

# BORDERlands

## News from across the border

dec. 2007 Volume 10 Issue 4

*Dear Borderlands members, friends, readers and everyone else reading this last newsletter of yet another year, our tenth!*

We did make it, indeed... or rather, we did 'make' several 'its' recently.... First, of course, we have finally arrived at the end of our tenth year and— as we already have been telling you all, dear readers, since more than a year, we do want to celebrate it appropriately and you will have meanwhile found the inserted invitation (or, for those on email, the attached) which has already been sent to you anyway—thanks to the diligent work of Katheryn, student on placement and already very much part of the 'furniture' around here! We have already received a variety of messages by people who have been part of borderlands and of associated organizations during any of the last ten years—but we would really love to get some more! Katheryn is 'composing' a wall 'hanging' on which, year by year, relevant Borderlands events and happenings will be attached to be preserved for posterity (and please do send us your own Borderlands memorabilia if you have kept them or bring them with you on the 21st!)... As well, Katheryn plans to produce a small booklet out of all the written 'testimonials' sent in by as many of you as possible, reminiscing about your time with Borderlands and about what happened after since... Everyone attending the anniversary party on the 21st of December will receive a copy. We are holding a booksale-fundraiser on the 19-21st of December, accompanied by end-of-year fair trade sales and, of course, the celebration on Friday afternoon.

Please keep sending your thoughts, memories, reflections—even the 'theoretical' or critical ones! - so that our story becomes an account of the last momentous ten years in which this country became a rather strange place, which is something worth thinking about and worth remembering... just a little list... Kennett and the destruction of community infrastructure; pokies; Grand Prix; imposition of economic rationalism in all its facets and in quite inappropriate areas of civic and community endeavour; 'commercial-in-confidence' closing every bit of public scrutiny; and Victorian Labor—just after the establishment of Borderlands, end-90s—shifting the goalposts ever so slightly—but by no means decisively... we're still a pokies state; private-public partnerships continue to privatize what should remain in our own, public hands; (cont. next page)

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 2nd of December - ETWA art exhibition at Fitzroy gallery and from the 3d of December at Augustine/Borderlands till the 21st of December.
- 8th of December - Community links with Cambodia trivia night.
- 19th - 21st of December - **Borderlands Christmas market**
- 21st of December - **10th anniversary event for Borderlands**
- 2d of February—**oases** breakfast:  
Lex Macharia Rutherford:  
**Water for Life**
- 15—17 of February: Sustainable Living Festival (Federation Square)
- 22d of February—Post-Graduate Conversations
- 23d of February: Start Academic Year  
**oases**
- 1st of March— **oases** breakfast:  
Freya Mathews:  
**philosophy, activism, nature**

### Newsletter Deadlines

This newsletter is to inform you of all the Borderlands happenings. We need your input! Please send articles or details of your latest events etc. (preferably in electronic format) to the Editor at borders@borderlands.org.au

Deadlines for the four issues are:

**March Issue: 20th February**

**June Issue: 20th May**

**September Issue: 20th August**

**December Issue: 20th November**

(from page 1) our ecology still at the mercy of private profiteers; public institutions still under-resourced; and the veil of secrecy certainly not lifted... and yes, after long years of reactionary, devastatingly backward-looking, irresponsible and destructively gung-ho federal governance, we're finally allowing ourselves to believe that we've reached the possibility of a lesser-evil mode of running this rather beautiful country... although still too much of the 'old' paradigm sticks to whatever the victorious group came up with to entice us into voting for them (in addition to just getting rid of the previous lot!)...

