

Excerpts: OUR PAPER Spring 2008

WE LOVE OUR LIBRARY WORKERS

By Jane Brett

CUPE 410 members chose “pay equity” as a bargaining priority many years ago and they were successful in getting a Letter of Understanding (LOU) into their Collective Agreement. Now it seems that although the employer spent several years of finding comparators with inside workers at City Hall, they never really intended to honour the LOU.

At every All-Candidates meeting in Saanich during the last municipal elections, candidates and members of the public spoke passionately about the importance of the library system. That memory makes it easy for me to imagine that the current unfair situation with the library workers will be a “hot button” issue this November.

LIBRARY WORKERS ARE LOCKED OUT!



Library lovers form a ring around their library on Feb. 14

Mayors and Councillors will overlook a couple of things at their peril:

(1) Anyone who stood in the picket line during the noon-hour closures will have witnessed that many Victorians, finding the library unexpectedly closed —though disappointed— were thoroughly supportive of the workers.

(2) Is it possible that members of the Greater Victoria Library Board and the Greater Victoria

Labour Relations Association (the bargaining body for the Library Board) missed the news? Six years after Bill 29’s attack on the Health Employees Union (HEU), the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that the provincial government could not violate collective bargaining rights because they are protected under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. I’m sure everyone else remembers Bill 29 as a tragic mistake which cost our community dearly, cost HEU workers dearly and —surprise— will now cost taxpayers over \$75 million to remedy as prescribed by the Supreme Court in June 2007.

This is surely the time to demand that the GVLRA members get back to work and bargain in good faith with members of CUPE 410, before this issue goes to the courts and again costs the community, costs the workers and costs the tax-payers dearly —money which should be given to library workers in the first place.

The public library system supports Learning for Life and every citizen without exception needs equal access to that these days in order to maintain the skills to remain involved in their community. Please make yourself a hero and stand up for the dignity of those who provide this vital service. Let's ensure the workers in our library system are always respected and paid properly.

VICTORIA LIBRARY WORKERS DENIED INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS.

Dr. Carmen Vinca of Venezuela, an advisor on land & labour policy to her government, met with library workers on the picket line. She said that Canada has signed onto the UN MILLENIUM PROJECT which includes Canada achieving gender wage parity. This refusal of our local government to respect their promise and Canada’s commitment to equality is a local, regional, and national issue. It is an international human rights violation. She said it is important to link this conflict with other parity struggles in Canada and to pressure politicians at all levels to honour this agreement. TW

DITCHING THE US\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$

By Jessica Hupp

It's no secret that the dollar is on a downward spiral. Its value is dropping. As a result, a number of countries are considering a shift away from the dollar to preserve their assets.



Saudi Arabia: For the first time, Saudi Arabia has refused to cut interest rates along with the US Federal Reserve, a signal that a break from the dollar currency peg is imminent. The kingdom is taking “appropriate measures” to protect itself from letting the dollar cause problems for their own economy. They’re concerned about the threat of inflation and don’t want to deal with “recessionary conditions” in the USA. Saudi Arabia alone has management of \$800 billion. A break from the dollar in Saudi Arabia could set off a “stampede” from the dollar in the Middle East, a region that manages \$3,500 billion.

South Korea: In 2005, Korea said it would shift its investments to currencies of countries other than the US. Although they’re simply making plans to diversify for the future, that doesn’t mean a large dollar drop isn’t in the works. The Bank of Korea sold \$100 million sale in 2007.

China: China is discussing a “nuclear option” of huge dollar liquidation in response to possible trade sanctions intended to force a yuan revaluation. Although China “doesn’t want any undesirable phenomenon in the global financial order,” their large sum of US dollars does serve as a “bargaining chip.” China has the power to take the wind out of the dollar.

Venezuela: Venezuela holds little loyalty to the dollar. In fact, they’ve shown overt disapproval, choosing to barter with its oil. These barter deals, established under Hugo Chavez, allow Venezuela to trade oil with 12 Latin American countries and Cuba without using the dollar. Chavez is not shy about this decision, and has publicly encouraged others to adopt similar

arrangements. The state oil company Petroleos de Venezuela SA has started to change its dollar investments to euros and other currencies to mitigate risk.

Sudan: Sudan may convert its dollar holdings to the euro and other currencies. Additionally, they’ve recommended to commercial banks, government departments, and private businesses to do the same. A decision to move Sudan away from the dollar could allow the country to work around USA sanctions as well as any implemented in the future. A Khartoum committee recently reported that proposals for a reduced dependence on the dollar are “not feasible.” But things may change.

