

URPE Newsletter

Union for Radical Political Economics

2003 URPE Summer Workshop/Retreat

Camp Chinqueka
Bantam, Connecticut
August 23-26

War and Imperialism: The Political Economy of US Militarism

Plenary I (Saturday August 23, 7 p.m.)
EXPANDING THE EMPIRE

Frida Berrigan, Senior Research Associate, World Policy Institute. *U.S. Adventurism
Unchecked: Military Training Programs and US Militarism*

George Caffentzis, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Southern Maine.
The Role of Oil in the US Drive for War and Empire

Mazin Qumsiyeh, Co-founder of the Palestinians Right to Return Coalition. *It's Not
Just About Oil*

THE DAVID GORDON LECTURE Sunday August 24, 2 p.m.
Michael Perelman

Author: —*The Political Economy of Intellectual Property* (2003)
—*Steal This Idea: Intellectual Property Rights* (2002)
—*Transcending the Economy: On the Potential of Passionate Labor* (2000)
and many other books and articles

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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

Please check your membership expiration date on the upper right-hand corner of the address label. If your membership has expired or will expire within the next three months, this will be the last Newsletter you will receive. Please renew your membership now by contacting the National Office (see address on this page.).

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Plenary II (Sunday August 24, 7 p.m.)

THE EFFECTS OF WAR AND EMPIRE AT HOME

Heather Boushey, Center for Economic and Policy Research. *Surviving Poverty in the United States*

Jennifer Klein, Asst. Professor of History, Yale University, *The Political Economy of War-time America: Workers, Unions and State Power from World War I to the Iraq War*

Bob Pollin, Professor of Economics, Co-Director of the Political Economy Research Institute (PERI), U Mass Amherst. *A Remilitarized U.S. Economy: What Does It Portend?*

Plenary III (August 25, 7 p.m.)

RESISTANCE

Peter Bohmer, Professor of Economics, Evergreen College, *Working With the Anti War, Anti Corporate Globalization and Labor Movements*

Fritz Efaw, Professor of Economics, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga;
Representative of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War and Veterans for Peace,
U.S. Veterans and Resisting U.S. Militarism

Michael Ratner, President of the Center for Constitutional Rights. *The Attack on Citizens' Rights and Fighting Back*

Workshops

Several workshops have already been planned for the summer conference, including one organized by the Women's Caucus Representative, Nancy Goldner, on childcare, focusing on its political history, historical and contemporary economic factors affecting its provision, and the feminist perspective. But there are still many time slots available. Workshops vary greatly in their nature, from more formal presentations that resemble those at our winter meetings at the ASSAs to less formal ones, run by activists concerning their work, or academics that want to throw out for real discussion an idea that is only incipient, to the "re-tooling" session. These are the sessions where you, the attendees, get to bang around the ideas that you would like to have banged around. We're open to all proposals on political economy topics (broadly defined) -- by yourself, or with a friend or two. If you have not attended a summer conference before and would like some idea of the types of topics that people present in these sessions, look on our web-site, where we have the schedule for the last few years. Please contact Al Campbell—Al@economics.utah.edu—with any proposals you have for this year's meeting.

Call for Book-Length Manuscripts

Economic Affairs Bureau, Inc./Dollars & Sense

The publisher of *Dollars & Sense: The Magazine of Economic Justice*, and books including *Real World Macro*, *Real World Micro*, *Real World Globalization*, *Introduction to Political Economy*, and *Unlevel Playing Fields: Understanding Wage Inequality and Discrimination*, seeks book-length manuscripts in political economy. We welcome submissions from varied currents in economic thought (e.g., environmentalism, feminism, institutionalism, Keynesianism, Marxism) consistent with the organization's commitment to "social justice and economic democracy." Areas of interest include, but are not limited to: class, gender, race, environment, labor, social movements, macroeconomic policy, social welfare policy, regulation, finance, international economics, development, alternative systems, economic history, economic thought, etc. Unpublished works and published works that are currently out of print will be considered. Ideally, manuscripts will be appropriate for academic use, but also have potential to reach a wider audience.

Economic Affairs Bureau, Inc./Dollars & Sense makes no commitment to publish submitted manuscripts. Manuscripts cannot be returned.

Send manuscripts to: Dollars & Sense, 740 Cambridge St., Cambridge, MA 02140

For more information, contact: Amy Offner, Book Editor, Dollars & Sense, 617-876-2434
dollars@dollarsandsense.org.

**URPE
AT THE
WORLD SOCIAL FORUM**

THE UNION FOR RADICAL POLITICAL ECONOMICS (URPE) WAS REPRESENTED AT THE 2003 World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil through its presentation of the following panel: .

Neoliberalism—Origins, Current Crises, and Its Future?

Al Campbell - *The Trigger to Neoliberalism, the falling rate of profit in the US, Japan, and Germany*

Gerard Dumenil- *A New Phase of Neoliberalism?*

Paul Cooney- *Argentina at the Abyss*

Adalmir Marquetti- *The Brazilian Economy in Neoliberal Capitalism: Technical Progress, Distribution of Income and Change.*

The presentations ranged from general discussions of neoliberalism to its impact on various economies. Al Campbell spoke about the profitability crisis of the 1970s and the shifts that led to monetarism and neoliberal policies across the globe. Several talks presented data and quantitative analyses for the US, Europe, Japan, and Brazil. The talk on Argentina was more descriptive and historical, looking at how the process of deindustrialization combined with neoliberalism and the currency board led to the Argentine crisis. Although we had a reasonable turnout and a good discussion after the talks, some people left because the first three presentations were in English and only Adalmir's was in Portuguese. However, this was an unavoidable occurrence through much of the Forum.

Our panel was one among 1700 different workshops, panels and forums. For myself, this was probably the first time I really felt part of a global encounter, with progressive-minded people from all over the world. When one saw the large gatherings filling up an outdoor amphitheatre, one had the feeling of being at a political Woodstock and as a leftist one really felt that one was not part of a fringe, but rather part of a global movement. Many of us there wished the feeling of the Forum could just continue or that we could bring the enthusiasm of being there back to our respective struggles and projects back home.

As an economist that works on Latin America, it was great to attend a panel on ending Third World Debt, with established progressive and left economists and activists from Uruguay, Peru and other countries of Latin America that are not able to travel as easily to the US for conferences. Most notable for me was the chance to speak with younger people and activists from Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and of course Brazil all in one place. There were often great moments such as when Noam Chomsky and Arundhati Roy spoke in the Gigantinho Stadium and one really could feel the emotion of the crowd, asserting that **Another World Is Possible!!!**

Paul Cooney

Call of the World Social Movements

Porto Alegre, Brazil - January 27th, 2003

We are meeting in Porto Alegre in the shadow of a global crisis. The belligerent intentions of the United States government in its determination to launch a war on Iraq pose a grave threat to us all, and are a dramatic manifestation of the links between militarism and economic domination. At the same time, neo-liberal globalization itself is in crisis: the threat of a global recession is ever present; corporate corruption scandals are daily news and expose the reality of capitalism. Social and economic inequalities are growing, threatening the social structures of our societies and cultures, our rights and our lives. Bio diversity, air, water, forest, soil and sea are used like commodities and are for sale. All this threatens our common future.

We oppose this!

For our common future:

We are social movements that are fighting all around the world against neo-liberal globalization, war, racism, castism, poverty, patriarchy and all the forms of economical, ethical, social, political, cultural, sexual and gender discriminations and exclusions.

—We are all fighting for social justice, citizenship, participatory democracy, universal rights and for the right of peoples to decide their own future.

—We stand for peace and international cooperation, for a sustainable society answering the needs of people for food, housing, health, education, information, water, energy, public transportation and human rights.

—We are in solidarity with the women engaged against social and patriarchal violence. We support the struggle of the peasants, workers, popular urban movements and all those who are urgently threatened by being deprived of homes, jobs, land and their rights.

—We have demonstrated in millions to say that another world is possible.
This has never been more true and more urgent.

No war!

The social movements are against militarization, the increase of military bases and state repression that create countless refugees and the criminalization of social movements and poor people.