But we'll see... and we'll give 'them' a chance... much is to be repaired, much healing is necessary and much strength needs to be instilled to enable us to cope with the certain changes undoubtedly imposed on us by what our own recklessness has done to our environment. **So—in spite of probably getting a bit tired and needing a rest—Borderlands' work is NOT DONE!** We need to continue—especially now—to speak up, to shout out, to demonstrate if necessary, to keep organizing, to do whatever, lest those we indeed did elect, start to forget what they were elected **for** and not just focus on those they were elected **against**. So let's continue to do what we have tried to do for the last ten years: speak up for what is right and just and beautiful, whilst trying to create at least a glimpse of how we would like our future society to 'look like'... all the best for 2008 and here's to the next .... years! Jacques

## SPW 2007 Volunteers- Getting a whole lot more out of life!

SPW Australia has been a hive of activity over the past months. A Strategic Planning Day facilitated by Ms Louise Doyle allowed us to take some time out from the busy day-to-day workings in the office to critically reflect on our role as a leading youth focused international development organization and plan for our growth and expansion in the coming years.

In 2007/2008 we have 12 volunteers, two who have already begun their placement in Nepal and 10 who will be leaving in early January to participate as SPW Peer Educators in Tanzania, Zambia and South Africa. All volunteers have completed an intensive Pre-departure Training program and are busy preparing for the amazing journey they are about to embark on.

We have also launched our Christmas giving campaign, suggesting that in 2007 people support out work by purchasing a gift to children and families in the developing world – giving a gift that gives twice over!

For more information about SPW and our Christmas Giving Campaign, contact us on or via:

[www.spw.org.au](http://www.spw.org.au)

[spw@spw.org.au](mailto:spw@spw.org.au)

+61 3 9815 2052

**Eggnog cheer**  
arsenic filters for families in nepal  
for \$20 you can provide one filter for three families  
or for just \$1000 you can provide an entire village with safe drinking water

**Put your money where your mouth is**  
smokeless stoves in southern india  
\$35 covers the cost of one stove including installation  
\$700 will provide a rural village with 3 with 20 smokeless stoves

**A cracking good idea**  
clean water for ugandan school children  
provide 'tip taps' to an entire village in Uganda \$2500 covers installation, demonstration and maintenance costs

**The proof is in the pudding**  
income generation schemes in south africa  
your donation of \$500 will allow a group of 5 women to start their own income generation scheme

**A safe kiss this christmas**  
youth education campaigns  
give \$100 so SPW volunteers can run an education campaign reaching over 200 young people

**invite some new faces to your christmas party this year**

**SPW**  
for more information:  
visit [www.spw.org.au](http://www.spw.org.au)  
email [spw@spw.org.au](mailto:spw@spw.org.au)  
call Jane Dennis  
SPW Australia's Director  
on 03 9815 2052



**New books at the Borderlands Library!!!**

Clive Hamilton and Sarah Maddison, Silencing dissent : how the Australian government is controlling public opinion and stifling debate, 2007.

323.440 HAM

Chris Chamberlain and Guy Johnson, Homelessness in Melbourne : confronting the challenge, 2007.

OVERSIZE 362.509 CHA

Victorian Aboriginal Controlled Health Organisation, Communities working for health and wellbeing : success stories from the Aboriginal Community controlled health sector in Victoria, 2007.

OVERSIZE 362.849 VIC

Sarah Mares and Louise K. Newman, Acting from the heart : Australian advocates for asylum seekers tell their stories, 2007.

325.210 MAR

Victorian Women's Trust, Our water mark : Australians making a difference in water reform, 2007.

333.911 VIC

And don't forget to have a look at the last issues of Community Quarterly!



**New Community Quarterly**

NCQ is an Australian journal of community development with a history spanning 25 years. The website ([www.newcq.org.au](http://www.newcq.org.au)) provides information about the journal, including subscriptions, contributions and back-issues as well as an archive of all previous publications by issue and subject.

To subscribe, contact Ben Leeman  
[benleeman@optusnet.com.au](mailto:benleeman@optusnet.com.au)  
 or Call Borderlands: 9819 3239

**Borderlands Newsletter**

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[borders@borderlands.org.au](mailto:borders@borderlands.org.au)

Please, also send poetry, creative writing, artwork for inclusion in the newsletter.

