

URPE Newsletter

2007 URPE Summer Conference

Global Migration and the Logic of Capitalism

Friday August 10- Monday August 13

Camp Deer Run, Pine Bush, NY

FRIDAY, AUGUST 10

2:00. Steering Committee meets

4:00. REGISTRATION BEGINS AND CONTINUES ALL WEEKEND

5:00. RECEPTION/INTRODUCTION TO URPE

6:00. DINNER

6:00. Graduate students who have already arrived meet over dinner.

7:00-9:00pm PLENARY 1:

THE CHANGING NATURE OF LABOR STRUGGLES IN THE UNITED STATES

Theory and Practice: A Labor Activist Reflects on Controversies in Economic Theory. **Brian Callaci**, Campaigner, UNITE HERE.

Building the Movement for a New Social Contract in New Haven, Connecticut and Beyond. **Gwen Mills**, CT/RI Political Director, UNITE HERE; Community Organizer, Connecticut Center for a New Economy.

Rebuilding the U.S. Labor Movement: Competing Visions and the Road Not Taken. **Mark Brenner**, Labor Notes.

9:15 – 11:00. Informal socializing: catching up with old friends, getting to know new ones.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11

8:00. BREAKFAST

8:45 – 9:30. Continued discussion from the Friday plenary

9:45 – 10:40.

Site A: After the War is Over: the Political Economy of the US Neoliberal Military State (Chris Rude)

Site B: Competition: the Birth of a New Science (Jim Case)

10: 55 –11:50.

Site A: Immigration, Emigration, and the Irish Past and Present (Brendan Mark, Graham Cassano, Mike Ryan)

Site B: Political Economy Perspectives of Financial Institutions in Economic Development (Leanne Ussher, Laura Ebert)

12:00. LUNCH

1:00 – 2:00. RECREATION. Swim, hike, relax with friends.

2:15 – 3:45.

Site A: The Political Economy of Motherhood (Marie Duggan, Tami Ohler, Ayanna Bledsoe)

Site B: Class Analysis and the Soviet Union (David Laibman, Rick Wolff, Paddy Quick)

4:00 – 5:30.

Site A: Monopoly Capitalism, Class Consciousness, and Organizing (Andrew Jones, Dave Shukla, Chip Smith)

(continued on page 3)

In This Issue

Summer Conference 2007 Schedule	1
URPE News and Announcements	4
Globalist/Nationalist Resource Strategies.....	6

Economy Connection.....	7
Report on USSF 2007.....	8
Summer Conference Registration.....	11

2006-2007 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 (06-09), 1645 Campus Center Dr. Rm. 308, Salt Lake City, UT 84112-9300; (801) 585-3521; <Al@economics.utah.edu>

Scott Carter (06-09) Department of Economics, The University of Tulsa, 600 South College Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74104; <scott-carter@utulsa.edu>

Graham Cassano (04-07), Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Oakland University, Rochester MI; <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 (06-09) Social Science, Hampshire College, Amherst, MA 01002; 413-559-5397 (o); <lnisonoff@hampshire.edu>

Chris Rude (06-09) 169 Wythe Avenue, Room 104, Brooklyn, NY 11211; 718-486-6369 <rudec690@newschool.edu>

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

Leanne Ussher (05-08) Economics Department, PH 300-0, Queens College, CUNY, 65-30 Kissena Blvd, Flushing NY 11375. <leanne.usshe@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**

Frances Boyes, URPE National Office, Gordon Hall, University of Massachusetts, 418 N. Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA 01002-1735. Tel. 413-577-0806. Fax 413-577-0261 <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 Fred Moseley, Mount Holyoke College, <fmoseley@mtholyoke.edu> and Laurie Nisonoff, Hampshire College, <lnisonoff@hampshire.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 in New York. 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 other 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.

(Saturday August 11, continued)

Site B: Theoretical Constructions of Household Production (Harriet Fraad, Paddy Quick, Rick Wolff, Graham Cassano)

6:00. DINNER

7:00 – 9:00. PLENARY 2:

CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF TRANSNATIONAL MIGRATION

Female Migrant Labor and the Global Integration of Labor Markets. **Salimah Valiani**, Social and Economic Policy Department of the Canadian Labor Congress.

