEA) a panel on *The Political Economy of Military Spending*. James Galbraith, Ann Markusen, David Gold and Lloyd Dumas are the featured speakers.

But this is only a small sample of the excellent work that will be presented in all of the URPE sessions. For the full program see pages 3 - 8 of this Newsletter.

Everyone is invited to attend the URPE Cocktail party on Friday evening: 6:00 - 7:30 in the Lowes Philadelphia Hotel, Commonwealth D.

Thanks to Robin Hahnel and Kristen Sheeran for their work in organizing the program.

URPE members can see the entire ASSA schedule online and get registration and hotel information at: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/AEA/>

[Please note that the scheduling of URPE sessions was made by the ASSA and not by URPE. While two or more URPE sessions must, of course, be scheduled for each time period, URPE is not responsible for the decisions as to which particular sessions will be scheduled for the same time periods.]

SUMMER CONFERENCE

URPE SUMMER CONFERENCE AUGUST 20-23, 2005

Next year the URPE Summer Conference will take place at its usual time period and its usual place: Camp Chinqueka in Bantam, Connecticut. Please mark your calendars now.

The conference theme is: **ALTERNATIVES!**

(For more information, see Steering Committee report on page 10.)

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2004–2005 STEERING COMMITTEE**Elected members**

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Newsletter Editor

Paddy Quick, paddyquick@aol.com

Economy Connection Coordinator

Ruthie Indeck; 201-792-7459; soapbox@comcast.net

Printing: Prompt Printing Press**URPE**

The Union for Radical Political Economics (URPE) is a membership organization of academics and activists who share an interest in a radical analysis of political and economic topics. Founded in 1968, URPE's members use this analysis to advance various progressive political and social agendas. URPE publishes the *Review of Radical Political Economics*, runs a set of presentations at the academic professional meetings of the Allied Social Science Associations, sponsors a resource/speakers bureau called *Economy Connection*, and holds a Summer Conference on political and economic topics at a family-friendly summer camp in Connecticut. Its members are active in a wide array of professional and activist projects.

The URPE Newsletter

The **URPE Newsletter** is published quarterly by the Union for Radical Political Economics. The Newsletter is a place for URPE members to publish shorter articles and speeches as well as make announcements of upcoming events that might be of interest to fellow members. Articles and announcements can be sent to the Newsletter Editor in the body of an e-mail message, or as an attached file; send to paddyquick@aol.com, or by regular mail to: *Paddy Quick, Economics Department, St. Francis College, 180 Remsen Street, Brooklyn NY 11201.*

Permission to reprint material from the Newsletter is granted for non-commercial uses, provided that the Newsletter is credited as the source, and that two copies of the publication are sent to the URPE National Office. For permission to reprint for commercial purposes, contact the National Office.

The URPE Newsletter is a good place to publish advertisements for new books! Rates are \$300 per full page (7.5W x 9.3H); \$160 for a half page, and \$85 for a quarter page. Exchange ads are also considered. Please write or call the National Office for more information on this.

Deadlines for submission to Newsletter are January 7 for Winter issue; April 7 for Spring issue; July 1 for Summer issue, and October 7 for fall issue.

Reminder

URPE members should check the membership expiration date on the upper right hand corner of the address label. If your membership has expired or is about to expire, this will be the last newsletter you will receive. Please renew your membership now. (See page 15 for membership form, or contact the URPE National Office.)

URPE at ASSA

January 7-9, 2005

Philadelphia

Thursday January 6

PHILADELPHIA "REALITY TOUR"

The *Review of Radical Political Economics* (RRPE) is sponsoring a "reality tour" of the Kensington area of Philadelphia on January 6, the day before the ASSA meetings. The tour will be led by the Kensington Welfare Rights Union (www.kwru.org), "a multi-racial organization of, by and for poor and homeless people," started in 1991 by a remarkable group of women based in Kensington, the poorest district in the state of Pennsylvania. Their story is well worth learning about.

Small vans will leave the URPE convention hotel at 1 p.m. and return at 4 p.m. Following the tour there will be a roundtable/discussion from 4:00 - 5:30p.m., coordinated by Randy Albelda (UMass/Boston), Heather Boushey (Center for Economic & Policy Research/DC), Nancy Rose (California State University/San Bernardino), and Dawn Saunders (University of Vermont). Hazel Dayton Gunn is investigating dinner at a restaurant within walking distance of the Loews; participants in the tour will receive information on the restaurant in December.

The cost of the tour is \$30.00 per person, which covers the cost of the vans and a contribution to KWRU. Please send your checks (made out to RRPE) to Hazel Dayton Gunn, City & Regional Planning, 106 W. Sibley Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853. Please include your email address. Further details will be sent to tour participants.

4:00 p.m.

Welfare to What? Dilemmas and Visions of Providing Economic Security to Low Income Families

Room: Loews Washington B

Presiding: Randy Albelda, University of Massachusetts Boston

Randy Albelda, University of Massachusetts Boston
 Dawn Saunders, University of Vermont
 Heather Boushey, Center for Economic and Policy Research
 Nancy Rose, California State University in San Bernadino

Friday January 7

8 a.m.