We are against the war on Iraq, the attacks on the Palestinian, Chechnya and Kurdish people, the wars on Afghanistan, Colombia, in Africa and the growing threat of war on Korea. We oppose the economic and political aggression against Venezuela and the political and economic blockade by the US government against Cuba, and elsewhere. We are against all kinds of military and economic actions designed to impose the neo-liberal model and undermine the sovereignty and peace of peoples around the world.

War has become a structural and permanent part of global domination using military force to control people and strategic resources such as oil. The United States' government and its allies are imposing war as a more and more common solution for resolving conflicts. We also denounce the deliberate attempts made by imperialists to increase religious, ethnic, racist, tribal and other tensions and strife all over the world in order to pursue their selfish interests.

A majority of public opinion around the world is opposed to the coming war on Iraq. We call on all social movements and progressive forces to support, participate in and organize worldwide protests on February 15th 2003. These protests are already planned and coordinated by all those who oppose the war in over 30 major cities around the world.

Derail WTO

The World Trade Organization (WTO), the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and a proliferation of regional and bilateral trade agreements, such as the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and the proposed Central America free trade agreements, are used by multinational corporations to promote their interests, to dominate and control our economies and to impose a development model which impoverishes our societies. In the name of trade liberalization, every aspect of life and nature is for sale and people are denied their basic rights. Agro-multinationals are trying to impose GMOs worldwide; people suffering from HIV/AIDS and other pandemics in Africa and elsewhere are denied access to cheap generic drugs. In addition, countries of the South are trapped in a never-ending cycle of debt that forces them to open up their markets and export their wealth.

In the coming year our campaigns, against the WTO, the FTAA and trade liberalization, will grow in size and scope.

We will campaign to stop and reverse liberalization of agriculture, water, energy, public services and investment, and to reassert peoples sovereignty over their societies, their resources, their cultures and knowledge and their economies.

We are in solidarity with the Mexican farmers who say "el campo no aguanta mas" ('the farmers are fed up') and in the spirit of their struggles we will mobilize locally, nationally and internationally to derail the WTO and the FTAA. We support the worldwide movement to fight for food sovereignty and against the neo-liberal models of agriculture, food production and distribution. In particular, we will organize mass protests around the world during the 5th ministerial meeting of the WTO in Cancun, Mexico, in September 2003 and during the ministerial meeting of the FTAA in Miami, USA, in October.

Cancel the debt

The full and unconditional cancellation of Third World Debt constitutes a prerequisite condition in order to fulfill even the most basic human rights. We shall support any indebted country that would stop its external debt payment and would break its agreements with the IMF, especially the Structural Adjustment Programs. Centuries of exploitation of the Third World people, their resources and environment have given them the right to reparations. We ask "who owes whom"? These issues will be raised in the major campaigns being held in 2003, G8 (Evian/June), WTO (Cancun/September) and the IMF and World Bank annual meeting (Washington/September).

Opposing the G8

We call on all the social movements and progressive forces to be part of the mobilization to denounce the illegitimacy and to also reject the policies of the G8 that will be meeting in Evian, France, from 1-3 June 2003. This mobilization will also be organized all around the world with an international gathering at Evian (France) that will include an alternative summit, alternative camp and a huge international demonstration.

Women: promoting equality

We are part of the actions promoted by women's movements on 8th March which is the International Women's Day to fight against all forms of violence and patriarchy and for social and political equality.

In solidarity

We call for solidarity from all progressive social forces, movements and organizations across the world for those peoples such as the Palestinians, Venezuelans, Bolivians and others who are facing extreme crisis and are fighting against imperialist hegemony at this very moment in time.

We call to the people

As we strongly believe that another world is possible, that other worlds are possible, because we have begun to build it in our commitments, our struggles and international meetings, we are determined to go on and strengthen our unity, against the war, against poverty and for peace and social justice.

Enhance our international network

Last year during the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre we had adopted a declaration that defines our aims, our struggles and the ways we build our alliances. The spirit of this text is still living and will inspire our coming mobilizations.

Since then, the world has been changing very quickly and we feel the need to take a new step in our decision-making processes, in our coordinations and alliances; the need to promote a broad, radical, democratic, plural, internationalist, feminist, non-discriminatory and anti-imperialist agenda.

We now want to build a framework articulating our analyses and commitments to our mobilizations. This requires the active participation of all the movements, keeping in mind that the social forums are independent from governments and political parties (as given in the WSF Charter of Principles) and keeping a respect for their autonomy. This framework would be strengthened by all different social actors contributing and sharing their experiences and concrete social practices. Further, this would be in accordance with the different forms of political expression and organization of the social movements and with regard to the diversity of ideologies and cultures.

We feel the need to constitute a network of movements that is responsive, flexible and sustainable ; yet is also broad and transparent. Its responsibilities should be to enrich and feed the process, to promote its diversity and to assume the necessary degree of coordination. The aims of the network will be to enhance the engagement of movements around the world in a deeper political debate, to facilitate common action and to strengthen the initiative of concrete actors fighting for social interests. Its work should be both horizontal and effective.

To this end we propose to build a contact group as a resource and tool for our international mobilizations, including preparing meetings, promoting debate and democracy by promoting a website and mailing lists. This contact group would be established for a period of between six and twelve months and it will be drawn on the past experience of the supporters of the network of social and popular movements that are based in Brazil.

This arrangement is transitional and to ensure continuity. The main task of this provisory group is to facilitate debate so that the social movements around the world define concrete procedures to work together. It is an ongoing process. A first review of the new contact group will take place at meetings of the network of social movements during the mass mobilization against the WTO in Cancun in Sept 2003. A second review, again in assemblies of the network of social movements, will follow during the WSF meeting that is expected to be held in India in 2004.

Among other things, the reviews will consider the effectiveness of the coordination and seek new ways to enhance it. It will also consider how to proceed from one year to the next, and how to include national, regional movements and thematic campaigns. In the meantime, we need a large debate among organizations, campaigns and networks to articulate the proposals for a more permanent and representative structure. In the months to come we will have many occasions to experiment, improve and build this process through our campaigns and mobilizations.

We call for all networks, popular and social movements to sign this statement within two months.

We call for all networks, popular and social movements to sign this statement within two months, and send your signatures to: movsoc@uol.com.br within two months.

[Editor's note: The Steering Committee of URPE unanimously has endorsed the above statement.]

URPE at ASSA 2004

**CALL FOR PAPERS: URPE AT ASSA, San Diego, CA
JAN 3-5, 2004 (note: the dates are Sat-Mon next year)**

The URPE at ASSA Program Committee invites participation in the program of the Union for Radical Political Economics (URPE) at the annual meeting of the Allied Social Sciences Association (ASSA), January 3-5, 2004 in San Diego.

We are hoping to have a number of papers on immigration, development, and race issues, inspired by the San Diego setting-near the Mexican border. Hazel Dayton Gunn and Steering Committee members are working on some other theme-related activities to take place in conjunction with the meetings. Watch the newsletter for more info. **In organizing your sessions, please give some thought to the them and general issues of "audience appeal." As we organize sessions, preference will be given to those most likely to interest other URPE members and other hererodox economists attending the ASSA meetings.**

Complete Sessions: Proposals for complete sessions should include a listing of the session title, chair, discussants, presenters with order of presentation (institutional affiliation for each participant, if any) and, for each paper, an abstract (with title and author's name) sufficiently descriptive for evaluation (not more than 250 words) and, if already available, a copy of a draft. **Proposed full sessions will consist of 3 or 4 presentations.** Remember only presenters pay, not discussants or the Chair if they are different for the presenters. **Please be sure to send email and mailing addresses for all panel members, especially if they are new members.**

Individual Presentations: Proposals for individual presentations should include an abstract (with title, author's name and institutional affiliation, if any) sufficiently descriptive for evaluation (not more than one double-spaced page).