Iran: Iran is perhaps the most likely candidate for an imminent abandonment of the dollar. Recently, Iran asked shipments to Japan be traded for yen instead of dollars. Further, Iran has plans in the works to create an open commodity exchange, Iran Oil Bourse. This exchange would make it possible to trade oil and gas in non-dollar currencies, the euro in particular. Although the oil bourse has missed at least three of its announced opening dates, it serves to make clear Iran’s intentions for the dollar. As of October 2007, Iran receives non-dollar currencies for 85% of its oil exports, and has plans to move the remaining 15% to currencies like the United Arab Emirates dirham.

Russia: Iran is not alone in its desire to establish an alternative to trading oil and other commodities in dollars. President Putin may create a Russian stock exchange to allow “oil, gas, and other goods to be paid for in roubles.” Russia has made it clear that they’re wary of holding too many dollar reserves. In 2005, Russia put an end to its dollar peg, opting instead to move towards the euro - Russia is the world’s second-largest oil exporter.

What does this all mean?

Countries are growing weary of losing money on the falling dollar. Many of them want to protect their financial interests, and a number of them want to end the US oversight that comes with using the dollar. Although it’s not clear how many of these countries will actually follow

through on an abandonment of the dollar, it is clear that its status as a world currency is in trouble. If demand lessens, value drops. The dollar's status as a cheaply-produced US export is a vital part of USA economy.

Complete report at:

<http://www.currencytrading.net/2007/7-countries-considering-abandoning-the-us-dollar-and-what-it-means/>

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Thanks to all who contribute to ***Our Paper***.

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EDITORIAL

We will never overcome the power of corporate media until we stop supporting it and believing it. The independent media made up of

dedicated activists the world over is reaching millions by internet, print, video, music and presence. No better quote than this from Dr. Rosalie Bertell!



IF EVERYONE IN THE WORLD LIVED
LIKE CANADIANS



IT WOULD TAKE 4 EARTHS TO SUPPORT THEM

The Tree Project in Palestine

Thousands of acres of Palestinian agricultural land have been razed over the years by Israeli bulldozers, families displaced and vital routes disconnected in the West Bank and Gaza strip as Israeli authorities continue to expand their settlement. Nearly 1,390,000 trees were uprooted in the years 2001-2005; most of them olive trees.



Israel's building of the Apartheid Wall has destroyed more Palestinian agricultural lands. The Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN) has planted

1 million trees in 6 years.

APN will plant another one million trees in the next 2 years. This will contribute to efforts aiming at restoring the ecological, economic, social and cultural impact of the uprooting of trees in the Palestinian territories on the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip; APN plans to plant olive, citrus and fruit-bearing trees as well as to restore the cultivated lands destroyed by Israeli bulldozers, prevent environmental

degradation of the Palestinian habitat, reduce the negative impact on social relations and family ties and to contribute to the economic growth & reduce poverty of farmers.

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE: Send cheques to: **The Barnard-Boecker Centre Foundation (BBCF), 1022 McGregor Ave. Victoria BC, V8S 3T9** \$6 or 4 euros buys one tree. Trees may be dedicated in the name of the donor or any name chosen, if desired. BBCF sent more than \$1500 to this project in 2007.

(photos: children receiving olive trees in Palestine from AGN.)



THE BC GOVERNMENT'S ALTERNATIVE SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN IN PRACTICE

From an edited article by Penny Gurstein

When workers' jobs are shifted from the public service to for-profit corporations, does anything change?

When a meter-reader comes to your home to check your monthly electricity consumption, they wear a BC Hydro uniform, but they are, in fact, no longer employees of BC Hydro. They work for Accenture, a Bermuda-based, for-profit, multinational corporation.



When you call the Medical Services Plan with an inquiry, you are actually now speaking to Maximus, a US-based multinational.

Does the shifting of the employees from the broader public service to for-profit corporations really change anything, either for the workers, or for the quality of the service?

The answer, according to a new report from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, is YES.

Since its election in 2001, the current BC government has implemented widespread neo-liberal socio-economic restructuring. Part of this process has been the establishment of an Alternative Service Delivery (ASD) plan to "contract-out" or "outsource" some public service delivery to private, for-profit companies. The CCPA study finds that, contrary to the government's claim that "this is alternative service delivery, not privatization". ASD is a euphemism, and does indeed represent a form of privatization. Outsourcing of "back office" work at BC Hydro to Accenture, including customer

services, IT services, human resources, financial systems, purchasing, and buildings services; and, Outsourcing of administration of the Medical Services Plan and PharmaCare to Maximus.

These studies reveal a gap between the virtues attributed to ASD & the reality of what ASD looks like on the ground. ASD is being brought in with promises of innovation, technological improvements, intelligent reorganization & re-engineering - all of which are purportedly saving the government money while still allowing the contractor to make a profit. Yet when we look at these privatization schemes in more detail, we learn that their main tools for "innovation" are cost minimization, de-skilling staff, surveillance, increased hierarchical control, and a unilateral push by the employer to make people work harder - hardly what most would view as "innovative."