Economic Insecurity and Remittances as Causes for Migration. **Alex Julca**, Researcher.

Migration Chains to Chained Migration: The Rise of the U.S. Temporary Migrants. **Manny Ness**, Professor of Political Science, Brooklyn College, CUNY. He has written a book on this subject titled *Unions, Immigrants and the New US labor Market.*

9:30 – 12:00. ENTERTAINMENT. Back (but expanded!) by popular demand (from us), dance and/or chill out to the phenomenal (it really is) sounds of *Soul Purpose*.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12

8:00. BREAKFAST

8:45 – 9:30. Continued discussion from the Saturday plenary

9:45 – 10:40.

Site A: The Pillars of Marxist Theory (Alex Tokarev)

Site B: The Current State of Labor Studies Programs (Frances Boyes, Cathy Mulder)

10:55 – 11:50.

Site A: Evaluating the Rise of Neoliberalism in Latin America: the Cases of Argentina, Brazil and Mexico (Paul Cooney)

Site B: Recent Trends in Privatization of the Commons and International Capital: The Rise of “Nature’s Real Estate Agency” in New York and the Global Economy (Irwin Sperber)

12:00. LUNCH

12:00. Women’s Caucus meets over lunch.

1:00 – 1:50. BUSINESS MEETING for URPE mem-

bers. For non-URPE members, a recreation period.

2:05 – 2:50.

Site A: Labor Migration and World Systems Theory (Paul Hancock)

Site B: Report on the United States Social Forum (Germai Medhanie, Julie Matthaei, Jenna Allard)

.3:05 – 4:00.

Site A: The High Cost of Free Trade (Jon Hunt)

Site B: Welfare Transformed: The Hidden Story (Robert Cherry)

4:15 – 5:45. **The DAVID GORDON LECTURE**

Radical Economics and Social Change Movements: Strengthening the Links between Academics and Activists. **Jim Stanford**, Economist, Canadian Auto Workers union; Economics columnist, The Globe and Mail newspaper.

6:00. DINNER

7:00-9:00. **Film and Discussion: Sacco and Vanzetti** (*introduced by Rina Garst*)

9:30-11:00. ENTERTAINMENT

MONDAY, AUGUST 13

8:00. BREAKFAST

8:50 – 9:45.

Site A: TBA

9:55 – 10:50.

Site A: Book Symposium - *The Politics of Immigration* (David Wilson, Jane Guskin)

10:55 – 11:50.

Site A: Cuba Update (Al Campbell, Susan Metz)

12:00. LUNCH

See you all next year!

(Schedule listed as of print date, please check www.urpe.org for any changes.)

The URPE Summer Conference at Camp Deer Run includes everything listed in the schedule posted above plus informal socializing, outdoor recreation and evening entertainment at a beautiful camp that is near some of the best hiking in the northeast.

(continued on page 12)

URPE News and Announcements

RRPE: Call for Papers

China and Global Capital Accumulation: Economic, Political, Social, and Environmental Implications

Global capital accumulation in the 21st century has increasingly become centered in China. The political economic trajectory of China has become an issue of vital importance not only to the Chinese people but also to the global economy and to political-economic developments in other countries. Indeed, many believe that we are entering a "Chinese century." A special issue of the *Review of Radical Political Economics* will explore this topic. The following are examples of specific topics that would be welcome (in no particular order of priority).