Discussants: Well prepared discussants are vital for a successful program. Complete session submissions can arrange for their discussants as they see fit. **(Most) everyone who is accepted to present an individually submitted paper will be expected to be a discussant of someone else's paper at the meetings.** If you list the areas you prefer to be a discussant in, I will attempt to match them. To economize (we are economists, recall) on personnel, one of the panelists will also serve as the chair (in the sessions I organize out of individual proposals- complete session proposals can do this or not as they wish).

READ THIS! *Session Organizers:* All sessions will have a session organizer. This person will be responsible for contacting all the members of the session with all administrative information that they will receive- confirmation that the session has been accepted, time and venue, etc., seeing that the few deadlines over the course of the year are met by session participants, and seeing that discussants get copies of the papers. URPE has no paid ASSA staff, so those presenting papers must share the burden of organizing.

Forms: Complete and return the enclosed application form. Since fees must be paid at the time of submission, I cannot accept registration by e-mail or FAX. Mail (with fees) to:

Mieke Meurs
Department of Economics
American University
4400 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20016

Fees: \$25.00 for each presenter. Note: This fee only registers you for the URPE programs and does not include registration for ASSA itself. Presenters who are not members of URPE must also add an URPE membership fee, and I strongly encourage people who are joining URPE to subscribe to the URPE journal, the Review of Radical Political Economics. See the application form for prices. Checks should be made payable to "URPE at ASSA. The organizer who submits a proposals for a complete sessions should submit \$25 for each presenter.

Deadlines: Proposals are due June 1, 2003. Please note that a completed copy of the Program Registration Form and the URPE at ASSA presenter fee of \$25 are required. As the ASSA has us on a very short timeline, only materials received by the deadline will be considered.

By about July 5th session organizers should be notified BY E-MAIL. Fees for proposals not accepted will be refunded. Finished papers are to be sent directly (usually by e-mail, but by snail mail in the case that the discussant or the presenter does not have e-mail) from the presenter to the discussant. The draconian deadline for finished papers to be received by the discussant is December 1! Discussants need time to prepare their remarks.

For any questions, contact: Mieke Meurs
Office: (202) 885-3776
Fax: (202) 885-3776
E-mail: MMeurs@American.edu

See Program Registration Form on page 10

NOTE: If any URPE members did *not* receive an electronic call for papers, please send correct email address to Mieke Meurs—some of the e-mails that were sent were bounced back!

Fellow Political Economists!

I would like you to consider looking through the materials for the *International Encyclopedia of Public Policy: Governance in a Global Age* (4 vols, 1.6m words, Routledge), with a view to possibly writing/refereeing articles. The average size of articles is 4,000 words. The IEPP website is at: <http://pohara.homestead.com/files/iepp.doc> and my email is: iepp1@runbox.com

The purpose of the encyclopedia is to critically examine the state of play of contemporary governance issues and policies with a view to a reassessment in the light of recent trends in globalisation, neoliberalism, "terrorism", crises and war. There are 14 areas examined, ranging from general issues to global ones to corporate governance, to law and labor, to the family and society, to questions of instability and the environment. 65% of articles have suitable writers as of today.

Looking forward to hearing from you

Phil O'Hara,
Global Political Economy Research Unit
Curtin University
iepp1@runbox.com
<http://pohara.homestead.com/POH.html>

URPE AT ASSA
San Diego, CA
Jan 3-5 2004
PROGRAM REGISTRATION FORM

Please! I need the top of this form completed for each panel participant!

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail (PRINT LEGIBLY!) _____

Ph: (Office) _____ (Home) _____

Summer address and phone (from _____ to _____):

Institutional Affiliation: _____

I am proposing a session/paper (circle one) entitled:

I wish to participate as a discussant. My interest area(s) are:

Members of the American Economic Association, the American Agricultural Economic Association, the American Finance Association, the Association for Social Economics, the Econometric Society, and the Industrial Relations Research Association, automatically receive an ASSA information package (describing discount fares, lodging, etc.) from the AEA/ASSA office in Nashville. We can send you a copy if you will not otherwise receive it.

Presenter fee @ \$25.00 per presenter \$25.00

Presenters who are not members must join URPE to present. Please fill in one of the options below and add to your \$25.00 presenter's fee.

URPE membership fee without journal subscription @ \$20.00 _____

URPE membership fee with journal subscription (*Review of Radical Political Economics*) @ \$55.00 _____

Low income URPE membership fee with journal subscription (Student or low-income only) @ \$30.00 _____

TOTAL DUE: _____

DO NOT REGISTER BY E-MAIL OR FAX. SUCH REGISTRATIONS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED WITHOUT ACCOMPANYING CHECK.

Return check payable to "URPE at ASSA" to: **URPE at ASSA Program Committee, Mieke Meurs, Department of Economics, American University, 4400 Massachusetts Ave., Washington, DC 20016**

JOURNAL OF AUSTRALIAN POLITICAL ECONOMY

[Ed: URPE members should note the inclusion in this issue of an article on URPE by Susan Fleck.]

The 50th issue of JAPE is on the theme of "The State of Political Economy" and contains contributions by twenty authors on:

Challenging economic orthodoxy

- "Autistic Economics?" by Keith Rankin
- "The Post-Autistic Economics Movement" by Edward Fullbrook
- "The Union for Radical Political Economics: History and Nature" by Susan Fleck
- "Association for Heterodox Economics: Past, Present and Future" by Frederic S. Lee
- "The Ascendancy of Idealist Economics in Australia" by Evan Jones

Perspective in Political Economy

- "Anti-Rationalism in Political Economy" by Geoff Gow
- "Three Arguments for Pluralism in Economics" by J. E. King
- "Beyond Eclecticism: A Surplus Orientated Approach to Political Economy" by Gavan Butler
- "A Labour Movement Perspective on Political Economy" by Neale Towart
- "Marxist Political Economy in Australia since the Mid 1970s" by Rick Kuhn

Debates in modern Political Economy

- "Economics in the Age of Consumer Capitalism" by Clive Hamilton
- "Political Economy and the Challenge of Governance" by Lynda Herbert-Cheshire and Geoffrey Lawrence
- "Rethinking Marxism in Australia: Reflections on the 'Hills Hoist' Road to Socialism" by Katherine Gibson
- "Alternative Economic Strategies: An Evaluation" by Dick Bryan
- "Recognising the Limits to Growth: A Challenge to Political Economy" by Ted Trainer

New fields in Political Economy

- "Towards an Ecological Political Economy" by Stuart Rosewarne
- "The Political Economy of Human Rights" by Tim Anderson

This is a "bumper" issue, twice the normal size of the journal, and will have a higher retail price. However, we are sending it out to subscribers at the normal subscription rate.

Subscriptions: \$24.00 for four issues (2 years) or \$25.00 annual institutional subscription

This subscription rate has not increased for 10 years
So beat inflation....subscribe to JAPE now!

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Visit JAPE online at www.JAPE.org <<http://www.JAPE.org>>

URPE News and Announcements

URPE STEERING COMMITTEE

Report on Steering Committee meeting

The URPE Steering Committee Spring meeting took place in New York March 22- 23, 2003. We broke our meeting mid-day so that we could join the New York anti-war demonstration, and reconvened later in the afternoon. In the evening Chris Rude hosted a terrific party for us all and his hospitality was much appreciated. We reviewed our ambitious plans from the Fall meeting, and recognized that we were all unable to do as much as we wanted. Our more modest plans for the future, and in particular our collectively developed commitment to develop relations with graduate students, will move us forward.

Saturday morning, March 22, 2003.

In the morning session RRPE Managing Editor Hazel Dayton Gunn reported on various transition issues connected with the move to our new publisher Sage. She reported that Sage is more responsive and helpful than Elsevier, and that she has a good working relationship with the people at Sage. There have been some problems involving individual subscriptions (Sage sent some members renewal notices charging the institutional rate), which Hazel is working to resolve. Regarding subscriptions: as of March 15, 2003, there were 170 individual subscribers to the Review; 109 of last year's subscribers have not yet renewed, a circumstance which Hazel attributes to Elsevier's fulfillment errors. She anticipates that she will be able to identify lapsed subscribers and get renewal notices to them. Hazel next reported on plans for an URPE membership event immediately prior to to 2004 ASSA meetings in San Diego. She is arranging a tour of the border area with the American Friends Service Committee, to be followed by an URPE dinner at a San Diego restaurant; this event will take place on Jan. 2, 2004.