The study finds that the economic security of the workers involved has been affected, as their bargaining power has been undermined (as workers are no longer part of a large public-sector workforce, but rather constitute relatively small bargaining units negotiating with large multinationals). All of the workers interviewed had concerns that the level of customer service has deteriorated.

Workers at both Maximus and Accenture reported that while the response time may be fairly quick, if information beyond "the basics" is needed, customers frequently cannot get access to the people who can actually help them. Study interviewees felt quality was suffering at the expense of quantity. The workers and their unions regard the cultural shift with grave concern, as they witness the core values of public service undermined by outsourcing.

Privatization leads to an erosion of the "intrinsic satisfaction" that public employees used to get from public service delivery. The lack of long term stability of contract renewals and the realities of corporate culture such as corporate take-overs create uncertainty in the continuity and quality of service for both workers and the public.

The report concludes that outsourcing results in operational problems, reduced employee engagement, and a decline in worker morale. Outsourcing changes the culture of these

workplaces in subtle but important ways, which has consequences both for the workers and for the quality of public customer service. These case studies demonstrate that ASD is not a panacea to address accountability & fiscal responsibility in governments. Rather, it is an ideologically-driven approach intended to restructure government services to serve the imperatives of ill-conceived notions of efficiency and productivity. A broader public dialogue is needed about the purported merits of outsourcing. www.policyalternatives.ca for full article

FIDEL CASTRO RETIRES

In this photo taken in 1961, Gladys & Scotty Neish of Victoria were delegates at an international trade union conference and meet Fidel Castro. They brought funds and fishing supplies to Cuba on behalf of Canadian solidarity groups and trade unions. *(photo courtesy of Kevin Neish)*



Two Island Tales: Chagos & Bikini: The Use and Abuse of Power

by Brian McAfee <http://www.opednews.com>

The idyllic lives of two island based populations were inexorably changed and came close to annihilation. Both Bikini Atoll in the Pacific and the Indian Ocean's Diego Garcia were populated by thriving, self sufficient, fishing based population until they crossed British and U.S. hegemonic interests. Both Bikini and Diego Garcia resurfaced as issues earlier this year when survivors of the hydrogen bomb tests in the Pacific and Chagos islanders (Diego Garcia) won court cases recognizing the injustices forced upon them by the U.S. in the case of Bikinians and by the British in the case of the Chagos islanders. The Bikinians were awarded \$1 billion in damages for the impact and effect of U.S. nuclear and hydrogen tests. They will likely never see a cent of it as the bank reserve designated for awarding payment is said to have no funds to accommodate the ruling. (The funding to continue the Iraq war is seemingly boundless.)

From 1946 to 1958 the U.S. had carried out 23 atomic and hydrogen bomb tests with the 1954 Bravo test the most significant one. The Bikinians were first moved to Rongerik, where they nearly starved to death, then they were shipped to Kwajalein and finally to tiny Kili where now their population is more than fifteen times bigger than the original 167 that were forcibly removed in 1946. The health effect of being down wind and contamination of the food supply of the resettled Bikini Islanders is a factor in the health and food supply of Pacific islands of the Marshall Island Region.

The Chagos islanders won a hollow victory that they would be allowed to return to their islands, with the exception of Diego Garcia, the largest and main island in the archipelago, and the primary home of the exiled islanders. The U.S. which has a naval and air base on the island remains unwilling to give back the stolen island. In the case of Diego Garcia, Britain and the U.S. both were culprits in the theft of the island.

The U.S. media has, for the most part, not covered Diego Garcia. William Blum and John Pilger have tried. Diego Garcia is an example of an ongoing injustice with elements of imperialism, racism and ongoing abuse of power in the name of "democracy."

Blum in his book "Rogue State" described what happened in the Chagos Islands, "A few thousand inhabitants of the Chagos Islands in the Indian Ocean were summarily uprooted by Great Britain and shipped against their will to Mauritius and the Seychelles, each more than a thousand miles away."

No one helped them resettle or paid for the homes they lost. They simply were forced to become squatters in foreign lands. The reason for this was to make room for a USA military base on the biggest of the Chagos Islands, Diego Garcia."

John Pilger's new book "Freedom Next Time" updates the Chagos Islands and Diego Garcia story. In the case of the

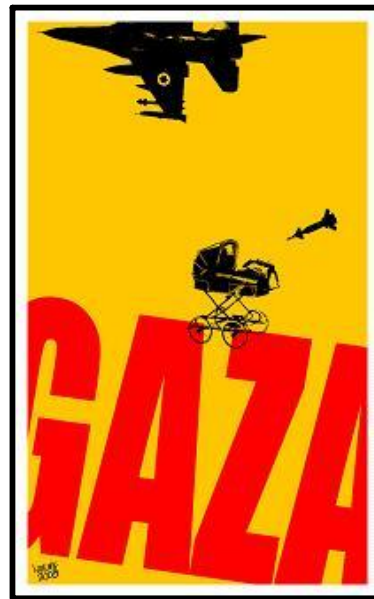


Bikini legal victory of \$1 billion, the funds, according to the USA, no longer exists to pay them despite the current ruling. How convenient. In the case of Diego