**Volunteer opportunity**

**DO YOU LOVE BOOKS? LOTS OF THEM?**

**CAN YOU SEARCH THE INTERNET, STAMP OR SHELVES?**

**DO YOU HAVE A BIT OF SPARE TIME? OR A LOT?**

The Borderlands library can use you. We'd love to get the library books catalogued so that people can find the books they'd like to read. You don't have to be a librarian to help out. We have catalogued about 6,000 titles, and there are maybe another 4,000 waiting. If you could spend a few hours a week or fortnight on this project, please contact the office. There would be some training available and you'd get to see and touch and drool over the newest titles and older, important works.

**Quote of this issue:**

**Having elected the 'lesser evil' to govern us, let's start doing something positive for a change**

**In this issue....**

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**A happy 2008 to all of you, dear Readers!**

Dear Friends and Passionate Supporters of Social Justice!

On Radio National this morning there was a very concerning interview with the head of social justice with the Uniting Church about "Banning Moral Justice". Apparently in August Peter Costello introduced into Parliament a bill that brought amendments to the Trade Practices Act. It forbids people from taking or promoting moral action against any company, for example, boycotting their products or services, if it damages their trade. This bill is to be ratified in the new year. Apparently Labor supports it.

This would mean, as I understand it, that if we see companies behaving immorally, unethically or unjustly that we cannot take action against them by way of getting them to change their behaviour. The Uniting Church has sought legal advice regarding this and it seems confirmed that this is the case. Any social action in this regard will be illegal.

I am trying to get a copy or transcript of the interview from the ABC, but I will also contact this fellow at the Uniting Church and get more information.

If what I believe is true, then we need to do some lobbying of relevant people after the election. I'll keep in touch, and if anyone has any further information on this, could they "Reply to All" with it.

Kind Regards.

Maree Harris, (long time member of Borderlands Coop) and Convenor, Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Reference Group.

## Community Links with Cambodia presents the 1st annual TRIVIA NIGHT!!!

**Saturday the 8th of December at 7pm, the questions start at 7.30pm!!**  
**Where: The Augustine Centre, 2 Minona Street, Hawthorn.**

Cost: \$15 inclusive of: entry, door prize, gourmet snacks, good company and supporting a good cause, ***Community Links with Cambodia***.

Extra fun: Buy gifts for Christmas, win great raffle prizes and find just what you have been looking for at the White Elephant Stall.

Drinks will be available at low prices—wine, juice, soft drink, tea and coffee.

Pay on the night but for catering purposes, please RSVP to [clc@clacambodia.org](mailto:clc@clacambodia.org) by the 30th of November.

Enquiries: call Daniela on 0400 921 289



## ***Rudd must listen to critics if he's to stamp out child abuse***

**Oct 27, 2007 at 04:00 PM (a bit late, I know... but good to remind everyone a bit what it was/is that we hoped for when we voted him/them in!!!!)**

Should he become Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd would need to sit down with critics of the Northern Territory intervention if he's to have any hope of stamping out child abuse in Aboriginal communities, Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR) said today. ANTaR National Director, Gary Highland said it was ill informed of Mr Rudd to suggest that critics of the intervention were "political purists" and not concerned with results.

"Contrary to what Mr Rudd would have us believe, much of the criticism of the intervention has come from Aboriginal leaders with demonstrated track records in successfully tackling abuse and violence," Mr Highland said. "Ironically, the angry rebuke that Mr Rudd gave to Territory Minister, Marion Scrymgour over her opposition to the intervention confirms her comments about the 'new McCarthyism' that has characterised this debate."

Mr Highland said that if the nation was to successfully protect Aboriginal children, political leaders would need to rise above their simplistic and divisive claims that anyone who dares question the intervention is in denial of, or worse, an apologist for, child abuse. "It may not suit Mr Rudd's pre-election spin, but there are legitimate questions about the intervention that will need to be answered if children are to be adequately protected," he said. **(But since the election is now over, they require re-stating!)**

These questions include:

- Why hasn't the intervention so far included the additional child protection workers and services so essential to ensuring long term success?
- Would the \$88 million spent over one year on blanket welfare quarantining be better targeted towards specifically targeting victims and offenders of abuse rather than the whole community?
- Would expansion of the voluntary Centrepay system be better way of improving financial management than removing any personal responsibility by blanket welfare quarantining?
- Why is removing the permit system part of the intervention, when leading experts on child abuse in Aboriginal communities and the police consider that this will make it harder to crack down on child abuse and grog running?