- (1) Can China continue on its current path of development and at the current pace? What are the economic, social, political, and environmental impacts of its current development path, and what are the limits?
- (2) How does the Chinese path to development compare to the development paths being followed in India, other East Asian countries, or elsewhere?
- (3) What are the causes and consequences of China's growing inequality of income and wealth? What are the implications of the growing divide by class, legal residency status, and urban vs. rural location for Chinese economic and political development?
- (4) What is the impact of China's growing demand for oil and other non-renewable resources, much of which has been coming from Africa and Central Asia?
- (5) What are the implications of the imbalances in trade and capital flows between China and the United States, and more generally between China and the rest of the world?
- (6) How does the growing presence of foreign capital affect the political economy of China? How will labor and democratic forces be able to assert their interests in relation to foreign capital?
- (7) What kind of economic system has emerged in China? What modes of production are present in China and how can their social formation be characterized? Is it a form of socialism, capitalism, or something else? What are the political-economic implications of this issue?
- (8) What is the impact of China's economic rise on the world labor movement?

(9) What is China's revolutionary legacy and what are its implications for future Chinese workers' and progressive social movements?

(10) What are the implications of China's rapid rise for the political-economic trajectory of a global system in which the United States finds it increasingly difficult to act effectively as the hegemonic power?

Please send four hard copies of submissions for the special issue by August 1, 2008, to Hazel Dayton Gunn, Managing Editor, RRPE, Dept. of City & Regional Planning, 106 W. Sibley Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853, USA. (hg18@cornell.edu) Submissions must follow the instructions to contributors listed in the back of the journal and available on our Website: <http://www.urpe.org/rrpe-home.html>. All submissions are subject to the RRPE's usual review process and should not be under review with any other publication.

To our good friends and comrades in URPE *From Rina Garst*

This is just a brief note to inform you that Jim Garst died on December 8, 2006, after a brief illness.

Jim and I attended an URPE Summer Conference in Camp Muffly, W. Va. in 1973 and were so impressed, we joined on the spot.

URPE became a very important part of our lives by giving us the chance to work (and play) with good and interesting people. The great mix of ideas of both academics and activists – with all the tension and fights, was extremely meaningful. We made some very good and lasting friendships – in both camps. This was (and is) the beauty of URPE.

Al Campbell got the essence of the URPE experience in a note he sent to me. He said "... many of the non-academic people in URPE, and the two of you in particular, I feel were key to keeping academic URPE from drifting to the middle." I'm glad we had that effect and send my greetings to a successful continuation of this URPE spirit.

Fraternally,
Rina Garst

Steering Committee Elections are right around the corner...

A brief note from the candidates

Graham Cassano

Graham Cassano is an Assistant Professor of Sociology and Anthropology, Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan. Dr. Cassano is a political economist and cultural theorist. He studies Thorstein Veblen, American pragmatism, and the relationship between mass media of communication and class formation in the early 20th century. His essays have appeared in *The Journal of Economic Issues*, *Rethinking Marxism*, and *Critical Sociology* he has also contributed articles on organized labor and social theory to *McMillan's International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences* (2nd Edition) and Sage's *Encyclopedia of Activism and Social Justice*. With Harriet Fraad, Steve Resnick, and Rick Wolff, he is currently editing a collection on post-modern Marxian class analysis, gender, and the contemporary household. He is an Associate Editor of the peer reviewed journal, *Critical Sociology*, sits upon the Editorial Board of *Rethinking Marxism*, and has been a member of the URPE Steering Committee since 2004. During his time as a Steering Committee member, his primary responsibilities have included organizing and scheduling the annual summer conference. He has enjoyed his time on the Steering Committee and hopes to continue serving the URPE community.

Marie Duggan

I have been attending URPE summer conferences since the late 1980s, when it was held on the Cape. There I met Anwar Shaikh and David Gordon, both professors at the New School, where I subsequently applied and obtained a PhD in 2000. My attendance was more sporadic when I was in graduate school without a car in the 1990s, but I made some valiant attempts to get to remote summer camps by means of Greyhound busses! Since I became an econ professor at Keene State College in New Hampshire in 2000, my attendance has risen again. I am married and have two young children. This is not the origin of my interest in the economics of raising families in the US, but it certainly has shown me how the financial and physical demands on working parents are back-breakingly high at the moment, motivating me to help the Left articulate an agenda for reform. Prior to the 1980s, I grew up in Berkeley, California where my experience with desegregation by bussing in the public schools infused me with a lifelong wreckless interest in stepping on that live wire called the color line in the United States. I teach the economics of discrimination, and research the economic structure of California when it was part of Mexico between 1769 and 1848.