Garcia the main goal in the native pursuit of justice, the Island of Diego Garcia itself, remains off limits to its rightful owners, the Chagossian people. The U.S. denies the legal and moral basis for justice. (photo: USA base on Diego Garcia)

The Electronic Intifada (EI)

(www.electronicIntifada.net) is an online source about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, is produced by a network of activists. EI researches and publishes commentary and analyses, media news and critiques, and even satire. EI offers information for journalists & editors, media activists and students, and researchers. The site provides streaming content via our "wire service for websites:" EI Wire, launched in 2001, is independent of political, factional, ethnic, or religious affiliation, bases its views on the foundations of International Humanitarian Law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Electronic Intifada condemns all attacks on civilians, yet encourages people to examine the roots and dynamics of violence, and the imbalances of power that perpetuate it.



Brazilian cartoonist Carlos Latuff creates artworks that call on the world to condemn Israeli holocaust of Gaza. He urges our free use of his art.



<http://latuff2.deviantart.com/>

NATO is a treaty on wheels

by William Blum

NATO is a treaty on wheels - It can be rolled in any direction to suit Washington's current policy. Have you by chance noticed that NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, has become virtually a country? With more international rights and military power than almost any other country in the world? Yes, the same NATO that we were told was created in 1949 to defend against a Soviet attack in Western Europe, and thus should have gone out of existence in 1991 when the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact expired and explicitly invited NATO to do the same.

Other reasons have been suggested for NATO's creation: to help suppress the left in Italy and France if either country's Communist Party came to power through an election, and/or to advance American hegemony by preventing the major European nations from pursuing independent foreign policies. In 2004, the US ambassador to NATO, Nicholas Burns, stated: "Europeans need to resist creating a united Europe in competition or as a counterweight to the United States. The alliance has been kept amongst the living to serve as a very useful handmaiden of US foreign policy as well as providing American arms and airplane manufacturers with many billions of dollars of guaranteed sales due to the requirement that all NATO members meet a certain minimum warfare capability.

Here's some of what NATO has been up to in recent years as it strives to find a new *raison d'être* in the post-Cold War era. It is waging war in Afghanistan on behalf of the United States and its illegal 2001 bombing and invasion of that pathetic land. NATO's forces free up US troops and assume much of the responsibility and blame, instead of Washington, for the many bombings which have caused serious civilian casualties and ruination. NATO also conducts raids into Pakistan, the legality of which is as non-existent as what they do in Afghanistan. The alliance, which began with 15 members, now has 26, in addition to 23 "partner countries" (under the reassuring name of ("Partnership for

Peace"). Combined, that's more than one-fourth of the entire United Nations membership, and there are numerous other countries bribed and pressured to work with NATO, such as Jordan which recently sent troops to Afghanistan. Jordan and Qatar have offered to host a NATO-supported regional Security Cooperation Centre. NATO has a training mission in Iraq, and Iraqi military personnel receive training in NATO members' countries. In recent years, almost all members of the alliance and the Partnership for Peace have sent troops to Iraq or Afghanistan or the former Yugoslavia, in each case serving as proxy US-occupation forces. Israel has had talks with the alliance about the deployment of a NATO force in their country. India is scheduled to participate in upcoming NATO war games.

The alliance's outreach keeps reaching out further, holding international conferences to bring together new and potential allies, under names such as the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative, and the Mediterranean Dialogue (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia), or expanding military ties with existing international organizations such as the Gulf Cooperation Council (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates).

After the September 11, 2001 attacks, NATO gave the United States carte blanche to travel throughout Europe transporting men to be tortured. It's like a refined gentleman's club with some unusual member privileges. NATO also goes around monitoring elections, the latest being in Upper Abkhazia (claimed by Georgia) in January.

The alliance has military bases in Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Netherlands, and elsewhere in Europe, and regularly conducts "naval operations in the Mediterranean to actively demonstrate NATO's resolve and solidarity", as NATO puts it. This includes AWAC (Airborne Warning and Control) aircraft patrolling the Mediterranean from above and frequently stopping and boarding ships and boats at sea. "Since the start of the operation," reports NATO, "nearly 79,000 merchant vessels have been monitored (as of 12 April 2006). The surveillance operation utilizes ship, aircraft and

submarine assets to build a picture of maritime activity in the Area of Operations." The exercise includes "actions aimed at preventing or countering terrorism coming from or conducted at sea and all illegality possibly connected with terrorism, such as human trafficking and smuggling of arms and radioactive substances." NATO is truly Lord of the Mediterranean. NATO, which has ready access to nuclear weapons from several of its members (only with Washington's approval), has joined the United States in its operation to surround Russia. "Look," said Russian president Vladimir Putin about NATO in 2001, "this is a military organization. It's moving towards our border. Finland -- which shares a border with Russia of more than 1300 km -- is now being considered for membership in NATO.

