

URPE Newsletter

URPE SUMMER CONFERENCE

Camp Deer Run, Pine Bush, NY
Friday, Aug. 11 – Monday, Aug 14, 2006

Register by July 28 for discount
—see pp. 10-11 for registration

NATIONALISM, INTERNATIONALISM, AND NATURE

Plenaries:

Wars and Natural Resources

Wadi'h Halabi • William Tabb
• Salimah Valiani

Katrina: Race and Class

Preston Smith • TBA

Latin America: Breaking the Mold

David Barkin • Leda Pauli • Fred Rosen

David Gordon Lecture: Michael Reich

*Changes in U.S. Capitalism Since the
Reagan Era: Where Are We Now?*

Every summer members of the Union for Radical Political Economics gather in a relaxed natural setting to discuss issues in political economy, make organizational decisions, and enjoy ourselves. Activists and academics share their unique insights in workshops on a wide variety of subjects. Each evening we meet for a plenary session on a topic of general interest, followed by entertainment and socializing.

Please note: Dates and location are different from last year. The URPE Summer conference/workshop/retreat will take place this year at Camp Deer Run in Pine Bush, New York. The camp is set in a beautiful area of New York just south of the Catskill Mountains. The camp has a swimming pool (with a life-guard on duty for about 8 hours per day), a volleyball/badminton court, basketball hoops, and a children's playground area. There are spectacular hiking trails nearby.

Children are welcome, and people who register by Friday July 28 will be provided (at no additional cost)

Continued on page 3...

Free Cristina Rosas Illescas and Pánfilo Reséndiz

by Julio Huato

On the last Sunday of January, my fifteen year old daughter and I went to Querétaro, Mexico. We were trying to visit Cristina Rosas Illescas at the state penitentiary of San José El Alto, five miles northeast of the state capital. At the entrance, my daughter refused the guards' orders to take her clothes off and let them conduct a search on her body. So she wasn't allowed in and had to wait outside. I did get in.

Cristina Rosas and Mr. Pánfilo Reséndiz, the latter a construction worker and community leader, were jailed almost

Continued page 4 ...

In This Issue

URPE Steering Committee elections.....	7
RRPE Editorial Board elections.....	7
Economy Connection	8
How Class Works.....	9
Summer Conference registration fees.....	10
Summer Conference registration form.....	11

2005-2006 STEERING COMMITTEE**Elected members**

Cyrus Bina (04-07) Dept of Economics/Management, University of Minnesota-Morris, 600 East 4th Street, Morris, MN 56267; (320) 589-6193; <binac@mrs.umn.edu>

David Brennan (05-08) Franklin & Marshall College, P.O. Box 3003, Lancaster, PA 17604-3003; (717) 291-3936; <david.brennan@fandm.edu>

Al Campbell (03-06), 1645 Campus Center Dr. Rm. 308, Salt Lake City, UT 84112-9300; (801) 585-3521; <Al@economics.utah.edu>

Graham Cassano (04-07), Sociology Department, Southern Connecticut State University, 501 Crescent St., New Haven, CT 06515; (203) 407-8300; <Graham@xrgb.com>

Bilge Erten (05-08) Prince Hall, 286 Sunset Ave., UMass/Amherst, Amherst MA 01002; (413) 695-8830 <berten@econs.umass.edu>

Doug Koritz (04-07), Dept of Economics & Finance, Buffalo State College, 1300 Elmwood Ave, Buffalo, NY 14222; (716) 878-6640; <koritzdg@buffalostate.edu>

Laurie Nisonoff (03-06) Social Science, Hampshire College, Amherst, MA 01002; 413-559-5397 (o); <lnisonoff@hampshire.edu>

Patty Lee Parmalee (05-06) 211 W. 102 #5B, NYC, NY 10025; 212-663-2911; <publiccleaningpost@earthlink.net>

Paddy Quick (04-07), Economics Department, St. Francis College, 180 Remsen Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201; 631-286-5168 (h); <paddyquick@aol.com>

Alfredo Saad-Filho (04-06) Dept of Development Studies, SOAS, University of London, England; 44-20-7898-4504 <as59@soas.ac.uk>

Leanne Ussher (05-08) Economics Department, PH 300-0, Queens College, CUNY, 65-30 Kissena Blvd, Flushing NY 11375. <leanne.ussheer@qc.cuny.edu>

Women's Caucus Representative

Jenny Brown (05-08) Redstockings Women's Liberation Archives, P.O. Box 2625, Gainesville, FL 32602; 352-378-5655; <jbrown72073@cs.com>