As I see it, URPE is going through a generational shift, and I would make it a high priority to reach out to people in their forties (my generation), and in their twenties (the next generation) to find ways to bring them to our summer camp. This involves three prongs: 1) focusing on topics that will draw activists and academics in, 2) providing financial

URPE/RRPE 40TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION NEW ORLEANS ASSAs

We are pleased to announce the upcoming URPE/RRPE 40th birthday celebration to be held on January 3, 2008 from 4-6p in New Orleans. There will be a roundtable discussion with Lourdes Beneria, Laurie Nisonoff, Michael Reich, and Howard Wachtel, each representing a founding university/area. The roundtable will be moderated by Frank Thompson. There will be ample time for comments/ discussion/ reminiscences by those attending. Put on your party hats and join us to celebrate, and reflect, on this milestone. More information as the time approaches.

**Hazel Dayton Gunn
Lane Vanderslice**

incentives for families to come (to people in their forties) and for graduate students to come (with no money); and 3) providing transportation for the graduate students with no money. At the topical level, I find people of my generation to be focused on issues of ethnicity and culture, on gender, and on depletion of resources. Yet they don't seem to prioritize the economic ramifications to these issues, so I'd focus on bringing these out. For example, that the growing immigrant labor force in the US is not simply posing issues of culture and ethnicity, but also recreating the work force without political rights that had been abolished along with Jim Crow. Or that discussion of gender rights is overly short if only the right to terminate pregnancies is considered, without considering the need to increase the economic power of families to raise children, or to reduce the economic sacrifice imposed on people who bear and raise children. Or that depletion of oil resources is not only an environmental issue, but also involves a discussion of market and political

power of producers.

Regarding reaching out to graduate students, my thoughts are that having one day of the conference focus on topics of relevance to them, with transport arranged at a reasonable cost from Amherst and NYC, could increase their presence. Such topics might include using computer programs to do heterodox political economy, using the heterodox perspective to write compelling statements of teaching philosophy for the job market, and making URPE more of a clearing house for policy/organizing jobs in political economy, especially for young people.

Paddy Quick

URPE member since 1970. Currently teaching at St. Francis College, Brooklyn. I would like to run for another term on the URPE Steering Committee in order to be able to participate in and contribute to this exciting period of outreach by URPE into the broader left community, both within the United States and internationally.

GLOBALIST/NATIONALIST RESOURCE STRATEGIES

by Jerry Harris (gharris234@comcast.net)

Two forms of accumulation characterize the current world capitalism system: the old nation-centric Fordist model, and the emerging transnational system of production. This is a historically determined and dialectical process filled with tension and politically represented by different hegemonic blocs. (See Harris, "Science & Society," Vol. 67, #1).

In brief, the nation-centric system is characterized by: guarding home markets for national capital, export competition, bi-lateral trade agreements, state-directed and protected economic development, expanding the national job base while incorporating large sections of the working class into a social contract, and using the state to advance the position of national monopolies while securing their access to international resources and markets.

The transnational mode of accumulation is characterized by: cross border mergers and acquisitions, FDI, rapid speculative cross border flows of capital, global production chains, foreign affiliates, outsourcing labor, global best practices, multilateral trade agreements, a common global regulatory structure for finance, trade and investment, and use of the state to rearrange national structures to serve global practices.

Transnational competition is different from national competition, it occurs in the battle to establish world spanning monopolies through a mix of global assembly lines, world R&D, suppliers and markets. With global accumulation strategies transnationals become an integral part of multiple national economies. The results of which don't enrich their nation of origin, just the shareholders—who are an international mix of capitalists.