Ever since it undertook a Washington-instigated 78-day bombing of the former Yugoslavia in 1999, NATO has been operating in the Balkans like a colonial Governor-General. We have the Western powers unilaterally declaring the independence of a part of another country's territory; this because the Kosovo ethnic Albanians are regarded as much more reliably "pro-West" than is Serbia, which has refused to look upon the free market and the privatization of the world known as "globalization" as the *summum bonum*, nor shown proper enthusiasm for an American or NATO military installation upon its soil. Kosovo, however, does have a large US military base on its territory. Any attempt by Serbia to militarily prevent Kosovo from seceding would in all likelihood be met by NATO/US military force. You may wonder what a United States military base is doing in Kosovo. People all over the world wonder the same about their local American bases.

You may also wonder: What force exists to slow down the growth of the Mediterranean Monster? Who can stand up to it? The military elite apparently fear the most is nuclear weapons in the hands of the wrong people; i.e., those who don't recognize their right to dictate to the world. In January former armed forces chiefs from the US, Britain, Germany, France and the Netherlands released a manifesto which insists that a "first strike" nuclear option remains an

"indispensable instrument" since there is "simply no realistic prospect of a nuclear-free world". The paper had earlier been presented to NATO's secretary general and to the Pentagon. It is likely to be discussed at an April NATO summit in Bucharest & possible extension of the alliance to include former Soviet countries: Croatia, Georgia, Macedonia, Albania & Ukraine. The five generals who authored the report could have advocated a serious international campaign to begin the process of actually creating a nuclear-free world. Instead, they call for an end to the European Union's "obstruction" of and rivalry with NATO and a shift from consensus decision-taking in NATO bodies to majority voting, meaning an end to national vetoes.

The international military elite are demanding yet more power and autonomy for NATO. Questioning voices in the alliance, in the European Union, or anywhere else should forget their concerns about a nuclear-free world, international law, pre-emptive war, wars of aggression, national sovereignty, and all that other United Nations Charter and human-rights nonsense. The manifesto specifies "no role in decision-taking on Nato operations for alliance members who are not taking part in the operations," calling also for the use of force without UN Security Council authorization when "immediate action is needed to protect large numbers of human beings".

The paper also declares that "Nato's credibility is at stake in Afghanistan" and "Nato is at a juncture and runs the risk of failure." Such immoderate language may be a reflection of the dark cloud which has hovered over the alliance since the end of the Cold War -- that NATO has no legitimate reason for existence and that failure in Afghanistan would make this thought more present in the world's mind.

Reprinted by permission. Bill Blum is a Washington, DC, USA writer. Full report & references available. See: www.killinghope.com

THE COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA Joins the ALBA Revolution

by Mike Fuller

Havana, Jan 22, 2008 (Prensa Latina)

A small English-speaking island in the Caribbean has joined a revolutionary Latin American alliance, ALBA, which has been largely overlooked by major media, but Dominica's Ambassador to Havana Clarkson Thomas tells about it here.

In the last couple of years the progressive Bolivarian Alternative for the Peoples of Our Americas (ALBA in Spanish) has skyrocketed to include Venezuela, Cuba, Bolivia, Nicaragua and this month the island of Dominica, which has 75,000 residents and almost the same abroad.

Ambassador Thomas says he "sees no contradiction" in Dominica's new relationship with ALBA, and explains that aid from the United States for Dominica's banana dependent economy was present through the 1970's when it became an independent republic from UK in 1978, but decreased through the 1990's.

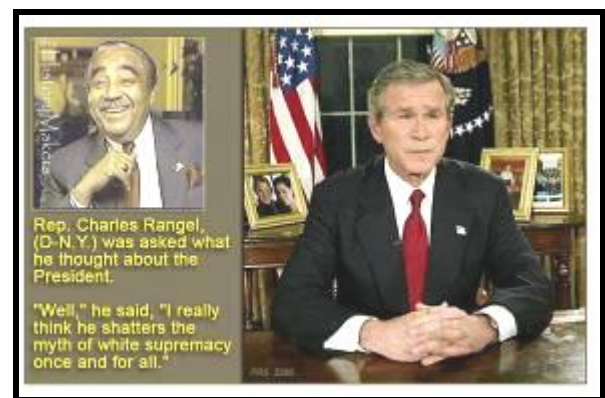
The diplomat said Dominica's interest in ALBA began early this millennium, and by June 2005 it signed the Petrocaribe Energy Cooperation Agreement with 13 other regional countries to "contribute to energy security, social and economic development, and integration of the Caribbean through the sovereign use of energy based on ALBA principles."