"Mr Rudd is fond of quoting the Little Children are Sacred report, but even a cursory reading of this report would show him that the current intervention is sharply at odds with its recommendations," Mr Highland said. "Mr Rudd will need to grapple with these issues if he becomes Prime Minister. He will also need to draw on the expertise of many of the intervention's critics if his government is to ensure a child centred, evidence based approach to overcoming abuse and violence," Mr Highland said.

ANTaR has worked extensively to support Aboriginal people who are overcoming violence and child abuse. In 2006 it organized a forum in Parliament House, Canberra bringing Aboriginal leaders who have successfully tackled abuse and violence together with politicians and public servants to discuss strategies to overcome these problems. ANTaR is currently campaigning to urge the NSW Government to properly fund its response to the abuse of Aboriginal children in that state. Its [Success Stories in Indigenous Health booklet](#) released earlier this year also profiles a number of successful programs that are tackling child abuse and its effects.

**Media contact: Gary Highland on 0418 476 940 or contact the Victorian ANTaR or your local one and see how you can get involved to continue putting pressure on our governing people!!!**

# more NEWS FROM ASSOCIATES

## ETWA

### Art Exhibition

#### Heru Ini Lafu: Weaving Life

*'A Journey into Community and the Woven Art of East Timor'.*

ETWA (East Timor Women Australia), aims to explore and discover the beauty of East Timorese Tais weaving, and the artisans who create them, through the collaborative work of local Melbourne artists.

*'Heru Ini Lafu: Weaving Life'*, merges contemporary Australian Art with East Timorese hand-weavings to create a visual celebration of two distinct cultures. Through a union of mediums and collaboration of ethnic communities, the stunning images of Melbourne photographer Sally Gray and masterworks of local Melbourne artists, will represent East Timorese culture in a variety of forms and interpretations. Together with ETWA's private Tais collection, paintings by the Dili based Art School 'Arte Moris' and individual works by local East Timorese artists, this integrated exhibition will tantalise your senses and shed new light on the history and culture of East Timor.

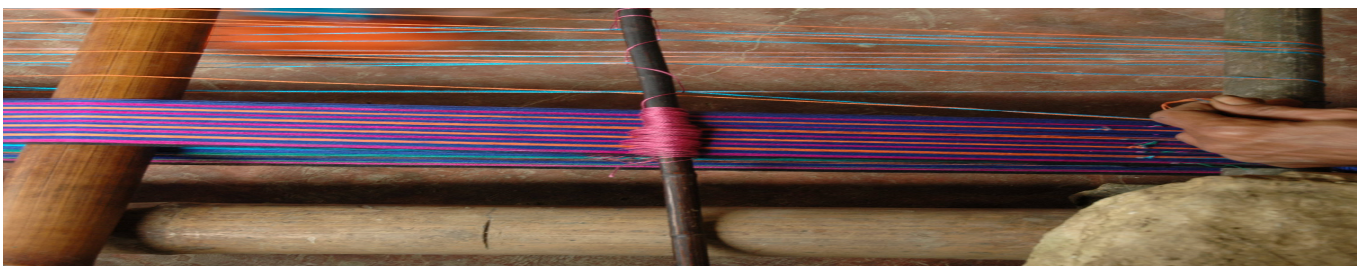
*'Heru Ini Lafu'*: translates to 'Weaving Life' in Makalero, the language of the Iliomar region in the south-eastern highlands of East Timor. For people in this isolated community and others throughout the island of East Timor, the art of weaving is integral to social life and plays a vital role in ritual and ceremony. Through the medium of hand-weaving, ETWA volunteers work to help women weave sustainable communities in East Timor.