In his report on URPE's budget Germai Medhanie informed the Steering Committee that URPE remains in strong fiscal shape. A new budgetary development is that Sage will contribute \$20,000 toward the RRPE's administrative expenses. These funds can be used to support travel to Editorial Board meetings, and the expenses of the Book Review Editor-activities that in past years have been supported out of URPE's general budget.

We moved on to a discussion of long-range planning for the organization. A number of ideas were discussed, most of which involved the best use to

make of our surplus funds. Some of the surplus will be used to establish a fund to insure ourselves against future litigation. But there was general agreement that we should be doing more to advance URPE's mission, and more to serve our members and to attract new members. Our present financial strength puts us in a position to consider new initiatives.

Chris Gunn moved that we form a subcommittee to design a one-year effort to support radical political economy activities on university campuses and other forums. Radical political economy is to be understood in a broad interdisciplinary sense. This subcommittee will report its findings and recommendations to the Steering Committee. The motion was seconded and then passed unanimously. Members of the subcommittee are: Al Campbell, Germai Medhanie, Gary Mongiovi and Paddy Quick.

Chris Gunn reported on the activities of the subcommittee that had been formed to review the National Office. The membership of this subcommittee had undergone some change since its formation, with Rebecca Hovey departing and Paddy Quick joining. The subcommittee had undertaken considerable work toward evaluating the functions of the NO, but reached an impasse over the issue of whether its mandate included and evaluation of Germai's job performance. The issue was discussed but not resolved before we broke for lunch.

Saturday afternoon, March 22, 2003

The sub-committee reviewing the National Office gave a report to the Steering Committee, which thanked the members of the sub-committee for their work. New members were appointed to continue this work. It is expected that the National Office will be able to move from its current location in New Haven, CT to the building of the Political Economy Research Institute (PERI) at U.Mass/Amherst in mid-August. Plans are under way for a celebration in Amherst to coincide with the Fall meeting of the Steering Committee, which will probably take place in November. The task of moving is a complex one, and a sub-committee was set up to assist Germai in this work.

Although URPE's finances are in good shape, it was agreed that it was important to maintain regular written communication with URPE members, and therefore we will be sending out a sustainer letter requesting donations to URPE.

Sunday morning, March 23, 2003

Plans for the Summer Conference plenary sessions are more complete than is usual at this date, thanks to the work of Al Campbell, who is in charge of the program. The Steering Committee worked on other parts of the program, including plans for workshops. It was agreed that the financial goal for the Summer Conference should be to break even, but that within this constraint URPE will work on developing a fee structure for the Summer Conference which recognizes the large differences in travel costs between people who attend the conference. We will try to get a new fee structure in place for the 2003 Summer Conference.

Cooperation between URPE and the Association for Heterodox Economics (AHE) in the

U.K. is developing well. In addition, URPE will participate in the meetings of ICARE in Missouri this summer.

Ruthie Indeck presented a report on the work of Economy Connection (see p. 8 for a full report), and the Steering Committee expressed its support for her valuable work.

Ankur Shah reported on plans for a major reworking of the URPE web-site. He will be responsible for this, and will serve as web-master for now; later Al Campbell will take over responsibility. URPE is working on a general statement on the war with Iraq which will be posted on the web-site.

Steering Committee Elections

Elections for positions on the URPE Steering Committee will take place at the 2003 Summer Conference. There are three positions to be filled. (The new by-laws specify that the Committee has 12 members, and there are nine members whose terms are continuing into the year 2003-2004.)

URPE members interested in running for the Steering Committee are asked to submit statements to this Newsletter by June 15 (see page 2 for address.) The ballot will include only those who submit statements, but write-in candidates are permitted.

Statements should include:

- (a) Your name
- (b) Name of URPE member who is nominating you
- (c) Years during which you have been a member of URPE
- (d) Work and avocations
- (e) Academic/activist accomplishments
- (f) Reasons for candidacy (maximum of 120 words)
- (g) Contact address (email address and/or mailing address and/or telephone number)

EDITORIAL BOARD OF THE REVIEW OF RADICAL POLITICAL ECONOMICS Editorial Board Elections 2003

Serving on the editorial board of the Review of Radical Political Economics is an important way to contribute to the Union for Radical Political Economics. A three-year position on the board carries with it a large commitment in both time and effort spent on conducting the business of the RRPE. If you are willing to make that commitment, please contact the managing editor (Hazel Dayton Gunn, Department of City & Regional Planning, 106 W. Sibley Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853; 607/266-8114; HG18@cornell.edu). Statements for those running for the editorial board are due to the managing editor no later than June 15, 2003, and will be published in the newsletter and posted on the URPE web site. Please note that the election will be by mail ballot, not by vote at the summer conference. This is an attempt to reach out to the membership as a whole, and not limit voting to the relatively small percentage of members/subscribers who attend the summer conference.

URPE at ASSAs New Event

We are initiating an URPE event to be held the day before the ASSA meetings, beginning in San Diego. On January 2, 2004, we have arranged a half-day tour of the U.S./Mexico border area led by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). Following the tour, 2-3 speakers will present radical perspectives on what we have seen. The cost will be a \$30 donation to the AFSC. In the evening there will be the opportunity to dine at a moderately-priced restaurant in a former hacienda in the Old Town area of San Diego. IAFFE and AFE members (among others) are invited to join us there for food, music, and reportedly amazing raspberry margaritas. For more information on this event, please contact Hazel Dayton Gunn, Managing Editor RRPE, Dept. of City and Regional Planning, 106 W. Sibley Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853; (607) 266-8114; HG18@Cornell.edu.

Review of Radical Political Economics 2002 Golden Pencil Award

It is my distinct pleasure to announce that Brigitte Bechtold is the 2002 recipient of the coveted RRPE Golden Pencil Award. The award goes to the member of the editorial board who, in the opinion of the managing editor, has contributed the most to the RRPE above and beyond the usual duties. Brigitte began her academic career as an economist and segued into sociology, making her areas of expertise extraordinarily broad. She is a feminist and a labor advocate. When I do not have a full review panel for a submission, Brigitte invariably volunteers. This is a reflection of both the breadth of her knowledge and her enthusiasm as an editorial board member. That enthusiasm has led her to be an organizer for the special issue on the political economy of art and a possible special issue on freedom. She is the first woman to be awarded the prestigious Golden Pencil. Our thanks to Brigitte Bechtold.

Hazel Dayton Gunn, managing editor

REPORT FROM THE WOMEN'S CAUCUS

By Nancy Goldner, Women's Caucus Representative

At the spring meeting of the URPE Steering Committee, in a discussion of speakers at the upcoming Summer Conference, the scarcity of women relative to men was noted. The gender imbalance in the field of economics generally underlies the difficulty URPE is having in having more women represented in the Summer Conference program. A hopeful development that may address the gender imbalance is a plan proposed by Laurie Nisonoff to reach out to women who are affiliated with International Association for Feminist Economics. Laurie will be attending the June meeting of this group and also made the suggestion that a workshop devoted to feminist economics be included in the Summer Conference program.

Pluralism at UMKC

By Fadhel Kaboub

My experience at the University of Missouri - Kansas City (UMKC) as a graduate student has been extremely enriching. I was introduced to various heterodox economic traditions, especially Post Keynesian and Institutional economics. UMKC is one of the few universities embracing a pluralistic and interdisciplinary approach at the PhD level. Knowledge of heterodox theories is required along with neoclassical theory. Students at UMKC interact closely with the economics faculty in the weekly Friday afternoon seminars on economic theory and methodology, pragmatism, critical realism, and monetary theory and policy. One of the fastest growing programs at UMKC is the interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Economics and Social Science Consortium. In this program, not only do students acquire knowledge of heterodox and mainstream economics, but also they undertake studies of Political Science, Philosophy of Science, and Social Theory & Policy. The interdisciplinary component of the program shows the necessary interrelations among the social sciences for the study of socio-economic phenomena.