Ex-Officio**URPE National Office**

Germai Medhanie, URPE National Office, Gordon Hall, University of Massachusetts, 418 N. Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA 01002-1735. Tel. 413-577-0806. Fax 413-577-0261 E-mail: urpe@labornet.org

Managing Editor of RRPE

Hazel Dayton Gunn, Dept. of City and Regional Planning, 106 W. Sibley Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca NY 14853; E-mail: hg18@cornell.edu

Other URPE Positions

ASSA Coordinators Robin Hahnel and Kristen Sheeran, Dept. of Economics, American University, rhahnel@starpower.net; kasheeran@smcm.edu

Newsletter Editor: Jenny Brown, jbrown72073@cs.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. 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 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 jbrown72073@cs.com, or by regular mail to: *Jenny Brown, 1701 NE 75th St., Gainesville, FL 32641.*

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.

Summer conference ... cont. from front cover

with professional child-care from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., with breaks for meals. (URPE is one of the most child-friendly organizations in the United States.)

Most accommodation takes the form of rooms with 2-4 double-bunk beds, although there is a very small number of single and double rooms. Pillows, bed linens and towels are provided, together with a light quilt. People may want to bring an extra blanket. All rooms have access to bathrooms and showers. Allocation of rooms will be made on the basis of need for those who

The camp's pride in its culinary skills means that they are particularly concerned to get an early estimate of the number of people who will be at the conference. So please register by July 28th. See registration fees and form pages 10-11.

register in advance, and otherwise on a first-come, first-served basis. Rooms will be categorized in many ways to accommodate all the people who attend: single gender and mixed gender rooms, a room for kids (whose parents approve), and even a room for "snorers." Attractive, quiet tent sites are also available. The camp facilities for handicapped people are not ideal, but most people's needs can be accommodated. Those who have special needs are asked to contact the URPE National Office.

The chefs at the camp have been trained by the Culinary Institute of America and use locally grown ingredients when possible. All meals will include a vegetarian option; vegan meals will also be available on request for those who register before July 28.

Directions to the camp can be obtained from our website (www.urpe.org) or by contacting the National Office. The camp is about 90 minutes north of the George Washington Bridge in New York City. Camp Deer Run is located off route 52, west of Pine Bush, NY. Transportation by Shortline bus is available from New York City.

The fees for the URPE Summer Conference include the conference, rooms (including bed linen), and meals (from Friday dinner to Monday lunch). Conference fees are determined on a sliding scale. Check-in for the conference begins at 4 pm on Friday, August 11, and continues throughout the conference. The conference ends after lunch on Monday, August 14, 2006.

The camp's pride in its culinary skills means that they are particularly concerned to get an early estimate of the

number of people who will be at the conference. The penalty for late registration is thus higher than in previous years, but the regular registration fees are substantially the same as in 2005.

Registration form and fee information can be found on pages 10-11.

PART-TIME JOB VACANCY - APPLICATIONS INVITED -

The Union for Radical Political Economics (URPE) seeks applications for a part-time Office Manager. Founded in 1968, URPE is a membership organization of academics and activists who share an interest in a radical analysis of political and economic topics. URPE's members use their analysis to advance various progressive political and social agendas.

Applicants should have the experience necessary to:

- a. Manage the URPE office (located at U. Mass/Amherst). Some bookkeeping required; web skills an advantage.
- b. Make use of the URPE office to build URPE's presence in the area.
- b. Attend and help organize conferences, including URPE's August Summer Conference.
- c. Work with the URPE Steering Committee to promote the goals of the organization.

Starting date: August 1.

Salary, benefits, and hours negotiable.

Send applications to:

P. Parmalee
35 Aumick Road
Wallkill NY 12589

For questions regarding the position, please email Al Campbell (Al@economics.utah.edu), Laurie Nisonoff (lnisonoff@hampshire.edu), or Paddy Quick (paddyquick@aol.com).

Cristina Rosas ... continued from page 1

a year ago, without bail, accused of breaking the state law on “public order and urban development.” Because of her resistance to intimidation and absurd orders, Cristina has been placed in isolation in a tiny, humid cell known as *La Jaula* (“The Cage”), roughed up by the guards and other inmates, and subjected to a daily assortment of petty humiliations.

Months ago, after a couple of weeks in The Cage, Cristina visited the prison’s doctor and was given what she thought to be a painkiller. Almost immediately, she felt the effects of what may have been poisoning, an allergic reaction, or even a mild stroke: the muscles of half her face and limbs got paralyzed. While she has recovered most of her mobility, her right arm and foot are still numb and she walks with a bit of difficulty. Despite all this, she is as determined and good-humored as she’s ever been. We brought some food for the occasion (thoroughly searched by guards wearing surgical gloves) and, like the families of other inmates, we ate at a cement table in the jail’s patio, surrounded by barbed-wired high walls and under the shadow of a cement turret overlooking us.