BIRTH OF ALBA: In November 2005, the USA tried in a last ditch attempt to peddle its Free Trade Agreement at the Americas Summit in Mar del Plata, Argentina. Regional chiefs of State "buried" the FTAA and at the parallel People's Summit, ALBA was launched. Clarkson Thomas told Prensa Latina that "whether the FTAA is dead or alive is irrelevant, we will continue with the disinterested assistance of ALBA."

Dominica's accession to ALBA was announced on January 10 by President Chavez in Caracas, venue to the next summit of the group on January 24-25. The 35 year-old Dominica's Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerritt is the second youngest state leader in the world, and studied in two US universities for a BA in English and Psychology. He is friends with Hugo Chavez and Fidel Castro and said this month that his country's entry to ALBA is a move to "give citizens of the world a chance to survive."

INDIGENOUS ROOTS: ALBA is also a historical initiative, and in the conversation with Prensa Latina Thomas refers to the Carib indigenous population. Dominica was the last of the Caribbean islands to be colonized by Europeans, thanks to fierce defiance from the Caribs. Sources explain that those native people were represented at the World Indigenous Summit last October in Bolivia, which is a founding member of ALBA and its President Evo Morales is a major proponent of rights for "original peoples."

* Prensa Latina reporters Mario Esquivel and Charly Morales Valido contributed to this story from Venezuela and Bolivia.



The EDGE of EXTINCTION

By Alexandra Morton

Wild salmon are the life-blood of the eastern Pacific. Destroy them and our future on this coast dims. Wild salmon belong to the people of Canada, but exist dangerously in the path of corporate development. Salmon in cages ease the way to damming rivers, selling freshwater south, logging old growth forests and drilling for oil. The consequence of our governments permitting fish farms to kill wild salmon will bring this province to its knees.

Minster Pat Bell just gave fish farmers his cloak of protection, announcing that the industry is in full compliance with the Province's inadequate regulations, even as SCIENCE reports they are driving wild salmon to extinction.

A diverse group of Canadian scientists worked together to measure the impact of fish farms so federal Dep't of Fisheries & Oceans (DFO) and the Province could use the solutions to give us the wealth of both industries. The paper in SCIENCE (Dec 14, 2007) starts the countdown. If nothing changes only 3 more generations of pink salmon will be produced in the wild Broughton Archipelago rivers; less if conditions worsen. Any scientist currently suggesting the contrary is working for industry or DFO. Similarly, the team of MLAs appointed by Gordon Campbell to deal with fish farms extended deadlines, traveled extensively, arranged scientist debates and reached the same conclusion as we have. The problem is so serious, the ramifications so great, that they concluded: move the industry into closed tanks within 5 years or lose wild salmon.

But, Gordon Campbell and Pat Bell have plugged their ears and approved four more net pen farms, the very technology the MLAs reported must go. In Norway, "fish farmers have been on red alert since July when Norwegian billionaire John Fredriksen, the principal shareholder in the world's largest salmon farming company, Marine Harvest, as he stood on a Norwegian river-bank holding his fishing-rod told a reporter that salmon farms should be in places without wild salmon."

Environmental organizations are also working in concert across time zones on every front. Some have gone so far as pouring over production schedules with industry, to determine how the industry could give wild salmon safe passage while still operating. But the fish farmers are gambling that no matter what happens to our wild salmon, government will protect them. In fact, the industry has stocked a full house at ground zero in the Broughton Archipelago, even as the science by Canadian reports these very farms are driving a large wild salmon population rapidly to extinction.

It might be comforting to think this is only happening in the Broughton, but I have more work to be published reporting that juvenile salmon and herring in the waters of eastern Vancouver Island...up to 1/3 of BC's wild salmon are being eaten by sea lice near fish farms off Campbell River. There are the viral epidemics that the fish farmers admit they have spread coast wide (Saksida 2006).

We stand at the edge of an extinction. Salmon eggs are about to hatch in the Broughton Rivers offering life to all around them. Marine Harvest and Mainstream have made their intentions clear. Despite notice from scientists, politicians, environmentalists, business people, even their own countrymen and shareholders, they restock their farms in the path of these fish. Without wild salmon the Fraser River can be dammed, the last watersheds clear-cut, and the corporate fish farmers will own the salmon market.

This letter is to ask, what do you think can be done? Please tell me. I cannot bear to watch the last of these wild salmon destroyed by sea lice through sheer corporate arrogance. The underlying pulse of this beast has been revealed and no one is going to benefit in the end. Wild salmon are a gift to the entire world. There is no future on a coast left to die without the energy they carry back to the rivers. Our children will curse the names of those who gave away one of the last non-corporate controlled food resources left on earth.

And for what?for nothing.

