

URPE Newsletter

Union for Radical Political Economics

Correction: The previous issue of the Newsletter, Fall 2003, was mistakenly numbered as Volume 34, No. 4. It should have been Volume 35, No. 1.

URPE SUMMER CONFERENCE FRIDAY JUNE 4 - MONDAY JUNE 7, 2004

CAMP CHINQUEKA
BANTAM, CONNECTICUT

RIGHT-WING COUP OR NEO-LIBERALISM AS USUAL?

The schedule of speakers and workshops for this year's Summer Conference is not yet complete. For up-dated information, go to the URPE website: www.urpe.org. People interested in participating in workshops are asked to contact Al Campbell, the Program Coordinator, or Germai Medhanie, the National Office Coordinator. (For addresses see Page 2 of this Newsletter.)

Note that the dates for this year's Summer Conference are different from those of previous years. The Conference takes places in early June, rather than late August, and begins on Friday afternoon, rather than on Saturday; we finish on Monday at lunchtime, rather than our usual Tuesday ending time. We plan to have workshops begin at 2 p.m. on Friday. Further details will be provided on the website, and in the next issue of the Newsletter. For registration, see pages 13-14.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE: All members are asked to send their current email addresses and telephone numbers to the National Office (urpe@labornet.org) so that we can update our files and improve our communications with you.

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2002–2003 STEERING COMMITTEE**Elected members**

Peter Bohmer (02-04) Seminar 3127, The Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA 98505; tel 360 956-1771 (h), 360 867-6431 (w); <BohmerP@evergreen.edu>

Al Campbell (03-05), 1645 Campus Center Dr. Rm. 308, Salt Lake City, UT 84112-9300; 801-585-3521; <al.campbell@mill.econ.utah.edu>

Paul Cooney (02-04) CBNS, Queens College, CUNY Flushing, NY 11367-0904; 718-670-4211(w); 718-399-8336(Praxis); 718-230-4691h; 718-399-8336w; <pcooney@escape.com>

Alfredo Saad-Filho (02-04) Dept of Development Studies, SOAS, University of London, England <as59@soas.ac.uk>; tel +44-20-7898-4504

Lester Henry (03-05) Dept. of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago; 868-662-2002, ext. 3044; <lhenry@fss.uwi.tt>

Rebecca Hovey (02-04) SIT Study Abroad, SIT, Kipling Road Box 676. Brattleboro, VT 05346; 802-387-4630(h); <rebecca.hovey@sit.edu>

Laurie Nisonoff (03-05) Social Science, Hampshire College, Amherst, MA 01002; 413-559-5397 (o); <lnisonoff@hampshire.edu>

Patty Lee Parmalee (02-04) 211 W. 102 #5B, NYC, NY 10025; 212-663-2911; <publiccleaningpost@earthlink.net>

Paddy Quick (02-04), Economics Department, St. Francis College, 180 Remsen Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201; 718-489-5266(w); <paddyquick@aol.com>

Ankur Shah (02-04), 324 Van Brunt St, 4th floor, Brooklyn, NY 11231; 718 858 8759(h); <ank@somethingconstructive.net>

Women's Caucus Representative

Nomi Prins (03-05) 24 E. 20th St., 4th fl., New York, NY 10003; 212-673-8431 <nomiprins@msn.com>

Ex-Officio**URPE National Office**

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

Managing Editor of RRPE

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

Other URPE Positions**ASSA Coordinator**

Meike Meurs
Associate Professor and Ph.D Program Director
Dept. of Economics
American University <mmeurs@american.edu>

Newsletter Editor

Paddy Quick, paddyquick@aol.com

Economy Connection Coordinator

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

Printing: Prompt Printing Press

URPE

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

The URPE Newsletter

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

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

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

Reminder

URPE members should check the membership expiration date on the upper right hand corner of the address label. If your membership has expired or is about to expire, this will be the last newsletter you will receive. Please renew your membership now. (See page 27 for membership form, or contact the URPE National Office.)

Right-Wing Coup or Neo-Liberalism as Usual*Comments by Al Campbell*

The year 2003 saw the Neocons that control the government drag the US into the war against Iraq against the wishes of most of the people and the governments of the world. At the same time, at home they continued the broadest attack ever in our history on our civil rights, as well as pushing to further cut social services, drive down wages, and destroy the environment.