I met Cristina sixteen years ago. At the time I was a college teacher at Chapingo and, like her, an organizer in the shantytowns that surround eastern Mexico City. A great deal of my work consisted of helping popular struggles in Nexquipayac de Atenco, Texcoco, and to a lesser extent Chimalhuacán and Ixtapaluca. The movements were grassroots efforts aimed to build and operate schools, local clinics, and other public services. The centers of Cristina’s work were Ixtapaluca, a textile manufacturing town in the Valley of Chalco, and the much tougher Chimalhuacán.

Cristina was born in Naucalpan, a heavy-industry town contiguous to Mexico City on the western side, got her high school education at the Preparatoria Popular de Tacuba, and a bachelor’s degree in education at the UNAM. She’s always had the no-nonsense instincts and the self-deprecating humor that appear to go along with a genuine proletarian background. When I met her, Cristina was already established as one of the leading organizers in the working-class *colonia* (settlement) of the Cerro del Tejolote and — right about then — she was taking part in the founding of the Citlalmina, a new *colonia* named after an Aztec female hero. Mexico’s state government (not to be confused with the government of Mexico City or the Federal District) tried very hard to prevent the formation of the Citlalmina.

One day, the governor Ignacio Pichardo Pagaza and his state secretary Emilio Chuayffet sent a group of *porros* (thugs) to evict the settlers. As their attack failed, Pichardo then sent the *granaderos* (riot police) with full gear — helmets, shields, batons, and automatic rifles. A worker from Chimalhuacán who was showing solidarity with the settlers was shot in the head by a *granadero*, dozens were savagely beaten up (including some of my students), and several people were jailed. (I was in Mexico City that day and luckily missed the event.) Chauyffet and the then “secretary of economic development,” Arturo Montiel, personally commanded the *granaderos* from a low-flying helicopter. For weeks, the settlement was cordoned off, held by *granaderos* armed with AR-15s. As often happens, there was a temporary decline in participation, but then the surviving settlers (most of them), their leaders, and their supporters toughened up and persisted. At the end of all that, the Citlalmina prevailed. Last year, the *colonia* celebrated its fifteenth anniversary with a dance and theater festival. Cristina was a key figure in this triumph.

I could illustrate it with several anecdotes, but I’ll say it succinctly: Cristina Rosas is one of the most impassioned, courageous, honest, and hardworking social fighters I’ve ever met. She synthesizes all of those stereotypical virtues we tend to attribute to women — sharp intuition, people skills, ability to juggle many tasks at once and get them done, personal warmth, etc. Lucid, tough, studious, and a great friend. Sometime in the 1990s, Cristina married a lucky fellow from Nayarit (Jerónimo Gurrola) and moved to Querétaro. In Querétaro, she and her comrades organized a group of *colonias* in the outskirts of the state capital and fought to obtain deeds and urban public services. In the coming years, the movement grew from a few dozen working-class families and students to thousands of them.

Since 1997, Querétaro has been governed by the PAN, the party of the president Vicente Fox. And at least since the 1970s, the PAN has been heavily infiltrated by El Yunque (The Anvil), a virulent Catholic, anti-communist, anti-Semitic, secretive group with terrorist inclinations, who used to support the dictator Francisco Franco in Spain and the military dictators in South America. One of the bases of operation of El Yunque is the Bajío, a plain in central Mexico that stretches from eastern Jalisco to northern Michoacán, Guanajuato, and Querétaro. Fox is from Guanajuato and his influential wife, Martha Sahagún, is from northern Michoacán. Under Fox, El Yunque has accumulated much

power. Just to mention something the press has documented recently: El Yunque largely controls the allocation of top and middle jobs in the federal executive branch.

Querétaro's state governor, Francisco Garrido Patrón, is a lawyer educated in the Universidad Panamericana, one of El Yunque's main recruiting centers. In his well-researched book *El Yunque: La ultraderecha en el poder* (Plaza Janés, 2003), Álvaro Delgado, an investigative reporter from the magazine *Proceso*, lists Alfredo Botello Montes, the secretary of state of Querétaro and former PAN congressman, as the commander of an El Yunque death squad captured by the police in Zacatecas in 1977 as they plotted the assassination of rivals from another ultra-right group, the Tecos from the Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara. While internal rivalries among ultra-right groups have been bloody, the most vicious acts of violence committed by El Yunque have victimized the left. And El Yunque operates under a rather broad, catholic (with lowercase "c"), definition of the left that includes about 90 per cent of Mexico's political spectrum.