Therefore the strategic orientation of transnationals is to guarantee a stable flow of energy and resources for their global assembly lines. The monopoly control of resources by one country, whereby it can threaten or withhold resources and drive other economies into recession or ruin, is a threat to the stability of the entire system. For transnationals there is no, nor should there be, any single national imperative. For example, every major transnational needs China to have a steady flow of energy to produce the commodities they sell world-wide. In fact the relationship to China is a continual point of contention between globalists and nationalists wings of capitalism. Nationalists defining China as a strategic competitor and enemy, globalists seeing it as a strategic partner.

Let's review a few figures. There are 70,000 transnational corporations, with 690,000 affiliates,

(continued on page 9)

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

by Ruthie Indeck, Coordinator (201-792-7459 or soapbox@comcast.net) and guest writer Paul Hancock

Green Mountain May Day Teach-in on Iran

Green Mountain College celebrated May Day with a teach-in on Iran, organized by students and faculty, including Economy Connection member Paul Hancock. Students spray-painted T-shirts, listened to the GMC student band, and viewed posters reading "Rich Man's War, Poor Man's Blood." They also learned about US-Iranian relations through a discussion led by EC member Tom O'Donnell, Professor of Physics and Faculty of the Center for Middle East and North African Studies at U. of Michigan; Norwich, VT resident Mary Brownlow of Building Bridges-Middle East-US; and Mansour Farhang, Professor of International Relations at Bennington College, VT and former ambassador of Iran to the U.N. until his 1980 resignation in protest of the hostage-taking. According to student organizer Nicole Ainsworth, posting to the GMC blog, "The speakers were very interesting; I learned A LOT... GMC got a chance to really discuss the context of the war in Iraq, including many of the political aspects that the average Joe doesn't really know about, as well as the realities of Iran vs. the stereotypes usually associated with Iranians."

Paul Hancock reports:

The May Day Teach-In was a great success. Throughout the two-hour panel discussion in the Courtyard of Withey Hall we maintained about 25 to 30 audience members on a day that suddenly turned quite chilly. Professor O'Donnell provided a critical analysis of the very complicated political economy of the Middle East conflicts. He initially gave our students a brief history of the Teach-In, which was founded at the U. of Michigan (remember the Port Huron Statement) along with SDS. This is of interest because there is clearly a reanimation of 1960s activism on campuses across the country. The Green Mountain Teach-In was at the behest of the students who collaborated with a group called the Student Alliance of Rutland County (SPARC), appealing to their professors to lend a hand with organizing demonstrations, street theater and this teach-in.

Few students (or their professors) were aware that Iran has been under sanctions for almost a decade and that the Iranian government made an offer in 2002 through a Swiss ambassador to grant all the demands the Bush administration has been asking for. In response, the administration reprimanded the Swiss ambassador. Professor O'Donnell made it clear that Iran does not

have an oil weapon: Iran produces about 4.1 million barrels/day, and exports only about 2.4 million of that; the remainder is consumed at home. In comparison, after Katrina the U.S. lost about 2 million barrels/day, which was quickly replaced through the intervention of the International Energy Agency, which ordered the release of members' Strategic Reserves. Additionally, Tom argued that peak oil will not be reached until well past the mid-century mark due to the likelihood of the price of oil reaching a level that will make extraction from shale and coal profitable.

Professor Farhang was more hopeful of an eventual rapprochement between the U.S. and Iran. He indicated that President Ahmadinejad's bizarre behavior (denying the holocaust, threatening Israel, enriching uranium) was part of an effort to shore up his standing within the Arab community. A recent *Al Jazeera* poll found that 70 percent of a sampling of people in the neighboring states believed the US and Iran were allies.

Tom visited two classes during the day, a first year writing seminar and a class on Imperialism. He gave a presentation in both classes and was asked numerous questions about the link between U.S. foreign policy today in the Middle East and the history of this country's imperialist adventures. Tom reports that "I had a wonderful time talking politics and economics with everybody over the almost three days that I was there."

The next day, those of us involved in organizing the Teach-In were thanked by the administration, other professors and students. A greater percentage of students expressed their gratitude than professors. Academic politics are strange indeed.

Some of us will be expressing our views at commencement by wearing and carrying anti-war statements. There is even talk of blocking a Coca-Cola (killer Coke) truck from driving on campus.