(1) Neo-Liberalism, Power, and Inequality

Room: Loews/Tubman

Presiding: Tim Koechlin, Vassar College

Maria Floro, American University and John Messier, American University. *Credit, Poverty and neo-Liberalism: The Case of Urban Poor Households in Ecuador*

Robert Prasch, Middlebury College. *NeoLiberalism and Empire: The British and American Cases*

Mehrene Larudee, DePaul University. *The Feedback Loop of Power and Wealth: What are the Dynamics?*

Tim Koechlin, Vassar College. *Born to Run: An Empirical Assessment of US Direct Foreign Investment, Outsourcing and the Changing Geography of Production and Employment*

Discussants: Mark Weisbrot, Center for Economic and Policy Research
 Lynda Vargha, Skidmore College

(2) Progressive Law and Economics Scholarship

Room: Loews/Anthony

Presiding: Philip Harvey, Rutgers School of LawCarmen G. Gonzalez, Seattle University School of Law. *Trade Liberalization, Environment and Food Security: The Neo-Liberal Threat to Sustainable Rural Development*Jay Feinman, Rutgers School of Law - Camden. *Conservatives, The Market, and the Common Law*Philip Harvey, Rutgers School of Law- Camden. *The Right to Work and Basic Income Guarantees**Discussants:* Carmen G. Gonzalez, Seattle University School of Law
Jan Feinman, Rutgers School of Law
Philip Harvey, Rutgers School of Law

10:15 a.m.**(1) Pension Fund Capitalism and the Private Provision of Old Age Security in the United States**

Room: Loews/Anthony

Presiding: Christopher E. Rude, Center for Economic Policy Analysis, New School UniversityThomas R. Michl, Colgate University. *Capitalists, Workers, and Social Security*David M. Brennan, Franklin and Marshall College. *"Fiduciary Capitalism," the "Political Model of Corporate Governance," and the Prospect of Stakeholder Capitalism in the US*Christian E. Weller, Center for American Progress. *Institutional Shareholder Concentration, Corporate Governance Changes, and the Upside-Down Economy*Randall Dodd, Financial Policy Forum. *Pension Fund Capitalism: The Need for Derivatives and Hedge Fund Regulation**Discussants:* Dean Baker, Center for Economic Policy Research
Heather Boushey, Center for Economic Policy Research
Jane D'Arista, New School University**(2) Social Structure of Accumulation Theory Today**

Room: Loews/Tubman

Presiding: Terrence McDonough, National University of IrelandEmlyn F. Nardone and Terrence McDonough, National University of Ireland. *Towards a Global Political Economy of European Integration: An Alternative Approach*Michael Reich, University of California at Berkeley. *The New SSA from the 1980s to the Present*Terrence McDonough, National University of Ireland. *Social Structure of Accumulation Theory since 1994*Michael Perelman, California State University at Chico. *Fouling the Nest: The Political Economy of the Right-Wing Revolution**Discussants:* Terrence McDonough, National University of Ireland
Emlyn F. Nardone, National University of Ireland
Michael Reich, University of California at Berkeley
Michael Perelman, California State University at Chico

2:30 p.m.

(1) Empirical Studies in International Economic Policy

Room: Loews/Anthony

Presiding: Tom Hertz, American UniversityJames R. Crotty, University of Massachusetts Amherst, and Kang-Kook Lee, Ritsumeikan University. *Was the IMF's Imposition of Economic Regime Change in Korea Justified?*Robert A. Blecker, American University. *The Economic Consequences of the Overvalued Dollar for U.S. Manufacturing Profits and Investment*Tom Hertz, American University. *Have Minimum Wages Benefited South Africa's Farm and Domestic Workers?*Arslan Razmi, University of Massachusetts Amherst, and Robert Blecker, American University. *The Limits to Export-Led Growth: An Empirical Investigation**Discussants:* Arslan Razmi, University of Massachusetts
James R. Crotty, University of Massachusetts
Robert A. Blecker, American University
Tom Hertz, American University**(2) Financial and Real Reflections of Neoliberal Policies: A Case Study of Turkey**

Room: Loews/Tubman

Presiding: Al Campbell, University of UtahFerda Donmez, University of Utah. *Turkish Financial Crisis Under Liberalization*Benan Eres, University of Utah. *An Institutional Critique of Financial Repression Thesis: Case of Turkey 1970s*Emel Memis, University of Utah. *A Note on the Evolution of Real Wages in Turkish Manufacturing Industry During the 'New Populist Period'**Discussants:* Al Campbell, University of Uta**Friday Evening URPE Cocktail Party****6:00 - 7:30 (Lowes Commonwealth D)****See you all there! All welcome - members and non-members alike.)****Saturday January 8**
8 a.m.**(1) Black Political Economy in the Twenty First Century: Exploring the Interface of Economics and Black Studies**