Are the Neocons loose cannons, pushing their own program against the interests not only of working people, but of other capitalists and capital as a whole, or are the Neocons merely effecting what the logic of neoliberalism dictates? If voters throw Bush out in November and vote in a Democratic Party supporter of neoliberalism, will it make a significant difference to working people's welfare?

Comments by Paddy Quick

What are the differences between the administration of President George W. Bush and his predecessor, President Clinton? Progressive forces both in the U.S. and the rest of the world are unanimous in judging Bush as significantly worse than Clinton on a wide range of issues, both domestic and international. In this 2004 election year, progressives all hope that Bush will be defeated.

But do the policies of Bush and the Republican Party differ fundamentally from those of Clinton, the Democratic Party and any of the most likely winners of the Democratic Party's nomination for President? Should we, once the primaries are over, join forces with and encourage the enthusiastic activists who will throw themselves into the struggle to elect "Anyone But Bush," and temporarily set aside our own criticisms of the Democratic Party? Or should we continue to argue, in our political work, in our colleges, among our friends and neighbors, that the Democratic and Republican parties represent the interests of a single capitalist class, and differ only on the tactics that will best promote the interests of that class? This is a decision that we will all have to make between now and November.

The issue today is more difficult than the usual election-year one of whether or not to support "the lesser of two evils." There is a strong case to be made that Bush is not just "more evil" but that he represents a section of the capitalist class which is determined to undermine the structures that the U.S. working class and third world nations have built to protect their interests against the dominance of capital.

The following are intended to illustrate the kind of disagreements that we think already exist among URPE members and other radicals.

Foreign Policy

The U.S. government is carrying out increasingly aggressive policies against the peoples of the world. U.S. forces are engaged in overt military action in Iraq and Afghanistan, expanding their somewhat less overt military activities in such countries as the Philippines and Colombia, and adopting an increasingly threatening posture towards Iran and North Korea. The newly-claimed right to engage in pre-emptive military action represents a repudiation of the basic principles of the United Nations and an assertion of unilateralism.

But ... The United States has engaged in unilateral military action many times in the past half century, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean. From Haiti to the Dominican Republic, from Chile to Grenada to Venezuela, the lack of respect by the United States for international law is not new.

Civil Rights

The United States government asserts its right to detain not only foreign nationals but U.S. citizens without right to legal representation and trial. The Bill of Rights is being shredded, and with it the fundamental freedoms that distinguish a liberal democracy from a dictatorship. Arab-Americans in particular are being subjected to harassment.

But... The rights of U.S. citizens have been abridged in the past, most clearly in the detention of Japanese-Americans during World War II. And African-Americans and Latino-Americans continue to be imprisoned in disproportionate numbers in our so-called "justice" system.

Income distribution and rights of workers

Bush has done major damage to the progressive structure of the tax system, and has declared his intention of cutting to zero the taxes on income from capital and relying entirely on taxes assessed on wages.

But... Clinton ended "welfare as we know it" and the decline in the progressivity of taxes and of (real) wages has been continuous over the past 30 years.

The list goes on, of course.

At what point does the accumulation of specifics lead us to conclude that we are facing a fundamentally different regime? This is the question for URPE's June Summer Conference.

A Few Ideas for Tightening Activist-URPE Links

by

Mark Brenner

Political Economy Research Institute
University of Massachusetts-Amherst

True to Marx's famous thesis, URPE members want to do more than just analyze and interpret the world, they want to help change it. One promising avenue is to increase the ongoing interaction between URPE members and today's social movements. These collaborations, in almost every form, are fruitful. But they can be particularly effective when URPE members are able to bring specific skills or research expertise to existing activist efforts. If our experiences here at the Political Economy Research Institute are any guide, there's a multitude of ways in which URPE folks can bridge the activist-academic divide.