*'Heru Ini Lafu'* is a fusion of art incorporating the imagination of local artists. The exhibition aims to present the weavers and cloth of Iliomar in a range of works that maintain the integrity and creativity of each contributing artist.

The exhibition will open December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2007 for one night only at **'Fitzroy Gallery'**, 274 Fitzroy St Fitzroy, VIC 3065, 7:30pm onwards. The exhibition intends to travel extensively throughout Australia in 2008 accompanied by a feature length documentary. This is a really exciting event and we hope that as many of you as possible can make it on the night.

For further information please contact Deb Salvagno on 9819 3239/ 0422 435 517.

**Please note this exhibition moves to Borderlands on from the 3rd of December till the 21st.**

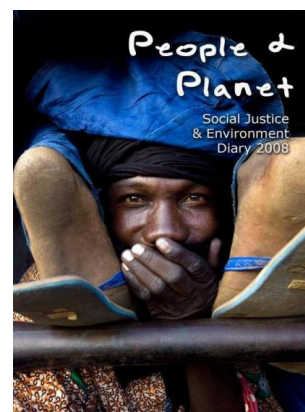


## People and Planet Diaries

The 2008 People and Planet Diaries are ready and you can purchase them here at Borderlands!

They are \$18 each and all proceeds go to Borderlands.

They make great Christmas presents and you will be supporting a good cause!!!



**TOO BUSY TO CARE?**

A semi-true story

An environmentalist colleague came and sat opposite me in the University cafeteria a couple of days ago. He asked me what I had been doing over the last few months. I told him about our new website. 'Oh yes', he said, 'I saw something about that on a circular a couple of weeks ago. I didn't have time to look at it though, what with trying to meet the deadline for submitting this paper and preparing for the RAE (Research Assessment Exercise) on top of all the usual stuff'. His face crumpled with strain. 'What's it about, then?', he asked. I tried to explain in a few short word-bytes. 'Sounds like something I ought to be interested in', he said, his eyes darting hither and thither distractedly. 'Well, must rush!'

I eased back in my chair, following his hasty departure, and listened in to the noise of hundreds of conversations taking place around me involving reputedly some of the Nation's finest minds. At one table, the chatter was about University politics and funding. At another it was about having to admit poor quality students to their course. At another it was about football. At another it was about shopping. At yet another it was about the statistical odds of winning the lottery.

Such experiences are all too familiar to me. Any real depth of conversation is - with some exceptions - some student seminars and tutorials, the occasional person beating a path to my office door and certain e mail correspondences - avoided like the plague, both inside and outside my University life. Within the University, contemplation - especially unorthodox contemplation - is subsumed by the chase for money and status. Outside the University, thinking is a scary thing that only successful intellectuals are supposed to do - except when it is about complicated political and money matters, when everyone can (and must) join in the game. I only have to let words like 'science', 'art', 'poetry', 'fluid dynamic', 'fungi', 'ecology', 'evolutionary' and 'geometry', not to mention 'inclusionality', slip through my lips when people ask me about 'my work' to see any sparkle of momentary interest fade instantly from their eyes as they assume (and sometimes say) I must be from some other planet over their heads. Meanwhile the din of idle chatter is surpassed only by the desperation of many claiming to have no time for reflection in the midst of their exceptionally busy and stressful lives. Environmental, psychological and social distress abound. And facile thinkers are celebrated for the rapid-fire 'accessibility' of their divisive argument and language, which can be gobbled up eagerly by those without personal time to spare for reflection.

To me, all this is a symptom of how an oppressive, mental-blocking system that stifles co-creative flow sustains its unsustainable self. My sad thought is that inscribed upon the tombstone of *Homo sapiens* - he who calls himself 'wise' - will be the words 'Caring only for busyness, he was too busy to care'.

Warmest— Alan Rayner, Uni. Of Bath



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(quote from current participant).