Room: Loews/Washington C

Presiding: William A. Darity, Jr., University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and Duke UniversityLinwood Tauheed, University of Missouri, Kansas City. *Addressing the Challenge of Harold Cruse: Black Political Economy in the Twenty First Century*Susan Williams McElroy, University of Texas at Dallas. *On the Curious Absence of Economics from African American Studies: Implications for Public Policy*Mwangi wa Githinji, Gettysburg College, and Patrick L. Mason, Florida State University. *Excavating Economics in Black Studies**Discussants:* Molefi K. Asante, Temple University
Julianne Malveaux, Last Word Productions, Inc.
James B. Stewart, Pennsylvania State University

(2) Institutions for Successful Economic Development in a More Open Global Economy

Room: Loews/Anthony

Presiding: Beth A. Almeida, IAMAWJosh Bivens, Adam Hersh, Economic Policy Institute, and Christian E. Weller, Center for American Progress. *The Economics of Worker Rights*John Schmitt, Center for Economic Policy and Research. *Is It Time to Export the US Tax Model to Latin America?*Ramya Vijaya and Laura Jean Bhadra, Wagner College. *Capital versus Labor's Share Under a Scenario of Increasing Market Freedom: A Bargaining Model Approach*Leonce Ndikumana, University of Massachusetts. *Domestic Credit and Private Investment: Effects of Monetary Policy and Implications for African Countries**Discussants:* Christian Weller, Center for American Progress
Ramya Mahadevan-Vijaya, Wagner College**10:15 a.m.****(1) Black Political Economy: Round Table Discussion**

Room: Loews/Washington C

Presiding: Jessica Gordon Nembhard, University of Maryland, College Park

Molefi Kete Asante, Temple University

William A. Darity, Jr., University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Julianne Malveaux, Last Word Productions

Susan Mc Elroy, University of Texas, Dallas

James Stewart, Pennsylvania State University

Linwood Tauheed, University of Missouri, Kansas City

(2) In Commemoration of Paul Sweezy: A Roundtable Discussion

Room: Loews/Anthony

Presiding: Robin Hahnel, American University

Diane Flaherty, University of Massachusetts Amherst

John Willoughby, American University

Martin Wolfson, University of Notre Dame

Doug Henwood, Left Business Observer

Paddy Quick, St. Francis College, Brooklyn

Michael Perelman, California State University at Chico

2:30 p.m.**(1) The Political Economy of Military Spending**

Room: Loews Washington C

Co-sponsored by *the Union for Radical Political Economics* and the *American Economics Association**Presiding:* Gerald Epstein, University of Massachusetts AmherstJames K. Galbraith, University of Texas at Austin *Costs of War*Ann Markusen, University of Minnesota. *The Economic and Security Consequences of Privatizing National Security*David Gold, New School University. *Does Military Spending Stimulate or Retard Economic Performance? Revisiting an Old Debate with New Data*Lloyd J. Dumas, University of Texas at Dallas. *Bang for the Buck: The Real Effects of Military Spending on Security**Discussants:* James K. Galbraith, University of Texas at Austin
Ann Markusen, University of Minnesota
David Gold, New School University
Lloyd J. Dumas, University of Texas at Dallas

(2) Topics in Heterodox Theory

Room: Loews/Anthony

Presiding: Gilbert L. Skillman, Wesleyan UniversityJames G. Devine, Loyola Marymount University. *Trickle Down vs. Marx's "Absolute General Law"*Frederic S. Lee, University of Missouri, Kansas City. *Challenging Mas-Colell and Varian: Teaching Heterodox Microeconomics*John F. McDermott, State University of New York. *The Antinomy Within Traditional Value Theory: Is It Reasonable?*Gilbert L. Skillman, Wesleyan University. *The Triumph of Value Theory over History in Marx's Evolving Critique of Capitalism*

Discussants: James G. Devine, Loyola Marymount University
 Frederic S. Lee, University of Missouri, Kansas City
 John F. McDermott, State University of New York
 Gilbert L. Skillman, Wesleyan University

Sunday January 9 8.a.m.

(1) Challenges to Mainstream Trade Theory

Room: Loews/Adams

Presiding: Ron Baiman, University of Illinois at ChicagoDouglas Koritz, Buffalo State College, and Cynthia Thompson, Cardozo School of Law. *The da Silva Code: Brazil and Hegemony in the Doha Development Round of the WTO*Reza Fazeli, California State University, Fullerton. *Is Comparative Advantage Passe? A Reformulation of the Ricardian Model*Ellen E. Houston, New School University. *Does Gender Inequality Impact on Trade Performance Among OECD Countries?*Ron Baiman, University of Illinois at Chicago. *The Limits of Free Trade in Neoclassical Theory: Meade's Geometric Demonstration is not Applicable to Countries with Highly Unequal Production Factor Costs*

Discussants: Douglas Koritz, Buffalo State College, and Cynthia Thompson, Cardozo School of Law
 Reza Fazeli, California State University, Fullerton
 Ellen E. Houston, New School University
 Ron Baiman, University of Illinois at Chicago