One natural link is through activist-oriented research. In nearly every community in the country diverse grassroots initiatives abound: from efforts to support workers' rights to organize; to measures reforming our punitive criminal justice system; to struggles addressing environmental racism. From my own experience with local living wage ordinances, I have seen how targeted research can have a big influence on the direction of a campaign. From the most basic summary of existing findings presented during a public city council hearing to extensive economic analysis prepared over many months, research is often an essential ingredient to many living wage battles. While it is ultimately the organizing efforts of living wage supporters that create the political power necessary to win campaigns, targeted research can help shift that balance of power, as well as help supporters win the battle for public opinion. With living wage ordinances on the books in more than a hundred cities around the country, and almost as many campaigns ongoing, this is just one obvious example of how URPE members can unite their talents with activists already in motion.

But even where organizers are not seeking out supportive academics for concrete interventions, there is plenty of scope for URPE members to orient their research towards the needs of movement activists. A good example is my PERI colleague Jim Boyce, who has done lots of interesting academic work on the political economy of the environment over the past decade. Drawing lessons from the U.S. environmental justice (EJ) movement, Jim's current work has integrated poverty reduction and environmental stewardship into the rubric of "building natural assets," which is both a reflection of and contribution to current EJ activism (you can read more about this project and its activist links at: <http://www.umass.edu/peri/assets.html>).

Even when social movements haven't yet coalesced there is still scope for forward-looking activist-oriented research. The ongoing state and local fiscal crises provide an excellent case in point. While the degree of organized resistance to budget cuts differs in every state, there is near-universal opposition to new taxes by politicians of every stripe, often accompanied by the convenient mythology that profligate spending during the boom is what got us into this mess. Here in Massachusetts, as my PERI colleague Elissa Braunstein has demonstrated, tax cuts - particularly for capital gains - explain the bulk of our revenue shortfall. Elissa's research has given everyone from our state's public sector unions to its advocates for single payer healthcare a great tool for fighting continued austerity in the coming months.

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Similar ammunition is waiting to be produced, on issues ranging from the real cost of mass incarceration to the social and economic consequences of market-driven healthcare, and there is plenty of room for URPE members to get into the fray. All it takes is the confidence to work on a topic that you might not know much about beforehand, the wherewithal to take advantage of existing resources and take the lead from activists on the ground, and the willingness to get involved and start making trouble!

HERE I AM IN AMHERST: A REPORT FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE

by Germai Medhanie

The move to Gordon Hall has been great! I'm lucky to be working with people who share the same vision as URPE members: teachers, researchers and students who are working on economic issues in many ways, and who believe that production should be organized in ways that meet social needs, and foster the development of culture. People in Gordon Hall are industrious as are URPE members. The challenge is to educate/retool the masses in order to better coordinate our fight for better lives, a healthier environment, and equality.

Here in Amherst I am working to build a bridge between academics and activists: to listen to the concerns of graduate students and ask them if there is anything URPE can do to help them; to exchange ideas with activist groups; to work on joint projects such as the URPE Summer Conference, Economy Connection, ASSA meetings and other socially responsible activities.

The ultimate goal is to find a way to connect with disenfranchised groups who share our vision. The task is huge, and it is everyone's responsibility to get involved.

URPE National Office Hours:

Tuesday: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Thursday: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

(Note: any other day or time can be arranged by appointment)

Gordon Hall
University of Massachusetts
418 N. Pleasant St.
Amherst, MA 01002-1735
Tel. (413) 577-0806
Fax (413) 577-0261

Email: urpe@labornet.org Note: I can be reached at any time by email

Announcing a New URPE Project: An Economic Research Institute for the City of New Haven

On September 13, 2003, thousands gathered in the New Haven streets to support the strikers at Yale University. Workers from Unite, SEIU, HERE, the Laborers, and the Carpenters stood side by side with college students from Boston, Baltimore, New York, Providence, and New Haven, with leaders from the local Democratic Party, with New Haven Aldermen and New Haven Greens. Altogether, some five thousand faces appeared upon the New Haven Green and marched, chanting, past the centers of corporate and academic power, announcing the birth of a new solidarity for the "new" labor movement. We cannot yet gauge the significance of that single event, but it echoes an early moment in the American labor movement. As Nelson Lichtenstein points out in his history of twentieth century American labor, *State of the Union: A Century of American Labor* (2003), the 1936 strike against General Motors proved to be a watershed not just for the nascent CIO, but for workers all over the United States. Although the General Motors strike and its subsequent settlement in terms very favorable to the CIO directly affected only a few thousand workers, its symbolic importance reached far beyond those employed by GM. "Indeed," writes Lichtenstein, "an enormous sense of self-confidence, democratic participation, even liberation swept through working-class ranks. ...Across industrial America the GM settlement transformed the expectations of workers and managers alike." Now, while it may be premature to make such a decisive statement about the recent settlement of the Yale University strike, a prudent observer might conclude that just as Flint, Michigan was the epicenter of the labor movement's most significant moment in the

1930's, so too New Haven may well prove to be an important source for the fundamental ideological and organizational shifts that seem to be reshaping American labor history.