I didn't know it when I visited Cristina, but Jerónimo Gurrola told me later in the afternoon that the prison inmates used to be forced to work long shifts in a sweatshop that manufactured religious medals to be marketed in the Vatican. Jerónimo told me he saw one of the medals himself. According to him, Cristina refused to work in the sweatshop, a gesture that didn't please the prison's managers. Jerónimo added that, just prior to a visit by the Human Rights Commission, the making of the medals was abruptly discontinued in the prison. I wonder if the shoppers in Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome are aware that those cute little medals catching their eye, perhaps even blessed by Pope Benedict XVI, may be the product of semi-slave labor by prison inmates in rinky-dinky jails such as that in San José El Alto, Querétaro.

But the basis of the PAN-El Yunque power in Querétaro is not merely religious or ideological. In Querétaro, as bad as being a godless communist is, it's not nearly as bad as being a godless communist who challenges the economic power of the ultra-right. One of the ultra-right's milk cows is "urban development." In simple terms, this consists of using legal maneuvers — if not brute force — to expropriate *ejidos* (farm land under traditional collective tenure) in areas next to the city of Querétaro and other large towns in the state and transferring the land to their patrons, who then build huge cookie-cutter housing projects and market the

homes to state employees or the local middle class. As an IPADE alumnus (the IPADE is a copy in caricature of — say — the American Enterprise Institute in Washington), Garrido preaches the virtues of the "free-market" and "free-enterprise" system. But as a governor, he is a practitioner of old-school crony capitalism.

I personally visited the development of San Pedrito Los Arcos, built by "Geo Querétaro SA de CV," previously "Copromoción y Servicios Inmobiliarios del Bajío SA de CV," corporations owned by some of Garrido's favorite sponsors: the brothers Alejandro and Héctor García Alcocer and Antonio Bermúdez Jiménez. Pre-fabricated houses that, according to a neighbor I interviewed, have "leaky roofs" and sloppily-installed bathroom furniture. This is big business. I suppose that anything that competes with it, such as a grassroots movement that offers more affordable and dignified alternatives, is a dangerous threat.

Journalists who have dared expose the corruption involved or are even mildly critical of the state government have been ruthlessly persecuted. Perhaps the most prominent case involves Luis Roberto Amieva, former director of the *Diario de Querétaro* and a journalist since 1947. Amieva became well known for his journalistic work exposing the corruption in Querétaro under the PRI. He managed to survive all sorts of PRI governors, including some with strong repressive impulses like Mariano Palacios Alcocer. But he wasn't as lucky with the PAN's Garrido.

Curiously, the newspaper's editorial line under Amieva was cautiously supportive of the previous PAN governor Ignacio Loyola. But generic support for his party wasn't enough for Garrido. Since Amieva had been somewhat critical of Garrido's tenure as mayor of the city of Querétaro, as soon as Garrido became state governor, he set out to get Amieva fired. To pull it off, Garrido negotiated with the head of the conglomerate (OEM) that owns the newspaper, Mario Vázquez Raña, a lucrative deal to publish state-government propaganda in the newspaper. Amieva was fired in the spot. He then tried to start a new newspaper, *Al Minuto*, but his attempt was boycotted by Garrido. Amieva called it quits and retired with his health damaged.

In the late 1990s, still as mayor of the city of Querétaro, Garrido led an initiative to enact punitive legislation against working-class settlers and squatters. The fruit was the 2001 state law to "regularize the ownership of urban and semi-

Continued on next page ...

urban settlements,” which characterizes virtually any autonomous, grassroots movement for low-income housing — insofar as it falls outside of the official “urban development plan” concocted by government bureaucrats through which the interests of their cronies are duly taken care of — as a crime against “public order and urban development.” Since this is a crime against the “people” of Querétaro, bail is ruled out. Under this kind of legislation, a protester could be jailed for decades while a rapist could walk free on bail. All for the sake of “urban development” in Querétaro.

This is the law that, the state government alleges, Cristina and Mr. Reséndiz broke. How did this happen? Under the PAN administration of Ignacio Loyola, the state of Querétaro promised people in *colonias* such as Tlanese and Bustamante, hundreds of families, to help them get their streets paved, install electric lines, build sewers, and introduce piped water. The settlers would pitch in with some money and sweat equity. The state government also promised to help pay the rent of a building where a group of working-class high-school and college students formed a “Casa del Estudiante,” a kind of students’ dorm co-op, self-managed and mostly self-funded via *colectas* (canvassing and collection of small spontaneous donations by the public on streets, in public places, and on buses).