(2) The Cuban Economy Today

Room: Loews/Anthony

Presiding: Al Campbell, University of UtahElena Alvarez, Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Económicas, Havana. *Recent Developments in Cuban Development*Al Campbell, University of Utah. *Planning in Cuba Today*Rémy Herrera, University of Paris 1, Panthéon-Sorbonne. *The Cuban Process of Recuperation and Dollarization*Frank Thompson, University of Michigan. *Reconsidering Cuban Economic Development*

Discussants: Elena Alvarez, Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Económicas, Havana
 Al Campbell, University of Utah
 Rémy Herrera, University of Paris 1, Panthéon-Sorbonne
 Frank Thompson, University of Michigan

10:15 a.m.**(1) Marx's Theory of Money: Modern Appraisals**

Room: Loews/Anthony

Presiding: Fred Moseley, Mount Holyoke College

Duncan Foley, New School University. *Marx's Theory of Money in Historical Perspective*Martha Campbell, SUNY, Potsdam. *Marx's Theory of the Functions of Money*Geert Reuten, University of Amsterdam. *Methodological Comments on Marx's Theory and on Marxian Interpretations*Fred Moseley, Mount Holyoke College. *Money and the Transformation Problem*

Discussants: Martha Campbell, SUNY-Potsdam
 Geert Reuten, University of Amsterdam
 Fred Moseley, Mount Holyoke College
 Duncan Foley, New School University

(2) Topics in Alternative Macroeconomics

Room : Loews/Adams

Presiding: Nina Shapiro, Saint Peter's College

Rafat Fazeli, University of Redlands. *An Alternative Approach to NAIRU and the Labor Market Equilibrium*Gokcer Ozgur, University of Utah-Boom. *Bubble-Burst Cycles and Changing Nature of (Financial) Hoarding in U.S. Economy*Nina Shapiro, Saint Peter's College. *Competition and Aggregate Demand*Juan V. Fernandez, American University. *Distribution, Demand and Growth in the U.S. Economy: an Empirical Investigation*

Discussants: Juan V. Fernandez, American University
 Rafat Fazeli, University of Redlands
 Gokcer Ozgur, University of Utah
 Nina Shapiro, Saint Peter's College

(3) Topics in Applied Political Economy

Room: Loews/Adams

Presiding: Michele I. Naples, The College of New Jersey

Shaienne Osterreich, Ithaca College. *Women and Global Commodity Chains*Hamid Azari-Rad, State University of New York, New Paltz and Peter Philips, University of Utah. *Prevailing Wage Laws and the Long-run African-American Employment Trends in the Construction Industry*Richard Vogel, State University of New York at Farmingdale. *The Corporation at State College: Incubators and the Conversion of Public Land to Private Uses*Michele I. Naples, The College of New Jersey. *The Economics of Childhood Abuse*

Discussants: Shaienne Osterreich, Ithaca College
 Richard Vogel, State University of New York at Farmingdale
 Hamid Azari-Rad, State University of New York, New Paltz
 Michele Naples, The College of New Jersey

END OF CONFERENCE

URPE News and Announcements

URPE STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

Report on September Steering Committee Meeting (September 18-19, 2004)

Present: Laurie Nisonoff, Alfredo Saad-Filho, Graham Cassano, Al Campbell, Paddy Quick, Doug Koritz, Patty Parmalee, Ellen Frank, Cyrus Bina, Germai Medhanie (National Office Director), and guest appearances by Gary Mongiovi (RRPE liaison) and Ruthie Indeck (Economy Connection)

Officers selected (in accordance with the IRS requirements for 501c3 organizations):
Paddy - President, Laurie - Clerk, Ellen - Treasurer, Germai - Director.

Readers will probably be most interested to know the theme of the Summer Retreat/Workshop/Conference: We chose "Alternatives!" (we actually took a vote on the exclamation point!). Al Campbell will again be overall organizer.

The three plenaries envisioned are:

1. Policy Alternatives (Ellen, coordinator)
2. Restructuring Social Relations (Paddy)
3. Alternatives to Capitalism (Graham)

Please contact those people with suggestions for speakers, and Al with workshop proposals. (For email addresses and other contact information see page 2 of this Newsletter)

The theme is tentative, since developments in the elections or the war may compel adjustment.

Once again we will meet at Camp Chinqueka in Connecticut from August 20-23. The camp has raised its rates slightly and this will require a small adjustment in our price structure. We fervently hope more kids will be able to attend than last year and solicit ideas for kids' activities.

In other business of interest:

- We established procedures for evaluating employees' performance, and approved a job description for the national office director. The National Office Review Committee will be Laurie, Doug, and Graham, working with Ellen as treasurer.
- Al and David Barkin have worked on finding campus representatives (with small stipend) at universities with heterodox programs; there are contacts at 7. Contact Al if interested.
- A book series with Pluto Press is envisioned; the editorial board and theme are in formation (contact Alfredo).
- Determined people wishing to present at the ASSA must be URPE members, to be checked by Robin Hahnel and Germai.
- Decided to solicit comments for the website and/or newsletter on what would be the best procedure for steering committee elections. Also to recommend that ed board elections (which are held by mail) use a double envelope system.
- Members who need expenses reimbursed must submit the request and receipts within 45 days.
- RRPE digitization: Sage Publishers will do the last 5 years; we are still investigating costs and practicality of the rest

We heard reports on the work of:

- Economy Connection (Ruthie) - continuing outreach, looking for an assistant
- RRPE (Gary)
- Newsletter (Paddy)
- New Haven Center for Economic Interpretation (Graham) - to which we had donated some seed money, but turned down a request for further funding.

