

ADMISSIONS

COLUMBIA STUDENTS AGAINST SWEATSHOPS

MEETS 8:30 MONDAY NIGHTS.

313 HAMILTON.

CSAS@COLUMBIA.EDU

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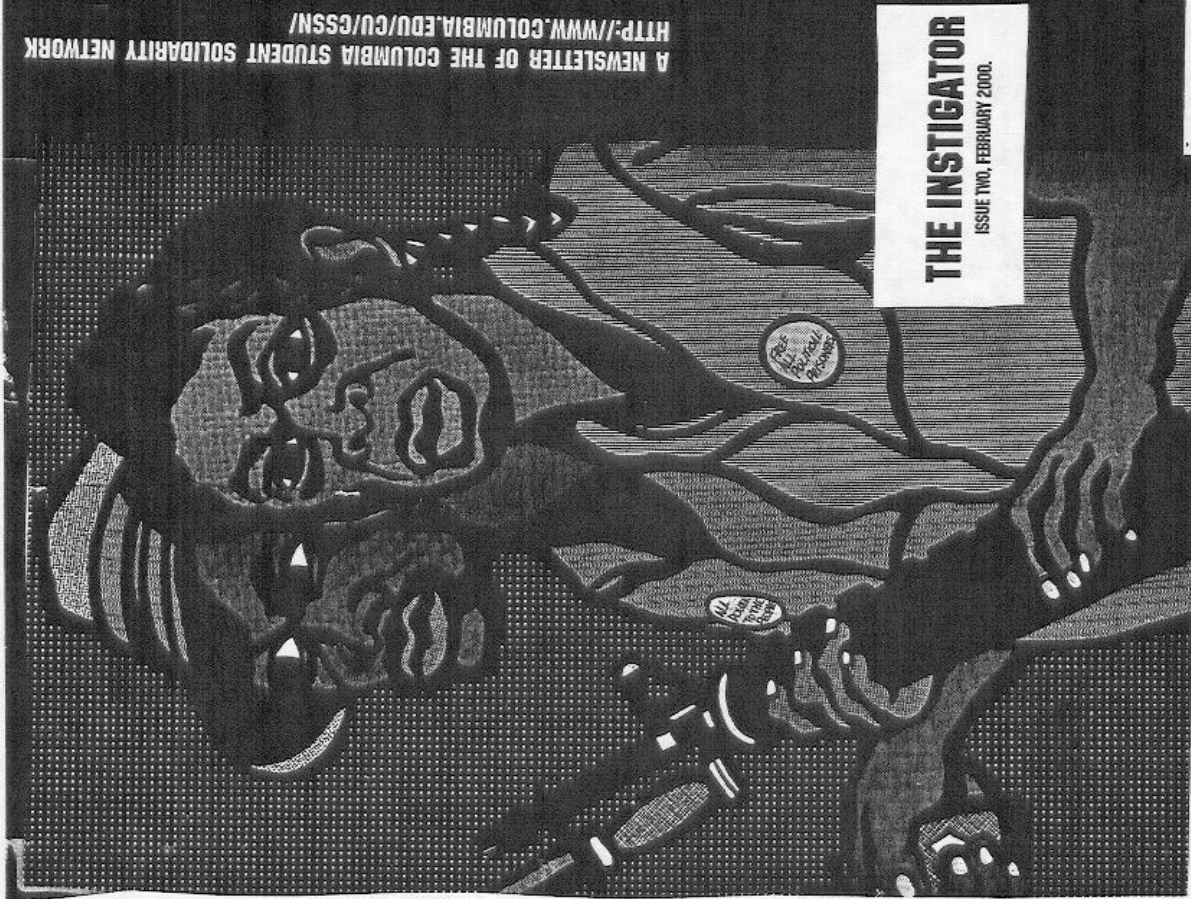


CSAS HAS DEMANDED THAT COLUMBIA WITHDRAW FROM THE FAIR LABOR ORGANIZATION, WHICH PENN, INDIANA, WISCONSIN, AND MICHIGAN HAVE ALREADY DONE. ATTEND THE RALLY ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1ST AT NOON ON THE LOW STEPS.