Several guest speakers and visiting lecturers visit UMKC each semester making Kansas City an international

center for pluralism in economics. In the last three years, UMKC has hosted two international summer schools and two international conferences. In June of 2003, the International Confederation of Associations for Pluralism in Economics (ICAPE) will hold its first international conference at UMKC. This means hundreds of international scholars visiting UMKC for the last three years -- graduate students cannot ask for more.

Four research centers complement the economics department commitment to excellence in education and community development. The Center for Full Employment and Price Stability, the Center for Economic Information, the Center for the City and the Institute for Labor Studies are tremendous assets for graduate students to apply their knowledge to policy analysis and community development.

Students from all corners of the world have joined our department in the last few years and have enjoyed the richness of the program. I am convinced that many more will continue to come and as they graduate and join academia, they will give Kansas City the reputation of being the international city of pluralism in economics.

ECONOMY CONNECTION UPDATE

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

While the massive bombing of Iraq is winding down as of this writing, the U.S. military seems to be making itself at home. This means that EC needs more speakers and materials on topics related to the Middle East, Iraq, other countries the U.S. may invade, oil, motivations behind U.S. foreign policy, effects of war on the U.S. and world economies, and specific winners and losers. *See the URPE website for some resources URPE members are using.*

Iraq is not the only nation whose population is suffering the consequences of living in an oil-rich country: Joe Smith recently spoke about environmental crisis in the Niger Delta region to students at Wagner College. He described Nigeria's environmental crisis as a product of capitalist development, rather than a crisis of nature. Oil dominates the Nigerian political economy and is intimately connected with Nigeria's economic, social, ethnic and environmental problems. In the densely-populated and economically marginalized Delta region, oil companies do not employ workers from local communities. Land that could be used for agriculture has been lost to oil related activities and pollution. Pipelines, poorly maintained, lead to leaks that sometimes go for months without being fixed. Pipeline explosions have killed thousands in recent years, and the practice of gas flaring has further added to pollution by causing acid rain. This has caused the collapse of fish populations and destroyed crops. Finally, Joe talked about how local communities have organized to fight the oil companies. Professor Andrew Mearman said that Joe spoke with great authority on his topic and stimulated interesting comments and questions.

"What can we do to influence corporate governance and get our pensions back?" was the question on the minds of fifty angry members of the Association of Benefit Administrators who attended a March meeting at which Nomi Prins spoke. Her topic was the impact of the erosion of markets on defined benefit plans and defined contribution plans. She talked about corporate corruption and failures, the role of banks, the contrast between the "golden parachutes" presented to CEOs and the ravaged pensions of workers, and the lack of any serious effort to reform the system or punish corrupt corporations. Most of the discussion period centered around alliances that could be made and shareholder actions that could be taken by unions and other groups so that their financial holdings could become a means of exerting power to protect benefits. Host Tom Mackell wants to invite Nomi back for a book signing when *Money for Nothing* comes out. Nomi

has also given several talks on corporate interests in the war.

Armed with new information from his January trip to Brazil and Argentina, Paul Cooney returned to St. Francis College, Brooklyn, to speak to the Economics Society, whose president, Boriana Petkova, described his talk: "He compared the development of MERCOSUR vs. FTAA and shared his first-hand observations of the depression in Argentina." Again his engaging lecture inspired questions regarding IMF, the political environment and the conditions of the labor market in Argentina.

Using the dollar as the currency of choice "is like having a credit card with zero interest without any spending limits," explained Professor Robert Guttmann of Hofstra to WBAI's listening audience in a March 26 interview by Ian Forrest about the potential effects of trading oil in euros rather than dollars. Trading oil in dollars is important to keeping the dollar as the world's main trading currency, which in turn is a "crucial pillar of empire" for the U.S. So the U.S. was unhappy when Iraq decided to trade oil in euros and other countries became interested as well. The interview concluded with a discussion of whether the euro could become strong enough to replace the dollar's role in world trade.

Gloves Off (www.glovesoff.org/) is a website which features debates on political/economic issues and provides many useful links. EC and Gloves Off co-founder Sara Whitely Burke have developed a mutually beneficial exchange of contacts and websites. Other recent requests for resources have included an Indonesian man looking for people working on Asian development issues, an Illinois professor seeking contacts and resources on health care, an editor looking for resources on the role of military spending in the U.S. economy and a grad student looking for material on debt.

A number of EC members participated in three panels co-sponsored by URPE and *Dollars & Sense* at this year's Socialist Scholars Conference. Paul Cooney, Nomi Prins, Joe Smith, Renee Toback, Ruthie Indeck and Adria Scharf organized the following panels: *Recession, Restructuring, and the Impact on Labor*, with Greg DeFreitas, Ellen Frank, David Kotz and Rodney Ward; *Mercosur and the FTAA: Who Gains and Who Loses?* with Paul Cooney, Alejandro Reuss, and Martin Weinstein; and *Capitalism and The Corporate Meltdown —The Saga Continues*, with John Bellamy Foster, Nomi Prins, Chris Rude and Tyson Slocum.

FREE TRADE UBER ALLES

by
JAMES CASE

President Bush now enjoys the fast track authority so long denied his predecessor. He means to use it, too. Even as the bombs rained down on Baghdad, U.S. trade reps were twisting arms all over the world in an effort to conclude new treaties with nations too poor or too powerless to resist. For their own good, of course. Congress must vote such agreements up or down as they stand, without amendment.

Like so many others in Washington and on Wall Street, the President exudes faith in free trade. That faith is shared, regrettably, by virtually every member of the mainstream media. That is why there is no public debate concerning the wisdom of trade liberalization. The media seem persuaded that no coherent case can be made against it, or for protectionism, and treat all who disagree with utmost disdain. Astrology, creationism, and holistic medicine get better press. To advocate anything less than free and unfettered international trade in these United States is to be deemed either uninformed or incapable of abstract thought.

Free trade, as the term is used today, means an absence or bare minimum of quotas, import duties, export subsidies, and other impediments to transnational commerce. Such measures are deemed objectionable because they increase the price of goods and services to the (allegedly sovereign) consumer, thereby degrading the allocative efficiency of the domestic economy. It is a subtle argument in that the mere mention of the word "efficiency" persuades so many. Folks who neither know nor care how allocative efficiency might differ from (say) thermal efficiency feel certain that the future should include more of anything that sounds so good.

Despite the fact that the founding fathers intended the federal government to generate the bulk of its revenues by collecting import duties (as it did, more or less, for about a hundred years) free trade has come to sound about as American as baseball, apple pie, and the right to bear assault weapons. That doesn't make it a wise or even viable policy.

Americans routinely buy and sell water rights, mineral rights, timber rights, hunting rights, fishing rights, grazing rights, patent rights, copyrights, translation rights, syndication rights, movie rights, book rights, sunshine rights and rights of way. More option rights are traded on financial markets than actual securities. Why, then, must the right to offload cars, VCRs, and TV sets onto U.S. soil be given away free of charge? What do import rights have in common with all the other items society deems it improper to buy and sell? Is it so illogical to favor a ban on the sale and purchase of sex, drugs, and babies (along with the outcomes of trials, elections, and athletic contests) while opposing a prohibition on the sale of import rights?

While acknowledging that there is easy money to be made by imposing import duties—such as the 25% the U.S. currently collects on trucks—many fear that others like them would prove counterproductive. Why so? Although import duties would doubtless raise the price of the "market basket" of goods and services upon which the Consumer Price Index is based, they would also create jobs in the manufacturing sector, where the highest-paying jobs tend to be, and enhance employers' ability (if not their inclination) to pay higher wages. If import duties raise the CPI by 10 percent, while raising per-capita income by 15 percent, Americans will be better off. Where is it written that such duties must increase income less than they elevate prices? Most foreign nations continue to impose quotas and import duties (and to compensate unprotected industries with subsidies of every description) precisely because they don't believe that such is the case. To them, years of contrary experience indicate otherwise.