When, in 2003, Garrido became the state governor, he reneged on the agreements, refusing to even meet with the representatives of the *colonias* and the Casa del Estudiante. When they staged public protests, Garrido sent the *granaderos* to deal with them. The detention and mistreatment of workers and students became routine. Dozens of detentions later, the protests grew and the government responded by tightening its methods. In July 2004, hundreds of workers and students occupied the plaza in front of the state palace in a permanent *plantón*, vowing to stay there until the state government released three students jailed for distributing leaflets.

Garrido must have thought that the *plantón* would dissolve as he refused to listen to the demands and harassed the protestors with occasional detentions. But the *plantón* remained strong and began to attract support from workers, settlers, and students of neighboring states. Finally, on March 19, 2005, a group of *granaderos* dislodged the *plantón* by force. They seized Cristina, Mr. Reséndiz, and dozens of other protesters, and threw them all in jail. Cristina thought this would be another routine detention for disturbing “public peace,” which would entail another short visit

to the jail. She and the people in the *plantón* were already used to all that. But, this time, the state government invoked its recent law on “public order and urban development” and pressed charges against Cristina and Mr. Reséndiz to keep them in jail for a longer while.

Formally, the two leaders are still in a pre-trial phase of their legal process called *instrucción*, during which the state government is supposed to argue the case before the judge, both on the facts and the law. Because of the backlog in the courts and likely pressures from Garrido himself, this phase has taken months in the case of Cristina and Mr. Reséndiz. A few weeks ago, the phase of *instrucción* was to expire. Since no sentence had yet been declared, Cristina and Mr. Reséndiz were to walk out. But two days before the expiration date, the governor leveled a battery of new charges against both of them. A new phase of *instrucción* was opened and they remain in jail as of this date. With legal tricks of this sort, Garrido could easily keep them in jail for ten years or more.

Cristina’s and Mr. Reséndiz’s political organization, Antorcha, has been demanding that the state government drop the charges, release the prisoners immediately, and engage in serious talks to give resolution to the legitimate demands of settlers and students. It is a sensible petition. The demands are basic. Nothing fancy. Electricity, street pavement, schools, tap water, sewers, financial support to students of low-income families, etc. Again, the settlers will contribute with resources and labor. These demands arise from need and won’t be defused with repression and cruelty. Supporters from all over Mexico will be taking part in the coming protests. I am here inviting fair-minded people from all over the world to join this campaign.

Please write to the governor of Querétaro and demand the immediate release of the political prisoners Cristina Rosas Illescas and Pánfilo Reséndiz. This is his address:

Francisco Garrido Patrón
Gobernador del Estado de Querétaro
Palacio de Gobierno
Querétaro, Qro. MEXICO

Or send an e-mail to: uaipe@queretaro.gob.mx
(A letter is far more effective than an email.)

Julio Huato is an economist. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

URPE Steering Committee Elections

There will be four (4) vacancies on the 12-person Steering Committee to be filled by elections this summer. The term of office is 3 years.

The continuing members (with the dates of their terms of office) are:

Cyrus Bina (04-07); David Brennan (05-08); Graham Cassano (04-07); Bilge Erten (05-08); Doug Koritz (04-07); Paddy Quick (04-07); Leanne Ussher (05-08); Jenny Brown* (05-08)

* Women's Caucus representative

URPE members wishing to run for election to the Steering Committee must submit a statement of under 1000 words. The statement must include all 7 of the following items:

- (a) Your name and an address at which you can be contacted (by email, postal mail and/or telephone).
- (b) Name of one URPE member who is nominating you.
- (c) Years during which you have been a member of URPE.
- (d) Highlights of work and avocations.
- (e) Highlights of academic/activist accomplishments.
- (f) Your own ideas regarding the most important tasks for the Steering Committee in the upcoming and subsequent years.
- (g) The amount of work you expect to be able to do for URPE and any specific tasks or projects that you would like to work on.

All statements should be sent to both Jenny Brown (editor of the URPE Newsletter) and Al Campbell (webmaster). See page 2 of this Newsletter for addresses. Statements received by Jenny Brown by July 1 will be printed in the Summer 2006 Newsletter. All statements will be posted on the URPE website (www.urpe.org).

Elections for at-large positions will take place through mail ballot. Although members are encouraged to submit their statements by July 1, nominations for at-large positions will be accepted up to the end of the URPE Summer Conference, August 14, 2006. Elections will take place through a mail ballot which will be sent to all members. The mailing will include the statements of all nominees.