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## GET INVOLVED

**Borderlands is home to many and diverse organisations.**

**If you have time on your hands, an interest in local or international community development, the environment, social justice, the anti-globalisation movement and other progressive causes; contact us— there's room for your ideas too!**

Published on Monday, October 22, 2007 by The San Francisco Chronicle

## ***Children Detach From Natural World As They Explore The Virtual One***

**by Peter Fimrite**

Yosemite may be nice and all, but Tommy Nguyen of San Francisco would much prefer spending his day in front of a new video game or strolling around the mall with his buddies. What, after all, is a 15-year-old supposed to do in what John Muir called "the grandest of all special temples of nature" without cell phone service?

"I'd rather be at the mall because you can enjoy yourself walking around looking at stuff as opposed to the woods," Nguyen said from the comfort of the Westfield San Francisco Centre mall. In Yosemite and other parks, he said, frowning his brow to emphasize the absurdly lopsided comparison, "the only thing you look at is the trees, grass and sky." The notion of going on a hike, camping, fishing or backpacking is foreign to a growing number of young people in cities and suburbs around the nation, according to several polls and studies. State and national parks, it seems, are good places for old folks to go, but the consensus among the younger set is that hiking boots aren't cool. Besides, images of nature can be downloaded these days. It isn't just national forests and wilderness areas that young people are avoiding, according to the experts. Kids these days aren't digging holes, building tree houses, catching frogs or lizards, frolicking by the creek or even throwing dirt clods.

"Nature is increasingly an abstraction you watch on a nature channel," said Richard Louv, the author of the book "Last Child in the Woods," an account of how children are slowly disconnecting from the natural world. "That abstract relationship with nature is replacing the kinship with nature that America grew up with." A lot of it has to do with where people live - 80 percent of the U.S. population lives in urban areas, where the opportunities for outdoor activity apart from supervised playgrounds and playing fields are limited. But Louv said the problem runs deeper. Wealthy suburban white youngsters are also succumbing to what he calls "nature deficit disorder."

"Anywhere, even in Colorado, the standard answer you get when you ask a kid the last time he was in the mountains is 'I've never been to the mountains,'" Louv said. "And this is in a place where they can see the mountains outside their windows." The nature gap is just as big a problem in California, where there are more state and national parks than anywhere else in the country. A recent poll of 333 parents by the Public Policy Institute of California found that 30 percent of teenagers did not participate in any outdoor nature activity at all this past summer. Another 17 percent engaged only once in an outdoor activity like camping, hiking or backpacking.

The numbers coincide with national polls indicating that children and teenagers play outdoors less than young people did in the past. Between 1997 and 2003, the proportion of children ages 9 to 12 who spent time hiking, walking, fishing, playing on the beach or gardening declined 50 percent, according to a University of Maryland study. Kim Strub, a 46-year-old Mill Valley mother of 13- and 16-year-old girls, said kids these days just don't have the time to get out in nature with all the pressure to get good grades and be accepted into a prestigious college. "There is probably five times as much homework than there used to be when I was a kid," she said. "I used to be a member of Campfire Girls, and we would go out camping, sleep under the stars, go hiking, grind acorns, real outdoor stuff," Strub said. "My two daughters have been in Girl Scouts, and when they meet it is primarily indoors. Going outdoors is just not a priority anymore."

The lack of outdoor activity is more pronounced in California's minority and lower-income communities. Latino parents, for example, were twice as likely as white parents to say their child never participated in an outdoor nature activity and three times more likely to say their child did not go to a park, playground or beach this past summer, according to the Public Policy Institute poll.