Conventional wisdom holds that quotas, import duties, export subsidies, and other instruments of protection must increase prices more than they enhance incomes. It bases that conclusion on the pearl of nineteenth century wisdom known as the principle of comparative advantage. First enunciated by David Ricardo in 1817, that modest assertion has been transformed by twentieth century scholarship into a momentous mathematical theorem. Entirely too many otherwise learned economists still fail to grasp the difference between that which is proven (like a mathematical theorem) and that which is arguably true. They should bear in mind that Aristotle (the inventor of formal logic) proved to the satisfaction of roughly eighty generations that planets must move in circles. His mistake went undetected until the renaissance, during which Kepler discovered by direct observation that planetary orbits are ellipses rather than circles.

Some heterodox economists are well aware that Ricardo's principle is junk science, unsupported by empirical evidence. Others are not so sure. Though aware that the asserted "gains from trade" rarely materialize, they are unable to pinpoint the flaw in Ricardo's argument. The policy process could care less. That those involved march beneath a banner of free trade merely confirms the old adage that "wise men quote the bible while doing the devil's work." A veritable army of such men have turned the legend of free trade into a nearly impenetrable smoke screen behind which all manner of harm can be (and is being) done to the world's poorer countries, and to the poorer citizens of its richer countries.

Much of the good that was accomplished during the New Deal and post World War II eras has been undone in the name of free trade, and much of the current liberal agenda seeks to redo that good work. Efforts to redistribute income in a more equitable manner, to reenact a progressive income tax, to negotiate a living wage for full time workers, to provide their children with access to health care and quality education, to protect the retirement benefits both have been promised, to strengthen the unions which once meant so much to so many, to eliminate child labor, and to close down sweat shops the world over are all cases in point.

How anyone proposes to significantly further such causes while corporations remain free to contract with the two billion citizens of the planet Earth who currently subsist on less than two dollars a day, and who stand ready to perform almost any imaginable service, is by no means clear. Yet even labor leaders hesitate to oppose free trade openly. Instead they prevaricate by suggesting that free trade is desirable in the long run, if not under present conditions, while urging token reform. Would it not be wiser to force open the path to genuine reform by slaying the dragon free trade once and for all? What greater contribution could heterodox economists hope to make to the liberal cause?

Free trade is assailable because it is fool's gold. As a nineteenth century humorist once put it, "It ain't the things we don't know that get us in trouble. It's the things we know that ain't so!" The virtues (and viability) of free trade are among the things all educated Americans seem to know--despite the fact that they are not so.

Baltimore, Md. 2003.

RESEARCH IN POLITICAL ECONOMY, Vol. 20

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<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/PZarembka>

"CONFRONTING 9-11, IDEOLOGIES OF RACE, AND EMINENT ECONOMISTS" (317 pp.)

PART I. 9-11 AND DEEP POLITICS

The Deep Politics of September 11: Political Economy of Concrete Evil, David MacGregor;
 U.S. Wars in the Light of the International Drug Trade, Peter Dale Scott

PART II. IDEOLOGIES OF RACE

Ideologies of Race and Racism, Babacar Camara

PART III. UTILIZING SURPLUS VALUE EMPIRICALLY

Estimating Gross Domestic Product with Surplus Value, Victor Kasper, Jr.

PART IV. CRITIQUES OF KEYNES' GENERAL THEORY, OF RICARDO'S TRADE THEORY, AND OF THE MARKET

Collective and Individual Rationality: Maynard Keynes' Methodological Standpoint and Policy Prescription, Andy Denis;

On the Art of Innuendo: J.M. Keynes' Plagiarism of Silvio Gesell's Monetary Economics, Guido Giacomo Preparata;

A Political Economy Critique of the Ricardian Comparative Advantage Theory, Turan Subasat;
 The Market as Disciplinary Order: A Comparative Analysis of Hayek and Bentham, Massimo De Angelis.

ON THE CONCEPT OF U.S. ENFORCEMENT OF DEMOCRACY IN IRAQ—A USEFUL LESSON FOR EDUCATORS

"There's no use trying," [Alice] said: "one can't believe impossible things."
 "I dare say you haven't had much practice," said the Queen. "When I was your age, I always did it for half-an hour a day. Why sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast."

Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland*.

Update on Radical Economics in Academia: Two Major Struggles

by Paddy Quick

The movement against the dominance of neo-classical economics has suffered one major set-back, while another promising movement failed to make headway. The Economics Department at Notre Dame has been divided in two, with the predictable outcome of dominance by neo-classical economists. And a promising initiative by students at Harvard University to introduce alternative perspectives into the introductory economics course has met with defeat.

Students in high schools, community colleges and the vast majority of state universities have long been accustomed to receiving the "wisdom" of the establishment in the almost indistinguishable textbooks by neo-classical economists. The many teachers in these places of "learning" who put up a brave resistance to this orthodoxy are scattered and it is hard to learn their stories. Within the elite private universities, it has been, paradoxically, always been - sometimes easier for radical thought to find a foothold. The challenge of radical economics, for example, was thought to be "containable" as long as its study was restricted to the children of the elite. Today it is a safe bet that 21-year-olds from rich families (e.g. those with over \$200,000 per year) have spent more time studying what Marx actually wrote than students whose household incomes fall below \$80,000.

But the "democratization" of higher education in the United States, which took place largely in response to the African-American rebellions and the general radicalism of the 1960's, brought into the elite universities students whose allegiance to the ruling class was not assured. The project of co-optation had its successes, but the radical scholarship of the last third of the twentieth century was phenomenal. Radical scholarship flourished throughout academia, in history, in law, in geography, in political science, in the natural sciences, and, of course, in political economy. And today large numbers of graduate students are demanding fair pay for their work and backing up their demands by asserting their right to unionize, thereby proclaiming their rejection of assured places in the boardrooms of the mighty, and their identification with those whose income comes from the sale of their labor power.

Today the U.S. ruling class has abandoned any pretense of interest in the rule of international law and moved to straightforward military aggression in its pursuit of profit. It is not, therefore, surprising that we should find increasing resistance in the universities of the ruling classes to any scholarship that challenges the legitimacy of their loot. It is also not surprising that this is meeting with strong opposition by concerned students.

Below we reproduce two statements: the first is an official web-site statement which announces the attempt to marginalize those economists who do not toe the neo-classical line and are lacking in the required worship of mathematical technique dis-associated from social relevance. The implications for graduate students are not spelled out. The second is a statement of principles drawn up by students at Harvard University. The petition for a revision of "Ec 10" was signed by over 700 students and alumni. On April 8, 2003, the Committee on Undergraduate Education in Economics voted down the proposal. The struggle, of course, continues...

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

Reorganization of Economics Department Approved

The Academic Council of the University of Notre Dame has voted, 39-3, to approve a proposed reorganization of the existing economics department, resulting in the formation of two distinct departments.

The existing economics program will be renamed the Department of Economics and Policy Studies, which traditionally has taken a heterodox or less mathematical approach to the study of economics. The new department, called the Department of Economics and Econometrics will focus on mainstream or neoclassical economics. Both departments will continue the study of economic social justice issues, but will use different approaches.

"This reorganization will help Notre Dame gain a greater voice in major debates of the discipline, while retaining its traditional strengths in alternative economics," said Mark W. Roche, the I. A. O'Shaughnessy Dean of the College of Arts and Letters and the Rev. Edmund

P. Joyce, C.S.C., professor of German Language and Literature.

Each department will have its own chairperson, with current economics department chair, Richard Jensen, named first chairperson of the new Department of Economics and Econometrics. A current search is under way for the chairperson of the Department of Economics and Policy Study.

Undergraduate students currently majoring in economics will not experience any significant changes as a result of this reorganization, with the core curriculum remaining the same. Though there will exist two separate departments in the faculty of economics, there will remain only one major in economics, taught by faculty from both departments.

The new changes will take effect July 1.