In another **historic victory for the anti-sweatshop movement**, (not too long after the victory at UPENN) the University Michigan President Lee Bollinger joined the Worker Rights Consortium (WRC), a non-profit organization that will investigate the conditions in factories of companies producing collegiate apparel. In response to student occupations of administrative buildings in Ann Arbor and Madison that started on Wednesday, Bollinger released a joint statement today with the **University of Wisconsin at Madison and Indiana University** Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) will join the university students today as they describe their successful 60-hour occupation of the Deans office where they constructed a mock sweatshop this week. Students vowed not to leave the office until the president agreed to join the WRC. **"Sweatshops and abuse of child labor must end and the students here are playing a crucial role in making that happen by raising public awareness and demanding change,"** said Senator Harkin.

After more than 5 months of meetings, protests, teach-ins and resolutions by the student government, Bollinger finally conceded to the students demand that the University of Michigan work with other universities in pressuring firms to improve their apparel factory conditions, both at and abroad. "We are thrilled that the University of Michigan has decided to take the high road as an ally of workers who produce U-M apparel.," said Lee Palmer, a junior at the University.

**We are thrilled too.
COLUMBIA MUST BE
NEXT!**



THE INSTIGATOR

ISSUE TWO, FEBRUARY 2000.

A NEWSLETTER OF THE COLUMBIA STUDENT SOLIDARITY NETWORK
[HTTP://WWW.COLUMBIA.EDU/CU/CSWN/](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/cswn/)

**PASS THE SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICY:
BE AT FRIDAY'S VOTE**

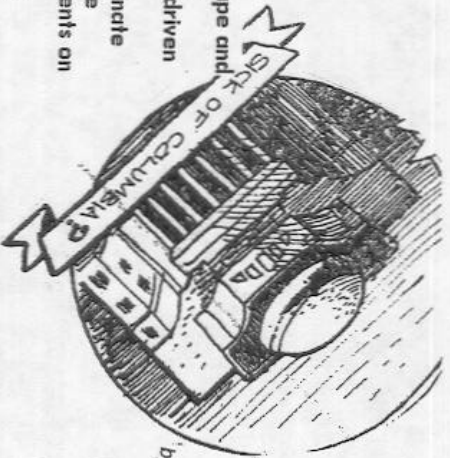


As a result of intense lobbying, miles of red tape and massive student pressure at November's march, the University Senate will vote on a completely student-driven policy this FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25. That includes:

- A new full-time hire in Student Life to coordinate the policy, collect and maintain statistics, and ensure compliance with all federal and state law (and students on the hiring committee!).
- An oversight body with at least 1/3 student members to govern the policy.

A student on the hearing panel. The proposed policy has garnered unprecedented, widespread student support at Columbia. If passed, this policy will be a national model for pro-active campus response to sexual misconduct and assault. But non-student members of the Senate--most of whom haven't even read the text of the policy--are still voicing opposition to its passage. Some even oppose Columbia having a policy at all!

We need your physical presence in the Senate meeting on Feb. 25. The single most powerful thing you can do to get this policy passed is to fill up a seat in 301 Uris. Meet behind Low Library at 1 pm on Friday, and we will march into the meeting as the student body. safer_cu@hotmail.com www.columbia.edu/cu/safer



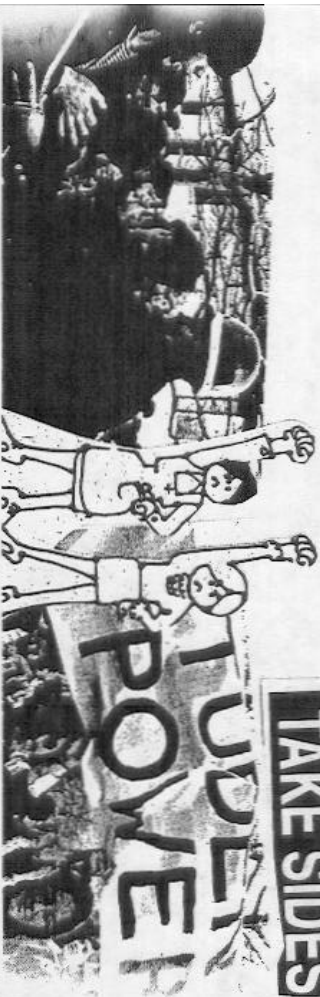
by Jennie Pasquarella

day outside his store, while he anxiously waited for his wife and children to return from his field, and he explained to me that in a normal year, a family can grow enough corn on the typical hectare of land to feed themselves for three months. The rest of the year their food supply is mostly purchased, during which time they are reliant on the little income they can make from coffee. Actually, coffee is more like the sole source of subsistence for Acteal.