Celebrating Women in Print

by Theresa Wolfwood

"If we had a keen vision of all ordinary human life, it would be like hearing the grass grow and the squirrel's heart beat, and we should die of that roar which lies on the other side of silence."

George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans)

International Women's Day is always a good time to reflect on the position of women & our achievements. Not that long ago there were few women writers because most women were illiterate. You can't weave without loom and threads. Today women in some countries from Denmark to Sri Lanka have acquired universal literacy. In other places woman still have a high rate of illiteracy; always higher than men in the same region or nation. They carry their stories in their head and pass them on to the following generations. This list is a collection of brief notes about many wonderful books written by women – some recent, others from the past, all proof of our creativity and our humanity. See: www.bbcf.ca for more detailed reviews.

Non-Fiction

Margaret Atwood. MOVING TARGETS

She's not only a revered novelist & poet she is a witty and perceptive essayist.

Maude Barlow & Tony Clarke. BLUE GOLD: The Fight to Stop the Corporate Theft of the World's Water. Barlow is

Canada's most successful political crusader – she has authored many books on political issues.



Deborah Barndt, editor. WILD FIRE: Art as Activism.

Canadian activists & how they use art to create awareness & social change. *Photo: Salmon gives birth to human baby from Wild Fire.*

Veronika Bennholdt-Thomson et al. THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE: SUBSISTENCE

AND WORLDWIDE RESISTANCE TO CORPORATE GLOBALIZATION. A tribute to the famous ecofeminist scholar, Maria Mies by many authors around the world.

Marcia Bjornerud. READING THE ROCKS: The Autobiography of the Earth. This well-written and easy to understand book will help us know and save the only planet we have.

Hilary Newitt Brown. WOMEN MUST CHOOSE. A classic call for women to become involved in politics on the brink of WW 2.

Rosalie Bertell. PLANET EARTH: The Latest Weapon Of War. About war & the environment – very timely & valuable knowledge by a respected scientist.

Diana Francis. RETHINKING WAR & PEACE. A Greek philosopher once said "How will you go about finding that thing the nature of which is totally unknown to you?" She writes well about it – finding & creating peace.

Silvia Frederici, CALIBAN AND THE WITCH: Women, the body and primitive accumulation. An amazing history & enquiry into the roots of the oppression of woman & workers.

Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela. A HUMAN BEING DIED THAT NIGHT: A South African Woman Confronts The Legacy of Apartheid. Of the universal questions of the nature of evil and human violence, the possibility of transformation and the human capacity for forgiveness.

Eva Golinger. THE CHÁVEZ CODE: Cracking US Intervention in Venezuela. History in the making in front of our eyes. As Latin America breaks free.

Susan Hawthorne and Bronwyn Winter, editors. AFTER SHOCK: September 11, 2001: Global Feminist Perspectives also titled SEPTEMBER 11, 2001: Feminist Perspectives The voices of war and the "war on terrorism" did not silence or drown out these women; essays, personal stories, poetry and statements.

Celebrating Women in Print: continued

Gerd Johnson-Latham. A STUDY ON GENDER equality as a prerequisite for sustainable development. Also by same author **POWER and PRIVILEGES – on gender discrimination & poverty.** www.ud.se Her short, excellent, easy English reports say it all on the issues – from Sweden. www.sou.gov.se/myb/

Susan Hawthorne. WILD POLITICS where she writes: Disconnection is critical for a system based on profit & about locally based action.

Mary Kaldor. NEW & OLD WARS: Organized Violence in a Global Era shows the links between militarism, globalization, crime and the breakdown of society.

Fatema Mernissi. SCHEHERAZADE GOES WEST: Different Cultures, Different Harems. The Moroccan scholar's readable & surprising contrast of eastern & western women's cultures.

Mies, Maria, PATRIARCHY AND ACCUMULATION ON A WORLD SCALE. The famous ecofeminist scholar analyzes women's oppression – a timeless treasure.

Linda McQuaig. HOLDING THE BULLY'S COAT: Canada and the U.S. Empire. Our premiere political journalist; this is the latest of her excellent works.

Donna Nebenzahl & Nance Ackerman. WOMANKIND: Faces of Change around the World has stunning photos and wise words of women who work with a passion for social change.

Carol Off. BITTER CHOCOLATE: Investigating the dark side of the world's most seductive sweet is the shocking truth about cocoa.

Helena Paul & Ricarda Steinbrecher with Devlin Kuyek & Lucy Michaels. HUNGRY CORPORATIONS: Transnational Biotech Companies Colonise the Food Chain - serious & informative study about our food security.

Carolyn Pogue. SEASONS OF PEACE "For peace and non-violence to prevail, we need to foster a Culture of Peace through Education." A

guide for adults to creating understanding in children & adults about peace.