All were praised and thanked for their hard work.

The next SC meeting will be in the Spring in New York.

Fair Labor Standards and URPE contracts

At the 2004 Summer Conference Business Meeting, an URPE member requested information on a possible URPE contract with a firm in India in connection with the planned digitization of the RRPE. The questioner asked about labor relations and labor standards in this firm. David Barkin (RRPE Book Editor) is the contact person with the firm. He investigated and reported to the Steering Committee as follows:

I posed the question to our Indian contact and the response was immediate:

1. *We have three Directors, looking after different divisions of the company.*
2. *We follow a 5-day week. Our working hours are from 9:00am to 5:30pm, with a 30 minute lunch break from 1:00pm to 1:30pm.*
3. *We have fully air-conditioned facilities. In terms of salary, all staff members are paid much above the national average. Bonus is paid to the staff on a yearly basis.*

We hope the above information is useful. Let us know if any further information is required.

Dhiraj Aggarwal
CEO

REPORT FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR OF *THE REVIEW OF RADICAL POLITICAL ECONOMICS*

2004 Editorial Board Election Results

I am pleased to announce the results of this year's *RRPE* editorial board elections. Eighty-eight members voted and one abstained. Those re-elected were Ron Baiman, Christopher Gunn, Ann Jennings, Terry McDonough, Howard Sherman, Gil Skillman, and Tamar Diana Wilson. Newly elected were Al Campbell, Victor Lippit, and Chris Rude. Our sincere thanks to retiring members Cyrus Bina, Peter Hans Matthews, and Marty Wolfson. Editorial board members volunteer their time and expertise to keep the journal, and hence URPE, going strong.

Since the elections, Paulette Olson resigned her position on the board for personal reasons. After consultation with the editorial board, we agreed to invite the candidate with the next highest number of votes to join the board: Kanishka Goonewardena of the University of Toronto. Kanishka has accepted, and we are delighted with this result.

SAGE AND DIGITIZATION

Sage Publications, the publisher of the *RRPE*, is digitizing back issues of the journal through 1982 at no cost to us. In order to provide Sage with the necessary journals, Ruthie Indeck, Frank Thompson, and I sent copies to be processed to California. I want to especially thank Frank Thompson for donating his personal issues to the cause. Sage will give both Frank and Ruthie a digitized version for their shelves.

Hazel Dayton Gunn,
Managing Editor

New Publication *Microeconomics in Context*

Microeconomics in Context by Neva Goodwin, Julie A. Nelson, Frank Ackerman and Thomas Weisskopf is an innovative principles-level textbook that has just been published by Houghton Mifflin. The book takes a broader "contextual" approach to economics including serious consideration of ecological, feminist, and social concerns related to human well-being, while still including coverage of neoclassical models (as demanded in many department curriculum plans). Order an examination copy from the Houghton Mifflin website (<http://college.hmco.com/>, search under "Goodwin"), get more information at <http://www.gdae.org/> or contact the authors at GDAE@tufts.edu.

UPDATE ON ECONOMY CONNECTION (URPE'S RESOURCE/SPEAKERS BUREAU)

by Ruthie Indeck, Coordinator (201-792-7459 or soapbox@comcast.net)

"So much of the talk about rich and poor is really better understood as a discussion of the relationship between workers and the working class on the one hand, and capitalists on the other," Mike Zweig told the WBAI radio audience listening to a special two-part Labor Day broadcast produced by Mimi Rosenberg of "Building Bridges." Mike, Thomas Frank (author of *What's the Matter With Kansas?*) and Dorothy Sue Cobble (*The Other Women's Movement*) discussed the upcoming election in the context of the question *What's Class Got To Do With It?* (the title of a book Mike recently edited). Mike noted that the recent decline in union strength and the growth in economic inequality have been a boon to the wealthy. "People are producing more but earning less," Mike said, suggesting that this issue become a central point in the election. The speakers discussed various aspects of working class values and politics (including strong community-oriented values), and many instances in which workers have resisted ruling class attempts to deflect their anger onto scapegoats. They also discussed the many variables in the working class experience, including a person's race, gender, income level, geographic location, and type of job. Mike said that the sooner we understand that we are involved in class warfare, the sooner we can mobilize against it: "Certainly the people who run this country understand very well that they're involved in class warfare."