The Unions at Yale University and the community participation that they've spawned represent the best of the "new" labor movement; a movement that reaches beyond the workers themselves for new sources of solidarity and power; a movement that has as much to do with local civic life as it does with working conditions on the shop floor. But this new labor movement also makes new demands upon organizers and participants. In particular, new labor, as represented by service sector employee unions like SEIU and HERE, attempts to organize populations not traditionally served by unionization, including new immigrants and low-income service workers. Tied to these new organizational populations are new methods of organization, including especially the attempt to forge coalitions between unions and community groups based upon common material and cultural interests. It is in this historical context that we announce the formation of The New Haven Center for Economic Interpretation.

In December 2003, the first officers of The New Haven Center for Economic Interpretation were sworn in to fulfill the mission of providing the conceptual tools and information that may allow New Haven residents to effectively participate in the political and economic life of their community. The Center came about when a group of local New Haven scholars and activists, inspired and excited by the power of events overtaking our city, decided that there were certain essential and movement building functions that were not being provided

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

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

"The US needs a new universal-style program that creates 'good work'— jobs that provide living wages and worker rights, and benefits that allow us all to be breadwinners as well as loving parents and responsible community members." This was Mark Levitan's message to those who attended his talk on "Poverty and Unemployment in New York" at the Unitarian Church of Staten Island on November 16. Mark spoke about the recession and its impact on poverty in the city, focussing on the groups that have borne a disproportionate share of the rise in joblessness — young African-American and Latino men in particular. He illustrated his talk with clear slides on poverty and unemployment trends. Both Mark and host David Buehrens felt that the audience was very involved, asking good questions and making interesting comments, mostly about what can be done in the policy arena. David commented that "People went away with a much more specific idea as to the factors at work, as well as the underlying dynamics and prospects for the future." Mark Levitan is a Senior Policy Analyst at the Community Service Society, and joined Economy Connection in the course of arranging the talk.

This fall labor activist and URPE member Miriam Thompson taught a Women's Studies course at Queens College called "Selected Topics —Women, Activism and Politics." In this course Miriam introduced her 38 students to women from all walks of life who have helped to bring about social change. Her goal was to have her students "write their own herstories and connect with social justice organizations when they leave the class." Paddy Quick spoke to the class in October, and was pleased that six students came up to her afterwards to say that they enjoyed the class. "I think part of the positive response was that I talked quite a lot about racism as an important dimension of reality in the US, in addition to class and gender." Paddy also talked about her

own political evolution, jobs she lost because of her political stands, and her work on domestic labor.

Several people requested suggestions for reading and consultations on specific issues. A Chicago journalist who has contacted EC in the past is currently interested in talking to people about, and writing about, labor, trade, economic justice, taxes, corporate corruption, energy and the environment. A Mexican professor is exploring parallels between how neoliberalism has affected the formerly-socialist economies of Eastern Europe and how it has affected Latin America. He corresponded with David Kotz and Rick Wolff.

Larry Sweeney is a minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), who has taken time off from his California congregation to go on the road with a workshop sponsored by Disciples Justice Action Network (www.djan.net/workshop.htm). The workshop is a creative combination of studying the Bible as a source of morality, political/economic analysis, and strategies for change. The reading list intersperses readings from the Bible with selections from such authors as Noam Chomsky, Saul Alinsky, Michael Parenti, and Steele & Bartlett; and the long list of organizations for networking includes United for a Fair Economy, Center for Popular Economics, Pacifica Radio, Global Exchange, Portside, and Bring Them Home Now. Larry originally called because he was looking for good graphics on inequality (which he got from CPE and UFE), but we spent much more time in an email discussion of whether reform is possible. "The 'Solutions' section I do is difficult. People want you to give them alternatives to corporate power, solutions to poverty and environmental injustice, and quick fixes to war and peace. And if you add to this the need to talk about structures for changing all this, it's a big task."