Violence in Schools and in Society

On May 24, Professor Paddy Quick of St. Francis College joined Sergeant Lynch of the Suffolk Police Dept. to talk about violence in schools and in society. Sponsored by the Long Island Progressive Coalition, the purpose of the event was to understand the causes of violence, and to aim for a response that balances our rights and our security. Host Terry Morrone videotaped the event for his public access cable TV show.

"Violence begets violence," Paddy began, using as

an example the soldier who returns from Iraq to then engage in spousal abuse. The history of the US, as we know, is one of violence, from the genocide of Native Americans and the African slave trade, through the War on Mexico and the conquest of the West, up to modern times with extensive US military intervention in Central and Latin America, and most recently Iraq. What is less well understood is that after these initial acts of “armed robbery,” violence is necessary, both in the US and abroad, to ensure continuous exploitation.

“Who does the work, and who gets the goods?” Paddy asked, introducing a discussion of US production and distribution in recent years. Promising not to inundate the audience with boring statistics, Paddy presented some striking information from the *Economic Report of the President*. While productivity increased 90% between 1972 and 2005, real wages fell 7%. Recent media attention to growing inequality has neglected to differentiate between income to labor which has declined, and income to capital, which the IRS correctly calls “unearned income,” which has grown.

“If we are producing more, and workers are not getting it, where does it go? It goes to the owners of capital in the form of interest and profits.” Paddy proceeded to passionately describe the unbelievable (and increasing) poverty in the US today, and its devastating effect on the lives of individuals (including children), especially in African American and Latino communities. “This is real violence!” Paddy exclaimed. This poverty also generates violent acts, most of which occur within poor communities.

Paddy then explained the economic mechanisms that keep people poor. Unemployment rates are kept high enough to enable employers to keep wages low, as workers compete for jobs. This is not an accident – government policies are designed to create this result. NY law allows employers to fire workers “at will.” The *Economic Report of the President* (2007) shows that the government *wants* an official rate of unemployment of 4.8%, compared with today’s official rate of around 4.5%. If real wages seem to be increasing, the Fed can and does raise interest rates and slow the economy down enough to raise unemployment and keep wages down. The Fed describes this as necessary to control inflation, but it is increasingly open in talking about how much its decisions are designed to keep wages down.

The US is a racially organized and structured society, Paddy continued, and communities of color have born the brunt of US labor policies. Unemployment and poverty have been concentrated in African American and Latino communities, leading to misery and insecurity, and eating away at the self-

respect of individuals and the cohesion of those communities. Government strategies to control these communities have led to skyrocketing rates of incarceration, and to further unemployment for people with a prison record. The white community, which, despite its poverty, is relatively better off, is encouraged to protect its privileges rather than to join in the defense of the interests it shares with communities of color.

Paddy concluded with a call to look not only at individual acts of violence but also at how our society continually generates more violence. We need full employment, decent wages, and supportive community structures; and we are up against a complex system composed of major corporations that are making huge amounts of money and are able to finance elections. They are very resistant to change. Paddy ended with a quotation from Frederick Douglass: “Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.”

“Paddy’s talk was wonderful!” host Terry Morrone exclaimed. “She is a very good speaker. She’s very good at explaining complex economic concepts.”

Paddy and Terry were both enthusiastic about the informal discussion that took place afterwards. Paddy notes that Sergeant Lynch was an active participant and agreed with many of her points. “We discussed the issue of ‘gangs’ and he agreed that they were, in many cases, a substitute for families and a way for young men, in particular, to gain the respect that they need, although often in ways that were destructive to their communities. We also agreed that the dire poverty in which many people lived was itself a form of violence that continually generated violence by those who were its victims.”