Today, coffee is a central target of the government's low intensity war strategy. Last month the Fray Bartolome de las Casas Human Rights Center in San Cristobal, Chiapas reported that in the region of Las Margaritas, boxes containing rats, snakes, insects, or mere chemicals, had been found falling out of the sky into the coffee fields of peasants, killing the crops and eventually the animals. This is exemplary of a tactic whose aim is to slowly deplete a population by attacking their sole source of income instead of their immediate food supply. I saw the implications of this coffee-centered strategy on the face of a young man in Acteal. He spent an entire afternoon and evening sitting motionless on a rock in a tranquilized, somber state, outside the room where I was staying. I was told that he had just discovered that morning, upon returning to his coffee field, that paramilitaries from the neighboring village had cut down the trees that provided shade for his coffee crops. Without this shade, he would lose his crops as they burnt from the penetration of the sun.

Increasingly his story is the repetition of others. Like many families in Acteal, he has recently been displaced from his original town, due to the growing organization of pro-government paramilitary troops in their communities. For these families in particular, coffee harbors the story of being forced from their homes and estranged from their land simply because they refuse to support the government and take up arms. Today, displaced people in Acteal cannot return to their abandoned homes and coffee fields without the accompaniment of human rights observers for fear of confrontation, terrorization and kidnapping by the paramilitaries. Many people that have returned have found their homes and/or crops burned, their land poisoned, or the trees that gave shade to their coffee plants cut down. In fact, peasants often find that, in their absence, their coffee has been harvested and sold by the paramilitaries--one of many strategies to acquire the funds to buy their weapons.

Do to limited Resources, the remainder of this article can be found at <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/cssnr/>





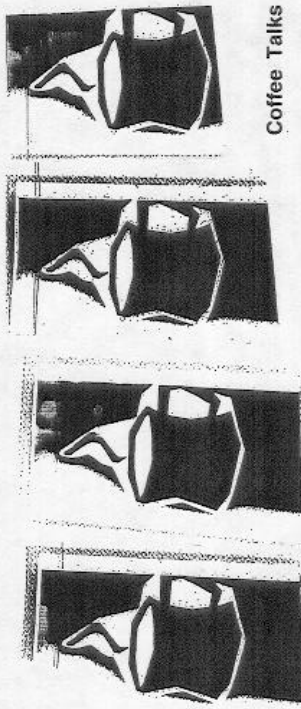
Coffee Talks

The other day, over our ritual lunch of beans, tortillas and coffee, in the highland town of Acteal, Chiapas, Don Mariano spontaneously asked: "So, is it that there are two kinds of money? One that we call *dinero* and the other *economía*? What is the 'economy?'" he asked. What a question, I thought. My friend hesitantly attempted an answer. If money is the coins and bills we use, the economy is like invisible money. The larger it is, the more invisible money it has acquired. It's like the coffee market. For example, you harvest and sell coffee beans to the "coyotes" (their name for middlemen) for approximately \$1 per kilo, and they in turn sell them for three times that to a distributor abroad, until they end up in foreign supermarkets or restaurants where people pay \$1 per cup. Don Mariano nodded knowingly, making me wonder whether this was a rhetorical question. Of anyone, he knows best the meaning of the economy. He understands it from the ground up. It lives through him. Literally.

In this southernmost Mexican state, Mariano's relationship to coffee is not simply described by market relations and monetary value. But there is another aspect of invisibility proscribed by the economy: the lives, like Mariano's, that are narrated by the same coffee we abundantly drink.

In Chiapas, this has a very particular meaning. Today, 70,000 troops or one-third of the Mexican army occupies the state of Chiapas. Low-intensity war has been the government's response to an indigenous rebellion led by the Zapatistas-which came to the fore in 1994-and the increasing organization of peasant communities in opposition to the government and their neoliberal economic interests. In Chiapas is the evidence of the coercive nature of the PRI (the ruling party that has been in power for over 70 years) and its desperation to maintain their political and economic reign-forcifully. As part of its strategy to annihilate the opposition, covert organized armies or pro-government paramilitaries proliferate-recruited, trained and funded by the Mexican military.