RRPE Editorial Board Elections, 2006

If you are interested in working as part of the RRPE's editorial board, please contact the managing editor (Hazel Dayton Gunn, Dept. of City and Regional Planning, 106 W. Sibley Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853; hg18@cornell.edu). Members serve three-year terms, review about 10 manuscripts a year, and spend both time and effort conducting the business of the RRPE. This is a major personal commitment, and an important way to contribute to URPE. Election statements are due to the managing editor no later than June 1, 2006; they will be posted on the URPE website and sent out with the mail ballots.

Preliminary edition of innovative macro principles textbook now available on-line!

Macroeconomics in Context

Provides a thorough introduction to the principles of macroeconomics, but it also delves deeper, offering a fresh portrait of the economic realities of the 21st century. Emphasizing clear exposition, this text balances analysis of market processes in the macroeconomy with discussion of public policies that go beyond short-term stabilization targets to promote long-term sustainability and social goals. It includes serious investigation of the environmental impacts of economic growth and the role of unpaid work in economic life, drawing on both traditional macroeconomic theories and new research to give students greater insight into our economic world.

Macroeconomics in Context Preliminary Edition is available for free download at <http://www.ase.tufts.edu/gdae/publications/textbooks/macroeconomics.html>. This is the companion textbook to *Microeconomics in Context* <http://www.ase.tufts.edu/gdae/publications/textbooks/microeconomics.html> (Houghton Mifflin, 2005).

"Macroeconomics in Context is the best text I've seen for undergraduate teaching...By paying attention to the challenges we face today, such as environmental degradation and social issues, students readily see why and how economics is important to learn. This text gives students the basics while raising questions about how we can do better..." - Valerie Luzadis, SUNY Syracuse.

For more information contact: gdae@tufts.edu

Update on Economy Connection, URPE's Resource/Speakers Bureau

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

URPE Still Rocks!

This comment was made by Jim Brugh in appreciation for a long list of websites, contacts and written resources on NAFTA he received from Economy Connection. Jim is an Indiana resident who was preparing to speak to high school students at a Rotary Club event designed to present various points of view on "CAFTA & NAFTA — Tomorrow's Jobs or Tomorrow's Unemployment." He remembered URPE from the '70s. Jim reports: "I had a stimulating and successful experience arguing the anti-NAFTA position to a hundred high school students in the auditorium debate last week. You could hear a pin drop — the kids paid attention. Afterwards I participated in the breakout sessions which the students controlled. I was impressed by my group's ability to recognize their desire to consume cheap imports produced by cheap labor, but to reason further about the harmful social consequences of the trade policy and to see the need for working people to get involved in changing government policy to control corporations. The majority of the students were anti-NAFTA, but wonder how to go forward from here."

How to Analyze your Hometown's Budget

Members of a New Jersey community organization seeking to improve conditions in their city contacted EC to find someone who could help them analyze the budget. An URPE member with expertise in that area traveled to New Jersey where "we went over the roughly 90-page document of the city's budget, page by page and line by line, just to try to understand what was in the document, both the terms used and the specific items in the spending, revenue and capital budget." He then suggested questions to ask about the budget: "Is the city getting its fair share of state and federal resources, relative to other NJ municipalities? Are there big changes in grant money from year to year that may indicate the city is not doing all it could be doing to get grant money? Are salaries of government workers very high or very low, and/or is there great disparity between department directors and other senior staff vs. most workers? Does spending in executive offices increase at a greater pace than spending for actual service delivery? Are the costs for service delivery relatively high and are there alternative ways to organize service delivery to cut costs?" He encouraged them to compare their budget to those of nearby cities, and recommended some NJ organizations to contact. The NJ activists were very appreciative and will follow up.

Out of School, Out of Work & Out of Luck?

"Nearly one-in-six (almost 170,000) of New York City's youth (ages 16-24) is disconnected." This is only one of many alarming statistics Mark Levitan disclosed in his Jan. 2005 Community Service Society report, which is available on the CSS website (www.cssny.org), along with other related reports. On March 30 Mark spoke to the Economics Society at St. Francis College in Brooklyn. Leonis Alexander organized the talk and Yolanda Charley gave the closing remarks and provided EC with a detailed summary. She reports that Mark's talk "examined the racial disparity between minorities (namely Blacks and Hispanics) and their white counterparts in the employment field. He supported his argument with statistics which showed that nationwide, unemployment is an increasing problem for young African American males: the situation is even worse in New York City. Furthermore, African American males have the highest rate of unemployment in the nation." Mark gave some theories about the causes of youth unemployment and low educational attainment, and of ethnic, racial and gender differences. For example, one cause is that the NYC job structure has changed dramatically in the last few decades, with a marked switch from manufacturing to service jobs, and a decline in the types of jobs traditionally held by young men. Mark made a number of policy suggestions which included addressing the high school dropout rate by creating a second chance system for young people who have dropped out of school. But without a dramatic increase in job opportunities, little progress will be made. Mark recommends increasing apprenticeship opportunities in the construction industry (many new buildings are planned for NYC), expanding apprenticeship programs to other industries, and creating a NYC Job Corps.