URPE at United States Social Forum *a report from Frances Boyes*

There was much excitement and anticipation for the first ever United States Social Forum, and this was felt by many URPE members as we headed down to Atlanta as participants in this historic event. URPE was a registered organization at the Forum, sponsoring a workshop given by URPEr Dave Shukla, and also coordinating an informational table in the Solidarity Economy tent. Our space in the tent was shared by our friends at Guramylay: Growing the Green Economy, The Center for Popular Economics, Dollars & Sense Magazine, and the Grassroots Economic Organizing group. Many people who stopped by the tent expressed their desire to learn about the solidarity economy because they saw economic justice issues as central to the work that they were

doing, whether their issues were anti-war, poverty, environment or healthcare. Many interesting conversations were taking place in the tent and many connections were made for URPE. Aside from attracting a possible 30 new members, many people were very interested in Economy Connection and how their organizations could benefit from our speakers and resource project. Many thanks to Jenny Brown, Tom Masterson and James McBride from *Dollars & Sense* who helped to staff the table during the long and hot days! We would also like to thank Ray Korona for providing us with musical inspiration!

At right: Tom Masterson volunteers at the URPE information table at the 2007 United States Social Forum.



Globalist/Nationalist continued from page 6...

holding \$36 trillion in foreign assets, employing 60 million workers. Their average transnationality index (the ratio of foreign assets, employees and sales to home assets, employment and sales) are 55% (UNCTD 2005). Sales of foreign affiliates is now almost twice as large as cross border trade, \$9.7 trillion to \$5.3 trillion (UNCTD 2002). And of the 100 largest transnationals just 25 come from the US (UNCTD 2004). All this points to a global system of co-dependency and integration, not one of US hegemony.

Jeffrey Joerres, CEO of Manpower (headquartered in Milwaukee) nicely articulates the contradiction between the national and transnational systems. "I'm an American and I have 85% of our business outside the US. If we open a new call center in Mumbai, we just created jobs in India. If I open in the US we create jobs in the US. So I have to lead a schizophrenic life. I'm agnostic, to some extent, as to where those jobs are created, because I have as much responsibility for the health of our Indian or French operation as I do to the US operation. But I only get to vote in one country. There is a difficulty of politicians needing to do what they need to do on a nationalistic level. But the world is moving at a whole different pace. The world is global but the politician is local. And its going to create some real stress."

The same problem can be seen in Germany over the effort by Deutsche Bank to become a global player. Says Klaus Nieding of the German Shareholders Protection Association, "Deutsche Bank is a deutsche bank – a German bank. It comes out of Germany, it works for German industry." Answers

Rolf Breuer, Deutsche Bank chair: "The majority of our customers, the majority of our employees, the majority of our earnings are not German. So why should we be the German icon?" Clearly globalists have moved beyond national identity and nationally based competition.

The Nationalist Alternative

The globalists formed a hegemonic political project in the 1970s and 80s, but in the US there was always a counter bloc based upon the nation-centric mode of accumulation with different strategic imperatives. This bloc came to power with George W. Bush and is based on the military/industrial complex which seeks to maintain US dominance abroad and promotes a nation-centric view of the international system.

For its popular political and cultural base of support this bloc relies on religious fundamentalism, a movement that sees the world as a clash of civilization with the US defending the superiority of Western Christianity. Developed as the alternative post-Soviet world strategy to globalism, US unilateral domination was best articulated by the neo-conservatives who had the most ideologically advanced vision. But Washington did not suffer a neo-con coup or simply a new political alliance, but rather the ascension of a counter hegemonic bloc of US capital with a different strategic world view. Unilateralism and growing protectionism in the US has created echoes in Russia, China, S. Korea and other countries. While globalization continues, nationalism is still a powerful force shaping its development.

As for the national roots of the military/industrial complex we can use Lockheed Martin as an example. Lockheed Martin has 939 facilities in 457

US cities in 45 states, 72% of sales come directly from the US government, and foreign sales comprise about 21% of their market compared to an average of 49% for transnationals. While they do have a number of joint ventures the majority of their foreign sales are by export. Such nation centric figures are common for other leading weapon producers. (For more on the military/industrial complex, see Harris, "Race and Class" Vol. 44 #2, 2002.)