During another segment of the same Labor Day program, Mimi Abramovitz gave a clear and powerful analysis of the fate of welfare in recent years. She talked about how changes in welfare have followed the general neoliberal pattern, how these changes have affected the labor market, and how people of color, especially women of color, have suffered disproportionately. Mimi explained that under neoliberalism, welfare reform has involved limiting the role of the federal government by shrinking the welfare state. Welfare was stripped of its entitlement status, and responsibility devolved from the federal government to the states and to private companies. This set the stage for later attempts to weaken other entitlement programs like Social Security and Medicare which serve the middle class as well as the poor. Welfare reform has pushed a large number of women off the welfare rolls and into the low-paid labor force, making it easier for employers to hold wages down and harder for unions to negotiate good contracts. And for the first time the absolute number (not only the percentage) of women of color is exceeding the number of white women on welfare. Due to ongoing labor market discrimination, white women are having an easier time exiting welfare than women of color. And studies have shown that the harshest sanctions have been

enacted by states with the most people of color – families have lost benefits for minor violations of rules, such as missing an appointment with a case manager. Mirroring the agenda of the new right, welfare reform also promotes marriage as the foundation of society by stigmatizing single motherhood in numerous ways.

David Levy, professor at UMass-Boston, spoke to 70-80 Green Mountain College students on October 4 about "Multinationals in Global Governance: The Case of the Oil Industry and Climate Change." The talk was organized by URPE member Paul Hancock, one of four instructors of "A Delicate Balance," Green Mountain College's senior research seminar on the environment. Paul reported that through the talk and the preparatory reading, David provided "a deep analysis of the structure of alliances that corporations, NGOs, governments and international governing bodies form in response to the changing dynamics of the global warming challenges." Students were able to see how complex the issues are, and they learned that the organizations involved are constantly adapting to changing political and economic conditions. They were challenged to think about whether today's serious environmental problems can be effectively addressed by political and economic organizations as they are currently structured. Paul said that the talk was very well received. David felt that the students were receptive to a progressive message partly because of the college's environmental mission.

Requests for resources and people to consult came from a NYC tenant attorney working on rent control issues and a senior citizen in NJ concerned about rent increases in government-subsidized housing; a progressive reporter looking for people to videotape about the Iraq war; a New England woman concerned about whether Iraq's decision to sell oil in euros was an important factor in the US invasion; and a math teacher in a progressive high school in Brooklyn looking for teaching materials and ideas. This teacher shared many of his own ideas and projects, as well as some interesting links.

Reminder: In the Summer *Newsletter* we reported that the AFL-CIO is looking for URPE members to help organize teach-ins on their campuses around the theme "Workers' Rights are Human Rights." A teach-in generally includes a faculty speaker, a union organizer, a worker and a student. If you want to organize a teach-in on your campus, the AFL-CIO can provide a packet with sample flyers and detailed suggestions for content, discussion questions, publicity, resources, etc. If you are interested, please contact Sarah McKenzie at smckenzi@aflcio.org, and cc to soapbox@comcast.net.

URPE AT BRECHT FORUM, FALL 2004

presented by New York Union for Radical Political Economics and the Brecht Forum
Brecht Forum, 122 West 27th St., 10th floor (between 6th and 7th) , New York NY. 212-242-4201

OUTSOURCING REVISITED: TWO VIEWS ON A DIRECTION FOR THE US LABOR MOVEMENT

7:30 p.m.
Wednesday November 17

Last Spring URPE presented a panel called "The Changing Structure of Capitalism: Job Losses and Class Struggles" in which the panelists discussed the restructuring of jobs that has taken place in recent years: destroying unions and lowering wages, moving industrial jobs to low-wage regions of the US and the world, promoting prison and workfare labor, exploiting immigrants, and most recently, sending high-paying programming jobs to countries that pay lower salaries.

This fall we would like to follow up that discussion with an exploration of job preservation strategies that are in use or under consideration today. These strategies vary greatly, and include campaigns to "Buy American," tariffs on imports, taxes on companies that moves jobs abroad, laws that require government agencies to hire and purchase domestically, as well as strong support for international labor movements and better global working conditions. Our panelists will talk about which strategies are likely to be effective, and which are good for workers in other countries as well as workers in the US. They will explain the political/economic basis for their recommendations.

SPEAKERS:

Mark Levinson is Chief Economist and Director of Policy at UNITE HERE. He has testified before Congress on issues related to outsourcing.

Ali Mir teaches information systems at William Paterson University. His recent work has focused on immigration issues, international divisions of labor, and progressive Urdu poetry.

BOOK PARTY AND DISCUSSION:

OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY: THE CORPORATE MUGGING OF AMERICA by Nomi Prins

7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, December 1

Other People's Money: The Corporate Mugging of America (The New Press, 2004) is a devastating exposé into the much publicized corporate malfeasance of recent years. Prins examines the first years of the Bush administration during which some of America's most prominent corporate executives cashed out billions of dollars in stock options before driving their companies to ruin through fraud and bankruptcy. In their wake they left a tangle of lost jobs, depleted pensions, and shattered lives. With an insider's eye, Prins uncovers the old-boy networks and hot-money flows between Wall Street, Corporate America, and Capitol Hill, and exposes the whitewash reforms brought in to control them.