Source: <http://www.nd.edu/~prinfor/news/2003/3-25a.html>

Students for Humane And Responsible Economics (SHARE)

Harvard University [<http://hcs.harvard.edu/~share/platform.html>]

Mission Statement

Students for Humane and Responsible Economics (SHARE) aims to improve economics education at Harvard by advocating for a broader diversity in the economics curriculum and by providing a forum on campus for discussion and debate on current economic issues, focusing on the social consequences of global and domestic economic policy. We believe that the field of economics plays a critical role in shaping the basic organizational structure of society and informing policies (both domestic and international) that strongly affect individual welfare. Because of the practical impact of economics, we believe economics education has important human consequences. Economic models are lenses through which students are taught to view how society should function. We believe that Harvard, by only providing one model of economics, fails to provide critical perspectives or alternative models for analyzing the economy and its social consequences. Without providing a true marketplace for economic ideas, Harvard fails to prepare students to be critical thinkers and engaged citizens. We believe that the values and political convictions inherent within the standard economic models taught at Harvard inevitably influence the values and political convictions of Harvard students and even the career choices that they make. Finally, by falsely presenting economics as a positive science devoid of ethical values, we believe Harvard strips students of their intellectual agency and prevents them from being able to make up their own minds.

Despite the limited view of economics embodied at Harvard, we believe that economics poses fundamental questions about society whose comprehensive answers require an interdisciplinary approach. In order to bring to light the broader impact of economics and the intellectual possibilities of the field in a spirit of critical discourse, SHARE has three goals:

1) To diversify the curriculum of economics at Harvard. In particular, we are interested in diversifying the introductory economics course, Social Analysis 10, Principles of Economics (known as Ec 10), by amending the course and/or by providing an alternative introductory course that includes critical perspectives. We believe that diversity in an introductory economics course is crucial, and that Ec 10 must be reformed for five reasons:

a) Ec 10 is the only introductory course currently offered at Harvard, and it is a prerequisite for all other economics courses and a requirement for many concentrations. Thus, students who may be dissatisfied

with the course have no choice but to take it.

b) It is advertised as an introductory course, which implies a survey of various economic models. Because Ec 10 presents only the neoclassical model, however, students get the false impression that there are no other models in the field of economics. The fact that Ec 10 is often the only economics course many students will take at Harvard only makes this false impression more dangerous.

c) Most students take Ec 10 as freshmen, when they have not yet fully learned to question what professors teach. They are therefore less likely to question what they learn in Ec 10, and more likely to accept it as fact rather than as one specific framework of analysis and interpretation.

d) A large percentage of the articles in the sourcebook are written by Prof. Martin Feldstein himself or by economists promoting similar ideological and political views.

e) The course offers no forum for discussion. Prof. Martin Feldstein does not hold office hours for his students to ask him critical questions on his lectures or the course material. Sections are also taught uniformly and allow no official time for a deeper discussion of issues brought up in the lectures or the readings. Students are expected simply to regurgitate the information they are presented without questioning it.

2) To diversify the economics faculty at Harvard. The homogeneity of the economics curriculum is mirrored in the faculty's near-unanimous acceptance of the mainstream economic model. The lack of intellectual diversity in the faculty prevents students from finding mentors who can facilitate their pursuit of critical perspectives on economics. Harvard needs to provide students with a faculty whose interests are representative of the diversity of interests within the student body and the field of economics.

3) To educate students about economics and alternatives to the dominant model, as well as raising awareness of the social and political implications of economics. To accomplish this, we hope to provide an ongoing public forum for critical discussions around economics by inviting speakers, conducting regular discussion groups, and creating links between Harvard students and alternative economic policy research institutes. Finally, we hope to become a center that promotes further study and research in alternative economics, and where students and faculty can engage in critical dialogue about economics.

ISSUES IN LEFT ECONOMICS - AN ONGOING LECTURE/DISCUSSION SERIES

New York Union for Radical Political Economics and the Brecht Forum
 at the **Brecht Forum** 122 West 27th St., 10th floor \$6/\$8/\$10 (sliding scale)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 7:30 PM: The Political Economy of War, Oil and the Military

Political ferment over war in Iraq, in the context of an economic slowdown, has brought into the open many issues normally relegated to the back pages of the *Wall Street Journal*. Corporate, military and political elites are divided. We all know what war can mean in terms of human suffering – our panelists will help us understand what war means economically for the rich and powerful, as well as for the rest of us. Will war depress or revive the economy? Are military spending and the arms trade as important to the economy now as they were in the 1950s, or only to some companies? What are the real oil concerns of the U.S. government – profits? price? access? controlling who else has access? And is political and economic control over a large part of the world necessary under capitalism? Is there a better approach to our economic problems?

George Caffentzis teaches philosophy at the University of Southern Maine. He has been a member of the Midnight Notes collective for the last quarter century. With the collective he has edited *The New Enclosures* (1990), *Midnight Oil: Work, Energy, War 1973-1992* (1992) and *Auroras of the Zapatistas: Local and Global Struggles in the Fourth World War* (2001).

William Hartung is the Director of the Arms Trade Project at the World Policy Institute. He is the author or co-author of numerous books, articles and studies, including *Global Focus: U.S. Foreign Policy at the Turn of the Millennium* (2000); *The Changing Dynamics of U.S. Defense Spending* (1999); and *And Weapons for All* (1995).

Paddy Quick is a long-time member of the Union for Radical Political Economics (URPE). She teaches economics at St. Francis College, Brooklyn, including courses on U.S. economic history, the European Union, and gender.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 7:30 PM: Privatization of Water, from Johannesburg to Jersey City

Maude Barlow and Tony Clarke, authors of *Blue Gold: The Fight to Stop the Corporate Theft of the World's Water*, quote *Fortune Magazine*: “Water promises to be to the 21st century what oil was to the 20th century.” From the Third World to the U.S., outright privatization as well as the influence of private interests on public water systems have resulted in price increases, water cutoffs, environmental destruction and even a South African cholera epidemic. Popular resistance has been widespread. Our panelists will bring us up to date on what water privatization, here and in Africa, has meant for water companies and their customers. They will discuss the effects of other private interests such as developers and banks, and explain the economics of water privatization in the context of corporate efforts to privatize wherever possible.

Yassine Fall is the Senior Economic Advisor for the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). Born in Senegal, she is an economist and a founding member and Special Advisor to the International Gender and Trade Network. She was part of a 2002 delegation to Ghana to study the effects of IMF water privatization plans.

David Ferguson is a board member of the Croton Watershed Clean Water Coalition, which is fighting to protect the Croton watershed from private developers. A long-time activist for low-income housing, David originally joined the fight for affordable, healthy and environmentally safe water because of soaring water rates for low-income New Yorkers.

Barbara Garson is the author of the 1960's anti-war play *MacBird*. Through the investments she followed to write *Money Makes the World Go Around: One Investor Tracks her Cash Through the Global Economy* Garson became a shareholder in the company that owns the privatized water systems in both Johannesburg and Jersey City.

Elliott Sclar is Professor of Urban Planning and Director of Urban Planning Programs at Columbia University, and a research associate at the Economic Policy Institute in Washington, D.C. He is the author of *You Don't Always Get What You Pay For: The Economics of Privatization*.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 7:30 PM: Recession from a Labor Point of View

Bush's response to recession has been to cut taxes for the rich. Our panelists will evaluate Bush's economic plan, and discuss welfare for the rich and whether it ever “trickles-down.” They will explore the forces that caused the “boom” to end, and the lingering weakness in the economy. Boom and bust have not affected everyone equally, and in periods of recession people of color are usually the hardest hit. Walter Stafford will talk about how the economic slowdown has affected African Americans, and how they have responded. Greg DeFreitas will talk about job gains and losses in New York's economy, how unions have responded to hard times, and alternative plans for NY's revitalization. Renee Toback will talk about the national impact and Bush's sweeping assault on federal workers and their unions.

Gregory DeFreitas is Professor of Economics at Hofstra University and Director of the Center for the Study of Labor and Democracy. He is Editor-in-Chief of the Center's journal, *Regional Labor Review*.

Walter Stafford is Professor of Public Administration and Planning at NYU's Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service. He has written extensively on labor market segmentation in NYC, and looked at problems of Black civil society.