Several African American, Asian and Latino students from various San Francisco high schools admitted they rarely, if ever, go to let alone visit a national or state park. "Everybody is glued to the computer, on Facebook or MySpace, and they're texting all the time," said Brendan Lin, 15, of San Francisco, who wants to be a computer technician when he grows up. "These kids are becoming so acculturated to very fancy devices that do 50 things at one time that they can't grasp how going out into nature and just looking or relaxing can be rewarding," said Kevin Truitt, the principal of San Francisco's Mission High School. "To go on a hike, to participate in nature, to just look at the beauty is foreign to them." Louv does not believe technology is the only reason for the lack of exposure to the outdoors. He said sensationalistic reporting of rare occurrences is a big reason why parents are reluctant to let their children out of the house, let alone wander through the woods or down by the creek.

"Every time CNN or Fox makes a huge story about a lost Boy Scout or a bear attack, it feeds the growing fear that parents and kids have of strangers and of nature itself," Louv said. "The actual number of stranger abductions has actually been level or falling for 20 years, but you would never know it from the media. When they get done telling about the crime, they tell about the trial. And when it's a slow news day, they bring up JonBenet Ramsey again." Entrance fees at state and national parks also serve as barriers, Louv said. In the inner city, lack of maintenance and violence in the parks deter visitation. In the suburbs, neighborhood regulations discourage young people from using open space, Louv said. "Just try to put up a basketball court in one of these gated communities, let alone build a tree house," Louv said. "Covenants and restrictions in planned communities often give the impression that playing outdoors is illicit and possibly illegal."

The situation has caused great concern among parents, educators and physicians, many of whom believe the epidemic of childhood obesity in America is a direct result of the lack of outdoor activity. Environmentalists are worried that the next generation won't give a hoot about the spotted owl or other species. Others foresee trouble if children continue to be deprived of the many physical and psychological benefits that studies have shown nature and the outdoors provide. A nationwide movement has begun to try to reverse the trend and, in many ways, California is leading the way. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger issued a proclamation in July recognizing a children's outdoor bill of rights, which lists 10 activities children should experience by the time they turn 14, including exploring nature and learning how to swim.

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area engages 30,000 school-age children in outdoor and environmental programs in the park every year, many of them ethnic minorities from the inner city. Numerous outdoor education programs for inner-city youngsters have also been implemented at the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, which borders urban areas of Los Angeles. The National Park Service and a variety of local environmental organizations, including the San Francisco-based Trust for Public Land, Save the Bay, and the Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council, have joined the effort. Brendan Lin is an example of how such programs can work. He remembers fondly the one time he went camping on a school graduation trip five years ago or so. "It was fun because it was quiet and there was no one to bug you. I like that," he said. "I saw deers, squirrels, and I did a rope course." Louv said he is convinced American youth can once again learn the glory of mucking around in the natural world as opposed to the virtual one. "We don't all get to go to Yosemite, nor do we have to," he said. "It can be the clump of trees at the end of the cul-de-sac or the ravine by the house. Those places may in terms of biodiversity not be that important, but to a child they can be a whole universe, where they can discover a sense of wonder. That is essential to our humanity, and we can't deny that to future generations."

The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings, but shorter tempers; wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints; we spend more, but have less; we buy more, but enjoy it less.

We have bigger houses and smaller families; more conveniences, but less time; we have more degrees, but less sense; more knowledge but less judgment; more experts, but more problems; more medicine but less wellness. We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values.

We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often. We've learned how to make a living, but not a life; we've added years to life, not life to years. We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet the new neighbour.

We've conquered outer space, but not inner space; we've cleaned up the air but polluted the soul; we've split the atom but not out prejudice. We have higher incomes, but lower morals; we've become long on quantity, but short on quality.

There are the times of tall men and short character; steep profits and shallow relationships. These are the times of world peace but domestic warfare; more leisure, but less fun; more kinds of food but less nutrition.

These are the days of two incomes, but more divorce; of fancier houses, but broken homes. It is a time when there is much in the show window and nothing in the stockroom; a time when technology can bring this letter to you, and a time when you can choose to either make a difference... or just hit delete'.