Arundhati Roy. AN ORDINARY PERSON'S GUIDE TO EMPIRE & WAR TALK. Both are brilliant gems of essays on global issues. *Photo: A. Roy in Mumbai WSF. TW.*

Diane Smith with Jagori. BIRTHING WITH DIGNITY a guide for training community level midwives and healthworkers is a moving tribute to the act of creation and our creators.

Rebecca Solnit. HOPE IN THE DARK: Untold Histories, Wild Possibilities. "It's always too soon to go home. And it's always too soon to calculate effect."

Margaret Somerville. THE ETHICAL CANARY: Science, Society and the Human Spirit. "Scientific progress alone would be a hollow victory without the moral or ethical progress that must accompany it and ensure the humanization and humanity of our development and use of science."

Ahdaf Soueif. MEZZATERRA: Fragments from the Common Ground. The common ground of these essays is the ground where Arabs and non-Arabs co-exist.

Julie Stauffer. THE WATER YOU DRINK: Safe or Suspect? Only 3% of our water is fresh and of that, less than 1% is available for drinking water.

Hilary Wainwright. RECLAIM THE STATE: Experiments in Popular Democracy. She describes alternatives & actions that have lead to success at the community level.

Michela Wong. I DIDN'T DO IT FOR YOU: How the world betrayed a small African nation. About Eritrea, one the world's newest nations, & its lonely struggle.

Women in print continued : **MEMOIRS**

Aung San Suu Kyi. FREEDOM FROM FEAR. Memoir of a brave leader, Nobel winner, still under house arrest in Myanmar.

Soha Bechara. RESISTANCE: My Life for Lebanon. The amazing memoir of a jailed & later freed would-be assassin.

Gioconda Belli. THE COUNTRY UNDER MY SKIN: A Memoir of Love and War by a famous poet who was a Sandinista revolutionary.

Marlene Brant Castellano et al. From Truth to Reconciliation Transforming the Legacy of Residential Schools. Revealing a shameful part of our history.

Urvashi Butalia. THE OTHER SIDE OF SILENCE: Voices from the Partition of India. Silenced women finally tell their stories.

Emily Carr. KLEE WYCK & her other tales. Stories of life in BC when her artistic genius & understanding of indigenous life was spurned.

Maggie de Vries. MISSING SARAH: A Vancouver Woman remembers her vanished sister. Her sister was one of many women murdered on Vancouver's eastside.

Shirin Ebadi with Azadeh Moaveni. IRAN AWAKENING. The Nobel Peace Prize winner writes about her life & work: *The price of transforming Iran peacefully, ... is sacrifice of the highest order.*"

Griffin, Betty & Susan Lockhart. THEIR OWN HISTORY: Women's Contribution to the Labour Movement of BC engrossing local history of activist women.

Mary-Louise Engels. ROSALIE BERTELL: Scientist, Eco-Feminist, Visionary. An excellent biography of one of my movement heroes – still active & vocal.

Helen Hoy, editor. HOW SHOULD I READ THESE? Native Women Writers in Canada. Stories, memoirs, essays by a little published group of Canadians.

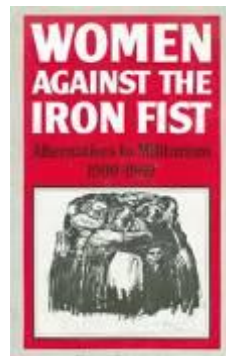
Susan N. Kiguli & Violet Barungi. editors. I DARE TO SAY: 5 testimonies by Ugandan women living positively with AIDS. Powerful & moving personal stories.

Kathe Kollwitz. PRINTS AND DRAWINGS OF KATHE KOLLWITZ selected by Carl Zigrosser. The story of her life during war & repression through her wonderful art.

Antjie Krog. COUNTRY OF MY SKULL. A South African poet & writer experiences the Truth & Reconciliation Commission in S.A..

Fatema Mernissi. DREAMS OF TRESPASS: TALES OF A HAREM CHILDHOOD. A memoir of women in Morocco in the harem.

Mexican Solidarity Network. FEMICIDES OF Ciudad Juarez & Chihuahua. Report on the deaths and disappearances of indigenous Mexican women.



Sybil Oldfield, WOMEN AGAINST THE IRON FIST: Alternatives to Militarism 1900-1989

Stories of many women who resisted militarism & some died because of it;
Coverart by K. Kollwitz

Sybil Oldfield, Editor. AFTERWORDS: letters on the death of Virginia Woolf.

An intimate glimpse into Woolf's personality, her times & the people who loved her.

Marjane Satrapi. THE COMPLETE PEREPOLIS. In comic book form, a girl coming of age under times of conflict & repression in Iran – now a film.

Evelyn C. White. ALICE WALKER more than a biography of a famous – still living writer, poet & activist - a powerful history of the USA.

Terry Tempest Williams. REFUGE: An Unnatural History of Family & Place. Of the beauty of birds & nature & the ugliness of militarism in a traditional USA community.