Both students and professors were enthusiastic about Mark's talk. Professor Behrouz Tabrizi commented, "Mark was great. My students enjoyed his talk very much. The lecture helped students to place the economic concepts in context; his phrase, 'New York City's disconnected youth' impressed many of my students."

Enron Revisited

When the Enron scandal first erupted, former investment banker Nomi Prins kept URPE informed about all the details. Starting in 2002, she spoke about Enron at two Socialist Scholars Conferences, the Brecht Forum, the URPE

Summer Conference, in classrooms and on the radio, and wrote extensively about corporate corruption.

Since then, Nomi has written several books, the newest of which will be: *Jacked: How the "Conservatives" are Picking your Pocket and How to Stop Them* (Polipoint Press, Fall, 2006). And now Enron executives have been brought to trial. On March 13 Nomi brought the listeners of KBOO, in Portland, Oregon, up to date on Enron. She reports: "We basically talked about what was going on with the Enron trial at the moment, how Ken Lay and Jeff Skilling's defense team are trying to portray Enron as a victim — which is crazy — of one bad CFO, Andy Fastow, and a media frenzy that took it down. We also talked about the real victims of corporate fraud and mismanagement, the workers and retirees, who are the last in line to recoup any losses resulting from bankruptcy or slower disintegration of plague companies that aren't scandalous per se, but still have their own financial troubles weighted most heavily on the people at the bottom — like GM."

Resources, Referrals and Advice

The Ohio man (mentioned in the last issue) who contacted EC in search of people fighting utility deregulation reports that the economic competition that was supposed to result from deregulation has not materialized. Also, the deregulated companies are resisting environmental safeguards. A San Francisco political economy grad student who has been designing much of his own coursework was looking for radical material for a course on health care. He received recommendations from Kamran Nayeri, Len Rodberg, Jerry Joffe and me. He corresponded at length with Kamran, who also gave suggestions on how to approach Marx and economics in general. The student was struck by Kamran's "wisdom and his generosity in helping people like me become more effective politically, that is, contributing to the development towards socialism!" Doug Henwood provided Barbara Garson with useful statistics on wages for an article she was writing on the transit strike. EC sent a list of writers working on privatization to a woman putting together an issue of a journal, and several URPE professors gave advice to a young man looking for a grad school.

URPE and *Dollars & Sense* at the 2006 Left Forum

This spring a group of NYC-area URPE members joined with *Dollars and Sense* to organize four panels at the 2006 Left Forum: "Hungry Capital: Food Security and Global Migration" with Paul Hancock, Fred Magdoff, and Renee Toback; "The War on Pensions" with David Brennan, Eric

Glynn, and Chris Rude; "Is There a Dollar Crisis?" with Max Fraad Wolff, Arslan Razmi, Chris Rude, and Arun Gupta; and "Oil, Nukes, Mullahs, Democracy and U.S. Hegemony: The Political Economy of the Iran Crisis" with Ervand Abrahamian, Tom O'Donnell, and Fatemeh Moghadam. Part of the panel on Oil and Iran was played on WBAI. These panels were organized with the help of Economy Connection lists, and also introduced EC to new members. Many additional URPE members participated in other panels.

Dear Friends and Colleagues -
YOU ARE INVITED!
HOW CLASS WORKS — 2006

A conference at the
State University of New York at Stony Brook

JUNE 8 to 10, 2006

To see the full program and register
visit the conference page at
<www.workingclass.sunysb.edu>

Speakers Confirmed

Joe Berry
Barbara Bowen
Steve Fraser
Jennifer Gordon
Peniel Joseph
Nelson Lichtenstein
Joyce Mills
Susie Orbach
Uhuru Williams
Nancy Wohlforth

Plus over 150 presentations in working class studies from graduate students, faculty, union and community activists — from Canada, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, Nigeria, UK, and US — plus film, music, photography, poetry

Sponsored by the Center for Study of Working Class Life. Conference coordinator — Michael Zweig: (631) 632-7536 or michael.zweig@stonybrook.edu