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URPE News and Announcements

The URPE Steering Committee (SC) met in Amherst on November 15-16, 2003. It was an exciting meeting for all of us, because it took place, for the first time, at our new office in Gordon Hall, at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Gordon Hall is beautiful—we reiterated our thanks to the Political Economy Research Institute (PERI) for its generosity to us, and to Judy Fogg, who helped us in our move. Special thanks must also be given to SC members Rebecca Hovey and Laurie Nisonoff for their work in moving us in, and for organizing a great “moving-in” party on Saturday evening. Many URPE people from the area joined us in this celebration, which took place in the same refreshingly non-rectangular room as our daytime meeting.

Much of our meeting time was spent on working out how we could best take advantage of our new office location. It was agreed that Germai Medhanie, URPE’s National Office Coordinator, will staff the office in Amherst a minimum of two days a week, and will be the main person in contact with the many URPE-related organizations in and around Amherst. In addition, individual members of the SC took on the responsibility of acting as SC liaisons with PERI, National Priority Project (NPP), the Center for Popular Economics (CPE), Jobs With Justice and, a little further away geographically, Dollars and Sense.

We also talked about how best to strengthen our international ties, particularly with political economists in Brazil and Argentina. We agreed to provide two scholarships each to the Brazilian Society for Political Economy (SEP) and the Argentine Left Wing Economists (EDI) to cover Summer Conference fees and travel between New York and the Conference.

There was great enthusiasm over a proposal from the RRPE Editorial Board and David Barkin, RRPE Book Editor, for funds to support a speaking tour by David. David would visit U.S. campuses with graduate programs in radical political economy. Details still have to be worked out—we hope that this tour can be organized in conjunction with the appointment of URPE campus representatives, and that it will lead to the development of a permanent URPE presence at these campuses.

Robin Hahnel and Kirsten Sheeran were appointed by the SC to take over from Mieke Meurs the important task of ASSA coordination. (Thanks to Mieke for her terrific work over the past three years.) Robin and Kirsten will serve for two years and Fred Mosely will hold the position for the following three years. (The ASSA meetings will take place in Philadelphia in 2005 and in Boston in 2006.)

Hazel Dayton Gunn, Managing Editor of RRPE, presented us with a preliminary proposal for the digitization

of past issues of the Review, which could be carried out at an estimated cost of only \$36,500. We agreed that this was definitely worth pursuing. She will present a more detailed proposal at the Spring SC meeting, at which time we will make a formal decision on the project, including methods of funding it, and the ways in which this material would then be made available to the public.

Several other projects were also discussed. Ruthie Indeck gave a report on Economy Connection’s continuing success (see page 7.) We are exploring an offer from Pluto Press for an URPE-edited book series aimed to high school and undergraduate students, including non-economists. We agreed to provide a \$1,200 grant of seed money for the New Haven Center for Economic Interpretation (see page 6.) We also agreed to print up more URPE T-shirts, using the “dancing Marx” design but possibly adding other “characters.” We are working on a new brochure describing URPE. And last, but not least, work proceeds on our web-page and on developing a listserv; we hope to draw on people in the Amherst area for assistance on both of these.

Germai Medhanie, National Office Coordinator, presented data on URPE’s budget, which shows that we are currently in good financial shape. (The full budget for 2003-2004 and 2004-2005, together with our balance sheet, will be printed in the Spring 2004 Newsletter.) We discussed the question of how best to structure relations between the National Office Coordinator and the SC, and voted to establish a sub-committee to address possible future conflicts. The Treasurer of the SC, Chris Gunn, moved for a directive requiring the NO Coordinator to respond directly to a request from the Treasurer for financial budgetary information related to management of the organization. The motion was defeated (3-6-1). Chris Gunn then resigned his position as Treasurer, and Paul Cooney was elected unanimously to replace him.

On Sunday morning we concentrated on plans for the 2004 Summer Conference, and agreed on a conference theme and structure. (See pages 1 and 3.)