SPEAKER:

Nomi Prins has held posts as managing director at Goldman Sachs, senior managing director at Bear Stearns, as well as senior positions at Lehman Brothers and the Chase Manhattan Bank. She has written for *Newsday*, *Fortune*, *The Guardian*, *Left Business Observer*, and *La Vanguardia*. She is a senior fellow with the public policy center Demos.

Refreshments will be served.

In Memory of Paul M. Sweezy (1910-2004)

When I heard the news from two dear friends in the span of few minutes I had already been traveling between grief and reminiscences. I suppose this is all one can do in the face of a timely loss that is so immensely untimely. Hence I had no choice other than to accept the bitter news of the passing of a tender flesh much like my own and yet otherwise marked by time and history to be remembered as the embodiment of a kindred and bold intellectual tradition in the struggles of long and bloody Twentieth Century.

Paul Sweezy (1910-2004) was the first who taught me the ABC's of Marxian political economy, quite some time before Marx and Das Capital were adequately known to me. And-along the Marxist intellectuals of my generation-I am grateful to him, although I have since taken a second and more careful look at these ABC's and their manifold interpretations in my own work. But tonight is not the time to be analytical without feeling petty and trivial. Ahhhh ... words cannot describe how I feel at this moment as I vividly remember Paul's bright eyes and his stunning smile, which are still etched in my memory on a breezy and bright night in April of 1993 (?), when a handful of dedicated, worldly, and gracefully concerned Harvard graduate students invited him back for a dinner conversation during the somewhat self-congratulatory, if not entirely reactionary, atmosphere in Cambridge and the Soviet fall. The dinner talk was scheduled at Littauer where the Economics Faculty is located. And Paul had to be moved carefully on wheelchair from the Harvard Faculty Club, where he and Mrs. Zirel Sweezy stayed, westward through Harvard Yard and then northward toward Littauer. The distance was not much by any standard but the task was arduous due to Paul's painful condition and the uneven pathways and sidewalks that had to be traversed on the wheelchair. I was walking along and, as I remember, this whole task was split between Sanjay Reddy (a graduate student and member of inviting committee, now Dr. Sanjay Reddy at Barnard College of Columbia) and, of course, Mrs. Sweezy.

At the dinner, I realized that I was the only faculty member (visiting or otherwise) present. There were many conversations about international conditions in general and the post-Soviet world in particular around the table where some two dozen students were eagerly listening and raising questions. There were also several graduate students from Eastern Europe at the dinner. Paul touched upon several different issues and responded to many questions that were raised, particularly by the international audience. I cannot remember the specifics anymore. Yet, an issue that still sticks in my mind was the question of his departure from Harvard forty plus years before. Paul told us that his departure from Harvard (after three years of official teaching before the conclusion of his five-year contract) was his own choice. Paul spoke of Joseph A. Schumpeter (1883-1950) kindly and revealed that, upon his return from the War, he asked Schumpeter to conduct a straw poll on his behalf in order to find out where the Department stood about his tenure and if he were to stay at Harvard. Paul remarked: Schumpeter came back with a fifty-fifty division. He remarked that Schumpeter had voted for and Hansen against him, while the rest of the department was also evenly divided. I was sitting across the table from him. He then lowered his voice and, without regret, pointed out: "that was when I decided to leave Harvard for good."

The last time I had a conversation with Paul was during the Allied Social Science Associations meetings in New York where he received and accepted the Veblen-Commons Award with the same bright eyes and the same stunning smile from the Association for Evolutionary Economics in January of 1999. He was still in a wheelchair.

I am sorry that I cannot overcome my emotions. No amount of reason would make me 'reasonable' tonight. Just let me eulogize him-before I go to bed, not knowing that I will get up tomorrow-in a verse or two:

'Earth, receive the honored guest;
[Paul Sweezy] is laid to rest;◇
'The Road Not Taken,'≈ summon the next;
Our Traveler has passed the test.

◇W. H. Auden in memory of W. B. Yeats.
≈Robert Frost's famed poem.

Cyrus Bina
Saturday Night, February 28, 2004
Minnesota, USA

Conferences

CALL FOR PAPERS

SOCIALIST SCHOLARS CONFERENCE, March 11-13 at Cooper Union, NYC

2005 LEFT FORUM, April 15-16, CUNY Grad Center, NYC

The Socialist Scholars Conference has now become two conferences: one will still be called the Socialist Scholars Conference, and the other will be called 2005 Left Forum.

In recent years URPE has been co-sponsoring one or more panels at the SSC with Dollars and Sense and sometimes other groups. Because of space limitations, the number of panels URPE can sponsor or cosponsor has been limited. That will still be the case, although this year we will be able to have 2 or 3 panels at each one. And individuals can sometimes be placed on panels sponsored by other groups.

In the past each panel has paid \$100 to the SSC to help cover conference costs. Usually this fee has been raised by dividing the cost of the panel among the panelists and chair (usually 3-5 people); once this panel fee is paid, however, all members of the panel have been entitled to attend the entire conference without paying individual registration fees. We await further information, but probably the situation will be similar this year as well.