URPE SUMMER CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES
(See below for suggested income ranges)

	Low Income	Middle Income	High Income /Institution
ADULTS			
Entire 3 days/3 nights:	150	200	300
Daily Rate:	60	80	120

SPECIAL RATE for STUDENTS : 75
(Entire 3 days)

CHILDREN ages 3-18 (There is no fee for children under age 3.)			
Entire 3 days/3 nights:	75	100	150
Daily Rate:	30	40	55

REGISTRATION FEES
FOR THOSE REGISTERING AFTER JULY 28

	Low Income	Middle Income	High Income /Institution
ADULTS			
Entire 3 days/3 nights:	170	220	320
Daily Rate:	65	85	125

SPECIAL RATE for STUDENTS : 95
(Entire 3 days)

CHILDREN ages 3-18 (There is no fee for children under age 3.)			
Entire 3 days/3 nights:	85	110	160
Daily Rate:	35	45	65

TRAVEL SUBSIDY

This subsidy will be paid at the conference to those registering for the entire conference who submit plane ticket receipts showing travel within two weeks of either starting or ending date of conference. Subsidy would be based on air fares only. The form of the subsidy will be: 30% of air fare over \$100, with a maximum subsidy of \$100. Thus subsidy = (air fare – \$100) x .3

Suggested Ranges for Determination of Income Level

Number of household members	Low income*	Middle Income	High Income/ Institutional
1	Less than \$18,000	\$24-38,000	More than \$38,000
2	Less than \$24,000	\$24-48,000	More than \$48,000
3	Less than \$28,000	\$28-56,000	More than \$56,000
4 or more	Less than \$32,000	\$32-64,000	More than \$64,000

*Those registering at the low income rate are subsidized by URPE, since these registration fees are below the actual cost of the conference.

URPE SUMMER CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Please return to:

URPE National Office, Gordon Hall, University of Massachusetts, 418 N. Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA 01002-1735.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone(s): _____ E-mail: _____

Summer address and phone if different (Give applicable dates):

1. Income level (circle one): Low Middle High/Institution

2. Number of people registering: Age group: Adults Children aged 3-18 Children under 3

3. Childcare needs? Specify ages of children needing child care:
[Please note: Child care is guaranteed only to those who register for the conference before July 28]

4. Dietary needs (if any): Vegetarian Other (please specify): _____

5. Days attending : Entire Conference
Selected days (Please specify): _____

6. Lodging Do you need special accommodations? Yes / No
If the answer is "Yes" please state your request and the reasons for it.

7. Are you an URPE member? (circle one)
Yes No No, but will become one by paying dues now (see #10 below)!

8. STUDENTS! CHECK HERE IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR THE SPECIAL RATE _____

9. Total conference fees (see fee schedule on previous page. Note that fees for those who register after July 28 are higher than those who register before that date):

10. If you are not a member and wish to join, select one of the options below:

New URPE membership with RRPE and newsletter (\$55/\$30 if low income) _____

New URPE limited membership with newsletter only (\$20) _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED (Checks payable to URPE) _____

Fees will be refunded less a \$30 deductible for those who cancel their registration.

URPE Newsletter

c/o URPE National Office
Gordon Hall, U. Mass/Amherst
418 N Pleasant Street
Amherst, MA 01002-1735



Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
Paid
Bellmawr, NJ
Permit No. 240

Call For Papers **Rethinking Marxism 2006**

RETHINKING MARXISM: a journal of economics, culture & society is pleased to announce its 6th major international conference, to be held at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst on 26-28 October, 2006.

The conference is dedicated to the state of contemporary Marxism and its many current correlates and derivatives. The past few years have been fascinating and momentous for the fortunes of contemporary Marxism, as can be seen in the many theoretical traditions and activist movements that remain, in some way, inspired by and indebted to a wide range of Marxian ideas and strategies.

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

The deadline for proposal submission is **1 August 2006**.

The best way to submit a proposal and to pay the preregistration fee is to follow the instructions on the conference website:

www.rethinkingmarxism2006.org/submission.html.

You may also preregister and get more information at: <http://www.rethinkingmarxism2006.org>

**Visit the URPE Website at
www.urpe.org**

Check out recent articles published in the *Review of Radical Political Economics* (RRPE).

Explore "Economy Connection" for references to materials on major issues, and information on how to get speakers to events.

See recent issues of the *URPE Newsletter*.

Get in touch with other organizations promoting heterodox economics.

Look for job listings for heterodox economists.

Keep up to date with plans for the 2006 URPE Summer Conference.

Contact us at: urpe@labornet.org