Coffee is the second largest import of the United States, next to oil; it is also the sole source of income for Acteal. Mariano and I were chatting one



THE ORGANIZATIONS AND MEETING TIMES:

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
 CAMPAIGN TO END THE DEATH PENALTY
 CHIAPAS DELEGATION: IF INTERESTED IN JOINING THE DELEGATION TO CHIAPAS THIS SUMMER, CONTACT JENNY AT 853-4520.
 COLUMBIA MEN AGAINST VIOLENCE (CMAV)
 COLUMBIA STUDENTS AGAINST SWEATSHOPS (CSAS): MONDAY NIGHTS 8:30 PM, ROOM 313 HAMILTON
 COLUMBIA-BARNARD EARTH COALITION (EARTHCO): MEETINGS EVERY WEDNESDAY 9 PM IN LERNER HALL.
 DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA/WORKING FAMILIES PARTY (DSA/WFP): MEETINGS TUESDAYS 8 PM.
 EPISCOPAL CAMPUS MINISTRY, EARL HALL.
 INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION (ISO): MEETINGS EVERY THURSDAY AT 7:30 PM AT BROADWAY
 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (114TH/8WAY).
 JEWS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (JSJ): TUESDAY 9/2 AT 8 PM IN 518 HAMILTON. CONTACT: 853-5838.
 STUDENTS ACTIVE FOR ENDING RAPE (SAFER): MEETINGS EVERY MONDAY 9:30 PM AT THE WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE, BROOKS HALL, BARNARD.
 WWW.COLUMBIA.EDU/CU/SAFER.
 STUDENTS FOR A FREE TIBET (SFT)
 STUDENTS FOR CHOICE (SFC)
 STUDENTS FOR SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT (SSRI): MEETINGS EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 9:30 PM IN EARL HALL.
 STUDENTS PROMOTING EMPOWERMENT AND KNOWLEDGE (SPEAK)
 TAKE BACK THE NIGHT: MEETINGS SUNDAYS, BROOKS HALL LIVING ROOM, BARNARD.

COLUMBIA STUDENT SOLIDARITY NETWORK (CSSN): TO ADD A COLUMBIA SOCIAL/ECONOMIC/ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GROUP OR ACTION, E-MAIL MLH44@COLUMBIA.EDU OR GO TO WWW.COLUMBIA.EDU/CU/GSSN AND FILL OUT A FEEDBACK FORM



February
Wednesday, February 23rd:

Brecht Forum Living Wage Campaign: Help strategize the beginning of a New York City living wage campaign. Also, begin organizing a living wage campaign on the Columbia Campus. Wanna go? MS996@columbia.edu

Friday, February 25th, 1pm, Uris Hall:

Join SAFER to ensure the passage of the best possible Sexual Misconduct Policy at the University Senate meeting's FINAL vote
on the Sexual Misconduct Policy!

Monday, February 28, 7-8:30 pm:

Welfare Reform and Human Rights Documentation Project: The project coordinator from the Urban Justice Center is coming to Columbia School of Social Work to talk about the project and train students to be monitors. 105C McViekar Hall (113th btw. B way and Riverside).

Tuesday, February 29th, 6-9:00 - 8:00 pm:

Julius S. Held Lecture Hall, 304 Barnard Hall In honor of black women's heritage week & celebration of women's history month: Susan Brownmiller, feminist, civil rights activist, journalist, author of "Against Our Will: Men, Women and Rape" and "In Our Time: Memoir of a Revolution" will be speaking. A Reception sponsored by the Rape Crisis & Anti-ViolenceSupport Center to follow.

MARCH

Wed March 1st, Noon, Low Steps:

CSAS Rally: Join CSAS in telling the Columbia Administration that we will have no more of the FLA. This is the date that the university promised to review our involvement in the FLA. Let's tell them what we want!

Friday, March 10th, Time TBA:

United Nations Building: Students for a Free Tibet will be joining a massive protest in front of the United Nations building. Stay tuned for more info or contact SFT. 853-4178.

Looking For Something To Do? we proudly present the CSSN Calendar of Events



For a constantly updated
action calendar visit
www.columbia.edu/cu/cssn



Wednesday, March 23, 12-2 PM:

Okhwan Women Act Against the Military: Okhwan women activists call on an end of violence perpetrated against civilians by US soldiers. 525 W. 120 St. Teachers College Grace Dodge Hall Room 273.

APRIL

Saturday & Sunday, April 8th & 9th:

International Affairs Building ORGANIZED: An Activist-Academic conference on social movements and organizing. Deadline for participation in workshops and papers is February 14th. For more information and registration forms, go to the Organizer! Website <http://www.sociology.columbia.edu/home/lesley/orgnize.htm>

Wednesday, April 12th:

Hunger Initiative, sponsored by Jews for Social Justice. Contact Karen Austrian (853-5838) for more information or if your group would like to sponsor the Hunger Initiative with a contribution of \$25 to allow for left over food from the University Dining Halls to go to homeless shelters.