Subsequent to the SC meeting, Chris Gunn resigned from the Steering Committee. The SC thanked him for the valuable work he carried out during his tenure and assured him that his concerns will continue to be addressed by the continuing members.

The next meeting of the SC will take place in New York on April 3-4, 2004. Full copies of the official minutes are available, as always, from the National Office. (This summary was prepared by Paddy Quick and does not constitute an official record of SC decisions.)

Travel Rebates for Summer Conference

URPE has always been committed to taking practical steps to ensure the right of its members to participate equally in the organization. Our child-care policy is a good example of a way in which we have made it easier for many parents to participate in our Summer Conferences. This has been particularly important for women.

But as the number of URPE members declined from our high levels in the 1970's, URPE was no longer able to afford to carry out its one-time policy of holding one-third of its Summer Conferences on the West Coast. This year, for the first time, we are offering travel rebates to offset the high cost of travel to the Summer Conference by members who are not located in the Northeastern United States. Summer Conference attendees are entitled to rebates of 30% of air travel expenses, up to a maximum of \$100. The policy will be evaluated after this year's Summer Conference.

ECONOMY CONNECTION *(continued from page 7)*

Upcoming talks: In January Jerry Joffe will give a talk on "Health Care in the US" at a Unitarian Church at Raritan Valley Community College in New Jersey. And in March William Van Lear will speak about "The Economy Under Bush" at a retirement community in Florida. EC has also received calls from a number of people who have not yet made definite plans. These include a peace activist in Pennsylvania who is interested in "understanding the mess the US is in and how we might get out of it"; members of a Peace and Justice group in Vermont who would like speakers on the recession, local

effects of the war, and building a sustainable local economy; a professor in southern Massachusetts who would like to organize talks jointly with several colleges in her area; a man in southern Texas whose organization is planning events on labor, trade and general economic issues; as well as two URPE high school teachers who have hosted EC speakers in the past.

The election season is upon us—please send suggestions about how EC can best use this time to present background on economic issues to as many people as possible, without supporting specific candi-

New Haven Institute for Economic Interpretation

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by other local non-partisan progressive institutions. The founding members, including Graham Cassano, Greg Greenberg, Germai Medhanie, and Carrie Bernstein, all URPE members, received a generous grant from URPE to seed the project. Ours is a three-fold mission: (1) We intend to produce working-papers concerning the political, social, and economic conditions of the New Haven community; (2) We intend to bring speakers to the city, activists and academics, who can address the specificity of New Haven's political economy, as well as its relation to the national and international economies; (3) We hope to provide programs in economic literacy directed toward members of the local community, workers, and organizers.

The New Haven Center for Economic Interpretation officially begins its operations in January 2004, in the New Haven Peoples' Center, 37 Howe Street, New Haven. Purchased some 60 years ago by progressive

Jewish immigrants, the New Haven Peoples' Center has become a focal point for progressive politics in New Haven. In the 1930's, The Peoples' Center contributed to the first attempts to organize the Connecticut CIO. In addition, the Peoples' Center was the headquarters of the 1930's integrated black/white drama organization, the Unity Players. And, until recently, the Peoples' Center housed URPE's national office. We hope that The New Haven Center for Economic Interpretation will help continue and extend this tradition of community service within and outside the walls of the Peoples' Center.

For more information contact:

NHCEI Office

Graham Cassano

37 Howe St.

New Haven, CT 06511

<http://www.newhavencenter.org/>

Tel. (203) 407-8300

Email: graham@xrgb.com

Conferences

*For a fuller list of conferences that might be of interest to URPE members, please go to our web-site:
www.urpe.org*

Second International Conference on Marxism
and the Challenges of the 21st Century

Class and Revolutionary Power: Theory and Practice
May 4 - 8, 2004
Havana, Cuba

The Second International Conference on Marxism and the Challenges of the 21st Century will be held in Havana on May 4-8, 2004. All those interested in analyzing the basis of the current world order and finding ways of achieving its progressive replacement, thereby contributing to a strengthening of early 21st-century revolutionary thought, are invited to attend.