Of all strategic resources oil is the most nationally controlled, the majority of assets owned by state corporations in Iran, China, Venezuela, Saudi Arabia,

etc. Yet the largest private interests are dominated by US and UK firms such as BP, Shell, Exxon-Mobil and Texaco-Chevron. This may create a unique situation for transnational oil corporations in which they rely on US and UK state/military power to help gain access and compete with state owned oil enterprises. In addition, Johnathan Nitzan and Shimshon Bichler have traced a strong correlation between oil, the arms industry and war in the Middle East. ("The Global Political Economy of Israel) In short, such are the lines of demarcation between globalists and nationalists and the resource wars.

URPE SUMMER CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES

(SEE BELOW FOR SUGGESTED INCOME RANGES)

	<i>Low Income</i>	<i>Middle Income</i>	<i>High Income /Institution</i>
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 3.)

Entire 3 days/3 nights:	75	100	150
Daily Rate:	30	40	55

REGISTRATION FEES FOR THOSE REGISTERING AFTER JULY 27

	<i>Low Income</i>	<i>Middle Income</i>	<i>High Income /Institution</i>
ADULTS			
Entire 3 days/3 nights:	180	230	330
Daily Rate:	70	90	130
SPECIAL RATE for STUDENTS :	100		

(ENTIRE 3 DAYS)

CHILDREN ages 3-18 (THERE IS NO FEE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 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 who submit plane ticket receipts showing travel within two weeks of either starting or ending date of conference. Subsidy will 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.

Suggestions 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): _____ Email: _____

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

- 1. Income level (circle one):** Low Middle High/Institution
2. Number of people registering by age group: Adults Children ages 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 27)

4. Dietary needs: No special diet (# of people) _____ Vegetarian (# of people) _____ Vegan (# of people) _____

If you have other special diet needs, please contact our National Office with these needs PRIOR to the conference.

5. Will you be attending? (circle one): Entire conference OR Selected day(s) (see next line)

Date and approximate time of arrival _____

Date and approximate time of departure _____

6. Lodging: Do you need special accommodations? (circle one) Yes/ No *If YES, please state your request and reasons for it. Spaces are limited and we will do our best to accommodate everyone's needs. (Are you planning on pitching your tent? If so, deduct \$5 for each night you will be camping with us.)*

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 27 are higher than those who register before that date): \$ _____

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

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

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

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED (payable to URPE): \$ _____

I am paying by credit card (no AMEX please).

My card number is: _____ expiration date _____

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

Union for Radical Political Economics
Gordon Hall, University of Massachusetts
418 N. Pleasant Street,
Amherst, MA 01002-1735.



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

(Summer conference continued from page 3)

Summer Conference registration due 7/27!!

Registration for the conference should be received by 7/27. Later registration involves an extra fee (see rates on page 10). Refunds are available minus a \$30 fee. Arrival time begins at 4:00 pm on Friday, August 10. The conference ends after lunch on Monday, August 13.

Location

Camp Deer Run is located off Route 52, west of Pine Bush, NY, about 1 1/2 hours by car from NYC or Danbury, CT. Transportation by Shortline bus is available from NYC. Directions to the camp can be obtained from our website (www.urpe.org) or by contacting the URPE National Office.

Facilities

Camp Deer Run's facilities include several meeting rooms, classrooms and a small cinema and lecture hall, in addition to a large outdoor deck suitable for meetings and discussions in good weather. Accommodation is in indoor rooms with 2-4 double-bunk beds (with a couple of singles and doubles reserved for special needs).

Pillows, bed linens and towels are provided, together with a light quilt. People may want to bring an extra blanket and towel. All rooms have access to bathrooms and showers. Allocation of rooms will be made on the basis of need for those whose registration is received by July 28, 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, with a \$5 per night reduction in camp fees. The needs of most people with physical disabilities can be accommodated. Those who have special needs are asked to contact the URPE National Office at urpe@labornet.org or 413.577.0806. All meals will include a vegetarian option; vegan meals will also be available on request for those whose registration is received before July 27.

CHILD CARE

URPE will be happy to provide free child care; this is available only for those who register by July 27.