Renee Toback is an economist and a federal employee active in the National Treasury Employees' Union. She teaches at Empire State College and works with Economy Connection (URPE) and the NLC, an anti-sweatshop research and action group.

THE SUMMER CAMP: ITS BENEFITS AND ITS COSTS

The URPE Summer workshop/retreat will meet at Camp Chinqueka in Bantam, Connecticut. The camp is on a beautiful lake and conference participants can swim (with life-guard provided) and boat. The camp also has tennis courts and a soccer field. Many people enjoy hiking in the area. Children are welcome, and people who register before August 10 will be provided 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.) The cabin accommodations are “basic”—double-bunk beds (with firm mattresses) in cabins with bathroom facilities— people should bring their own pillows and sleeping bags. URPE organizes cabins in many ways to accommodate all the people who attend: single gender and mixed gender cabins, a cabin for kids (whose parents approve), and even a cabin for “snorers.” The camp facilities for handicapped people are not ideal, but most people can be accommodated, and the most accessible cabin is reserved for people with difficulty walking. Those who have special needs are asked to contact the URPE National Office. The camp food is rated “very good” by past conference attendees. Both vegetarians and vegans will enjoy the meals that are regularly prepared by the camp’s kitchen staff. Again, anyone with special needs is asked to contact the National Office.

Directions to the camp can be obtained from our web-site (www.urpe.org) or by contacting the National Office. The camp is about 90 minutes from New York City.

The fees listed below for the URPE Summer Conference include the conference, lodging in communal cabins or in self-provided tents, and meals. Conference fees are determined on a sliding scale (see below for suggested classifications.) Graduate students are eligible for 50% scholarships. Contact Al Campbell at Al@mill.econ.utah.edu. Check-in for the conference begins at 3 pm on Saturday, August 17, 2001, and continues throughout the conference. The conference ends after lunch on Tuesday, August 20, 2002.

| | <i>Very Low Income</i> | <i>Low Income</i> | <i>Middle Income</i> | <i>High Income/Institution</i> |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ADULTS | | | | |
| Entire 3 days/3 nights: | \$140 | \$150 | \$200 | \$307 |
| Daily Rate: | 45 | 55 | 75 | 115 |

SPECIAL RATE for GRADUATE STUDENTS participating in graduate student plenary: \$75
(For more information, contact Al Campbell <Al@economics.utah.edu>)

CHILDREN ages 12-18

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|------|------|-------|-------|
| Entire 3 days/3 nights: | \$70 | \$95 | \$125 | \$185 |
| Daily Rate: | 25 | 40 | 50 | 65 |

CHILDREN ages 3-11

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|------|------|------|-----|
| Entire 3 days/3 nights: | \$50 | \$60 | \$80 | 105 |
| Daily Rate: | 20 | 25 | 30 | 40 |

MAXIMUM FAMILY RATE

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Entire 3 days/3 nights: | \$250 | \$310 | \$460 | \$610 |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|

Children aged under 3 are free.

Lodging off-site. For those of you who prefer lodging off-site, there are many bed and breakfasts and hotels in the area, although they are on the expensive side. We will post a list of lodgings in the area on our website <www.urpe.org>. If lodging off-site, subtract \$10 per night per person (\$30 for the entire conference.)

| Number of household members | <u>Sliding Scale</u> | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Very Low Income | Low Income | Middle Income | High Income |
| 1 | \$0-9,100 | \$9,101-15,150 | \$15,151-35,000 | over \$35,000 |
| 2 | \$0-10,100 | \$10,101-19,150 | \$19,151-50,000 | over \$50,000 |
| 3 | \$0-12,100 | \$12,101-23,150 | \$23,151-55,000 | over \$55,000 |
| 4 | \$0-14,100 | \$14,101-28,150 | \$28,151-60,000 | over \$60,000 |

SUMMER CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Note: There may be a change in the fee schedule for the Summer Conference, with a lower rate for people with heavy travel expenses, and the possibility of a higher rate for people with low travel expenses. People who register now will receive refunds if there is a reduction in the fees applicable to them. Registering now guarantees that you will not be assessed higher fees if they go into effect in the future.

Please return to: URPE National Office, 37 Howe St., New Haven, CT 06511

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone(s): _____ E-mail: _____

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

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

2. Number of people registering:

Age group: Adults Children, 12-18 Children, 3-11 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 August 10]

3. Number of people needing vegetarian food _____

4. Will you be attending? (circle one): Entire conference Selected day(s)

Date and approximate time of arrival _____

Date and approximate time of departure _____

4a. For day visits, circle day(s) and meal(s) in attendance:

Sat. dinner Mon. breakfast /lunch/ dinner

Sun. breakfast /lunch/ dinner Tues. breakfast /lunch

5. Lodging preferred (circle one): Co-ed cabin Single sex cabin Space for pitching tent

6. Are you an URPE member? (circle one): Yes No No, but will become one by paying dues now!

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

8. Payment form for all registrations:

Total conference fees (see page 17) _____

(Conference fee includes costs of conference, lodging, and meals) _____

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

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

\$10 late registration fee (registrations after August 10) _____

Special: If lodging off-site, subtract \$10 per night per person, \$30 for entire conference* (_____)

TOTAL DUE: _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED (minimum deposit required): _____

BALANCE DUE UPON ARRIVAL: _____

A non-refundable deposit of \$30 per adult plus any membership fees must accompany this registration.

Checks payable to URPE. *Off-site lodging discount not available for scholarship recipients.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: Income level: Very low____ Low____ Middle____ High____

Amount received: \$_____ Total

\$_____ # adults: _____ # days _____ or entire conference _____ scholarship Yes/ No

\$_____ # ch12-18: _____ # days _____ or entire conference _____

\$_____ # ch2-11: _____ # days _____ or entire conference _____

Dues: \$_____

URPE Membership

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

All other individuals \$55

Send **Full Membership** dues to:

Hazel Dayton Gunn,
Dept. of City and Regional Planning,
106 W. Sibley Hall,
Cornell University,
Ithaca NY 14853

Limited Membership (Includes subscription to the quarterly URPE Newsletter)

All individuals \$20

Send **Limited Membership** dues to:

URPE National Office,
37 Howe Street,
New Haven, CT 06511.,

Name: _____

Address: _____

Institutional affiliation: _____ (optional)

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Would you like your name and address to be listed in a Directory of URPE members? Yes/No



URPE Newsletter
c/o URPE National Office
37 Howe Street
New Haven, CT 06511

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PROGRESSIVE ECONOMIC LINKS ON THE WEB

(Ed: web-sites that have not been updated since April 2002 have been deleted.)

Union for Radical Political Economics
www.urpe.org

Dollars and Sense Magazine
www.dollarsandsense.org

Left Business Observer
www.leftbusinessobserver.com

**International Confederation of Associations for
Pluralism in Economics (ICAPE)**
www.icafe.org

Association for Heterodox Economics
www.hetecon.com

Science & Society
www.scienceandsociety.com

**Rethinking Marxism A Journal of Economics, Culture
and Society**
www.nd.edu/~remarx/RM/rm.html

Capitalism Nature Socialism
gate.cruzio.com/~cns/

Monthly Review
www.monthlyreview.org

International Association For Feminist Economics
www.facstaff.bucknell.edu/jshackel/iaffe/body.html

AFL-CIO
www.aflcio.org/economicpolicy/

Center for Economic and Policy Research
www.cepr.net

Economic Reporting Review
www.TomPaine.com

E/The Environmental Magazine
www.emagazine.com/

Program on Corporations, Law & Democracy
www.poclad.org/

Red Pepper
www.redpepper.org.uk/

Economic Policy Institute
<http://www.epinet.org>

Redstockings-Women's Liberation Movement
www.afn.org/~redstock

Research in Political Economy
ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/PZaremka

**IDEAs (International Development Economics
Associates)**
www.networkideas.org or www.ideaswebsite.org

Political Economy Research Institute (PERI)
www.umass.edu/peri/

North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA)
www.nacla.org

Middle East Research and Information Project (MERIP)
www.merip.org