For further information, contact Al Campbell at Al@economics.utah.edu.
Professor Al Campbell, Department of Economics, University of Utah, 1645 Campus Center Dr, Rm 308
Salt Lake City, UT 84109; Tel: 801 585 3521; FAX: 801 585 5649

The Marx International Congress IV

Imperial War, Class War
September 29 - October 2, 2004
Paris, France

In the past, URPE has organized panels as well as had individual papers, sometimes in the Economics Section of the Congress, sometimes in other sections. It is preferable that panels and papers try to relate to the central theme of the conference as given above. Some suggestions of topics from the organizers of the Economic Section are imperialism, neoliberalism, and the world economy and its crises at the center as well as in countries of the periphery. Contributions can be theoretical or empirical. Perspectives for the coming decades, as well as the struggles with which these perspectives must be connected, are of special interest.

So far there has been one suggestion for an URPE panel, perhaps on a theme like "Experience(s) of Socialist Construction in the 20th Century," to go in the Socialism Section.

Anyone wishing to build and URPE panel, or to give a paper, please contact Al Campbell at Al@economics.utah.edu.

Professor Al Campbell, Department of Economics, University of Utah, 1645 Campus Center Dr, Rm 308
Salt Lake City, UT 84109; Tel: 801 585 3521; FAX: 801 585 5649

Socialist Scholars Conference

The World Is Not For Sale ! Rethinking the Common Good

**Friday March 12 - Sunday March 14
Cooper Union, 51 Astor Place
New York City**

Confirmed speakers include: Naomi Klein, Bill Fletcher, Luciana Castellina, Harold Meyerson, Frances Fox Piven, Wallace Shawn, Cornel West, Roz Petchesky, Martin Duberman, Bogdan Denitch, Nancy Holmstrom, David Harvey, Johanna Brenner, Robin Blackburn, Leo Panitch, Nancy Fraser, Vittorio Agnoletto (coordinator of 2001 Genoa forum), Ruy Teixeira, Nan Rubin, Robert Jensen, Giulietto Chiesa (founder of anti-Davos meetings), Sandra Mecozzi (Metal Workers Union, Italy), Barbara Garson, Ian Williams, Eli Zaretsky, Joy James, Christian Parenti, Michael Brie, Ella Shohat, Frank Deppe, Stanley Aronowitz, Dieter Hooge (German Trade Union Confederation), Rashid Khalidi, Stephen Eric Bronner, Boris Kagarlitsky, Amy Bartholomew, Peter Scherer (IG Metall, Germany), Suzana Maranhao (Workers Party, Brazil), Joseph De Philippis...

Panels: The Commodification / Privatization of Practically Everything—From War and the Welfare State to Mothering; The Internet and New Strategies of Organizing; Christian Right Theology and the Sanctification of Greed; The Work of Edward Said; The Cold War and the War in Iraq; Twisting the Democratic Process—Elections; Finance and Empire; New Radical Youth Movements; The Queer Movement and the Left; The Personal Side of Organizing You're Too Embarrassed to Talk About; Left Cartoonists; Playwrights Roundtable; The Rift Between Europe and U.S.; Universities and the Labor Movement; Empire Reloaded; and many more

For more information, including weekly updates, go to <http://www.socialistscholars.org/>.

EARLY REGISTRATION IS MUCH CHEAPER. You can register early by mail or phone. March 5th is the postmark deadline for mail; March 10th by phone. Early registration is \$35 for the whole conference (\$25 low income and \$15 student). The cost at the door is \$50 (and \$30 and \$20). Send SSC registration forms to: Socialist Scholars Conference, c/o Ph.D. Program in Sociology, CUNY Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10016 or telephone 212-817-7868.

URPE at the Socialist Scholars Conference

Look for the URPE/*Dollars and Sense* table when you get there.

URPE and *Dollars and Sense* are cosponsoring three sessions. Many URPE members are participating in additional sessions. As panels are planned, they will be posted on the SSC website above.

URPE
at the 17th Conference of
North American and Cuban Philosophers and Social Scientists
June 15-29
Havana, Cuba

Sponsored on the US side primarily by the Radical Philosophers Association, this yearly conference has for years been cosponsored by URPE. Every year a number of URPE people make it to Havana to take part. The event brings together professors, students and others from the U.S. (as well as a few from other countries) with Cuban thinkers to dialog on a great variety of topics of mutual interest. This is our way of bridging the gap between people of our two countries created by over 40 years of the U.S. imposed blockade, a blockade whose travel restrictions have been greatly tightened this year.