People who attend the SSC are well-informed but most are not economists. Panels should be on topics of general interest. Please be prepared to make a major contribution toward organizing your panel, but be open to the possibility of accepting additional suggestions of panelists from URPE or SSC.

The factors involved in determining which panels will be sponsored by URPE include: how many panels apply; whether your panel is of general interest; whether a panel on the same topic has already been accepted by the SSC or 2005 Left Forum; whether URPE decides to co-sponsor panels with other organizations; how much effort you are able to contribute toward organizing your panel; whether it is possible to form a complete panel from your suggestion; and whether you have been in an URPE SSC panel recently. The organizers of the conferences work closely with panel organizers, and may have some voice in which panels are accepted. They also may be able to find you a place on another panel.

Please e-mail panel suggestions to soapbox@comcast.net by December 1. The URPE Steering Committee will make final decisions if we receive more panel suggestions than we can use, and will try to find a place in another conference for panels that are left out.

CALL FOR PAPERS

NEW WORKING-CLASS STUDIES; PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

The 10th Anniversary Conference of the Center for Working-Class Studies
at Youngstown State University,
May 18-21, 2005
Youngstown, Ohio

In 2005, the Center for Working-Class Studies will celebrate the 10th anniversary of its founding. In honor of that occasion, we are planning a conference that will reflect the diversity, creativity, and energy of New Working-Class Studies. The conference will feature plenary sessions reflecting on the development of the field, taking stock of where we stand today, and looking ahead to new possibilities and challenges. Our conferences always include arts exhibits, film screenings, poetry readings, and other events. The 2005 conference, co-sponsored by the Ford Foundation, will also include a business meeting of the Working-Class Studies Association.

We invite proposals from students, workers, faculty members, organizers, artists, and activists in all fields, from literature to geography, history to filmmaking, union organizing to neighborhood activism. Along with papers, we invite performances, film showings, roundtables, and presentations of all kinds. In addition, we invite proposals for three-hour interactive workshops and field trips, which will be scheduled for Saturday morning.

Presenters should describe the presentation they would like to give, including the suggested presentation format (panel, roundtable, reading, workshop, etc.) and length. Proposals should be no longer than one page and must be received by January 3, 2005. Address written correspondence to John Russo, Biennial Conference, Center for Working-Class Studies, Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio 44555. Fax or e-mail inquiries should be sent to Patty LaPresta, (330) 941-4622 and pmlapresta@ysu.edu.

The Center for Working-Class Studies's website is located at <http://www.as.yosu.edu/~cwcs/> and its discussion group at CWCS-L@lists.yosu.edu.

The International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE) and US Society for Ecological Economics (USSEE)

The International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE) & U.S. Society for Ecological Economics (USSEE) welcome new members at any time who share an interest in working toward a sustainable world. All prospective members are required to join the ISEE along with automatic membership in the regional, ISEE-affiliate society within the country that they reside in.

To join, please visit: <http://birenheide.com/isee/membership/> and check the United States box (or other country if you reside abroad) before you print it out. The mailing address is listed on the the form. The membership form is for the international society and the monthly journal, Ecological Economics (available for an additional \$50), so please read it carefully and contact us with any questions you may have.

Contact information:

Heide Scheiter-Rohland
Burk and Associates, Inc.
1313 Dolley Madison Blvd. Suite 402
McLean, Virginia 22101 USA
Phone: (703) 790-1745
Fax: (703) 790-2672
E-mail: iseemembership@burkinc.com

Combined membership dues vary between \$22.50 and \$100 per year, based on annual income (free for students for up to 3 years). Benefits of membership in the U.S. Society for Ecological Economics and the International Society for Ecological Economics include U.S. and international Newsletters; USSEE member list-serve to communicate with membership; Discounted Registration fee for the biennial U.S. & international conference, held in alternating years; Discounts on books in the ecological economics & sustainable development fields.

For more information on the USSEE & ISEE please visit:

<http://www.ussee.org>
<http://www.ecoeco.org>

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There are two types of membership in the Union for Radical Political Economics:

Full Membership with *RRPE* journal and Newsletter subscription

Limited Membership with Newsletter subscription only.

Both types of membership carry equal voting rights in URPE. (To participate in the URPE sessions at the Allied Social Science Association meetings, you must be a member of URPE.)

Circle option chosen, and make checks payable to URPE.

Full Membership (includes one-year subscription to the *Review of Radical Political Economics* and the quarterly URPE Newsletter. Please note that *RRPE* subscriptions are entered on a calendar year basis.)

Low-income/student	\$30
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106 W. Sibley Hall,
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Ithaca NY 14853

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Publications

Review of Radical Political Economics

URPE Newsletter

The New URPE Reader (pdf format)

URPE Conferences

URPE at the ASSA, January 2-5, 2004

URPE at Socialist Scholars Conference,

March 12-14, 2004 (Call for papers)

Summer Conference, June 4-7, 2004

(Call for papers)

Other Upcoming Conferences (and calls for papers)

Contacting Other Political Economy Groups Around the World

Heterodox Economics Jobs Postings

URPE Newsletter

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