Around this Conference we build a two week program of educational activities to deepen our understanding of Cuban society. We visit neighborhoods, organizations and institutions and we bring in evening speakers to talk with. Since in order to understand where Cuban thinkers are coming from we need to know their intellectual traditions, the Institute of Philosophy conducts a day-long Seminar on the History of Cuban Thought for us. Since Cuban culture has been formed not only from the Spanish but also the African origins of its people, we offer an introduction to African Derived Traditions in Cuba. Since Cuba has a very participatory political culture, we will join in a Dialogue on Civil Society with Cuban thinkers and activists. Since Cuba is much more than the capital city of Havana, we give you the option of extending your stay by traveling to another part of the island for a few days.

- | | |
|--|---|
| * IDEOLOGY OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTION | * ANTHROPOLOGY |
| * POLITICAL SYSTEMS, DEMOCRACY,
HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE | * SOCIAL COMMUNICATION (e.g. mass media
& the new technology of communication) |
| * CIVIL SOCIETY IN SOCIALISM | * CONTEMPORARY CURRENTS IN
PHILOSOPHY & THE SOCIAL SCIENCES |
| * WORKER PARTICIPATION | * SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ECOLOGY |
| * WOMEN AND FAMILY | * NEO-LIBERALISM AND GLOBALIZATION |
| * NATIONAL IDENTITY | * ANALYSIS OF CAPITALISM |
| * CLASS, RACE, AND SEXUALITY | * MODELS OF SOCIALISM (Planning, Markets,
Cooperatives, etc.) |
| * EPISTEMOLOGY AND METHODOLOGY | * SOCIAL POLICY (Health, Education, Welfare) |
| * ETHICS AND VALUES (Environmental Ethics,
Ethics of Development, Bio-Ethics, the
Death Penalty) | * POLITICAL ECONOMIC THEORY |
| * PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE | * REVOLUTIONARY THINKERS AND
MOVEMENTS |
| * EDUCATION AND SOCIETY | * U.S. RELATIONS WITH CUBA & LATIN
AMERICA. |
| * LITERATURE & POPULAR CULTURE
(including Cultures of Resistance) | |
| * RELIGION AND ETHICS | |

This year, the conference is looking to build commissions around some of the following topics:

So as to maximize discussion time at the conference, a ten minute synopsis will be presented orally, with a fuller version to be distributed in written form. Paper abstracts are due April 1 with completed papers due May 1.

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 May 21 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 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. Check-in for the conference begins at 2 pm on Friday, June 4, 2004, and continues throughout the conference. The conference ends after lunch on Monday June 7.

	<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: \$75 (For more info. contact Al Campbell <Al@economics.utah.edu>)

TRAVEL COST REBATE: Those registering for the entire conference are eligible for a travel rebate amounting to 30% of air-fare cost above \$100, up to a maximum of \$100. Rebates will be provided at the conference on presentation of air ticket dated within two weeks of start or finish of conference.

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
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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.)

Sliding Scale

Number of household members	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, Gordon Hall, Univ. of Mass., 418 N. Pleasant Street, Amherst MA 01002-1735

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone(s): _____ E-mail: _____

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

1. Income level (circle one): 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 May 21]

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 May 21) _____

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 Associations 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,
Gordon Hall
U. Mass/Amherst
418 N. Pleasant Street
Amherst, MA 01002-1735

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
Gordon Hall, U.Mass/Amherst
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Visit the URPE Website at www.urpe.org

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How to arrange for a speaker

Resource Lists and Web Sites

Publications

Review of Radical Political Economics

URPE Newsletter

The New URPE Reader (pdf format)

URPE Conferences

URPE at the ASSA, January 2-5, 2004

URPE at Socialist Scholars Conference,

March 12-14, 2004 (Call for papers)

Summer Conference, June 4-7, 2004

(Call for papers)

Other Upcoming Conferences (and calls for papers)

Contacting Other Political Economy Groups Around the World

Heterodox Economics Jobs Postings