*These words were written by a student who had experienced the high school massacre at Columbine, USA.*

*The C.R.E.A.T.E Journal*

**Biscuit Recipe****THIS IS A TRUE STORY**

A little background: Neiman-Marcus, if you don't know already, is a VERY expensive shop; i.e. they sell a typical \$8.00 t-shirt for \$50.00. My daughter and I had just finished lunch at a Neiman-Marcus Cafe in Dallas-US. Because both of us are such biscuit lovers, we decided to try the "**Neiman-Marcus cookie**". It was so excellent that I asked if they would give me the recipe. The waitress said with a small frown, "I'm afraid not, but you can BUY the recipe." I asked how much, and she responded; "Only two fifty - it's a great deal!" I agreed to that, and told her to add it to my bill. Thirty days later, I got my VISA statement, and the Neiman-Marcus charge was \$285.00. I looked at it again, and I remembered I had only spent \$9.95 for two sandwiches and about \$20.00 for a scarf. At the bottom of the statement, it said, "Cookie Recipe-\$250.00". That was outrageous! I called Neiman's Accounting Department and told them the waitress had said it was "two fifty", which clearly does not mean "two hundred and fifty dollars" by any reasonable interpretation of the phrase. Neiman-Marcus refused to budge. They would not refund my money because, according to them; "What the waitress told you is not our problem. You have already seen the recipe. We absolutely will not refund your money." I explained to the Accounting Department lady the criminal statutes which govern fraud in the state of Texas. I threatened to report them to the Better Business Bureau and the Texas Attorney General's office. I was basically told: Do what you want. Don't bother thinking of how you can get even, and don't bother trying to get any of your money back" I said, "OK, you've got my \$250, and now I'm going to have \$250 worth of fun." I told her that I was going to see to it that every cookie lover in the world with an e-mail account gets a \$250 cookie recipe from Neiman-Marcus... for free. She replied, "I wish you wouldn't do that." I said, "Well, perhaps you should have thought of that before you RIPPED ME OFF!" and slammed down the phone. So here it is! Please pass it on to everyone you can possibly think of. I paid \$250 for this and I don't want Neiman-Marcus to EVER make another penny from this recipe!

## NEIMAN-MARCUS COOKIES (Recipe may be halved)

2 (500 ml) cups butter—24 oz. (680 g) chocolate chips—4 (1000 ml) cups flour—2 (500 ml) cups brown sugar—2 tsp. (10 ml) (Bicarb) soda  
 1 tsp. (5 ml) salt—2 (500 ml) cups sugar—18 oz (500 g) Hershey Bar (grated). (Cadbury chocolate for Australians & South Africans)  
 5 (1250 ml) cups blended oatmeal—4 eggs—2 tsp. (10 ml) baking powder—2 tsp. (10 ml) vanilla—3 cups (375 ml) chopped nuts ( optional )

Measure oatmeal, and blend in a blender to a fine powder.

Cream the butter and both sugars.

Add eggs and vanilla, mix together with flour, oatmeal, salt, baking powder and Bicarb.

Add chocolate chips, Hershey Bar, and nuts.

Roll into balls, and place two inches apart on a cookie sheet.

Bake for 10 minutes at (180 °C )

The above quantities make ± 112 cookies.

PLEASE KEEP THE RECIPE AND SEND IT TO EVERY PERSON YOU KNOW WHO HAS AN E-MAIL ADDRESS!

**Community Development and Ecology**  
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***a three day conference to be held in Melbourne 26, 27, 28 March 2008***

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## A "Paper Coup"

By Naomi Wolf 11/05/07 "[Huffington Post](#)" - - -

I have argued that in the closing stages of a 'fascist shift', events cascade. I am hearing about them, even across the globe. Here in Australia I hear from the nation's best-known feminist activist, and former adviser to Paul Keating, Anne Summers, who was also at the time this took place Chair of the Board of Greenpeace International. Summers was detained by armed agents for FIVE HOURS each way in LAX on her way to and from the annual meeting of the board of Greenpeace International in Mexico, and her green card was taken away from her. 'I want to call a lawyer', she told TSA agents. 'Ma'am, you do not have a right to call an attorney,' they replied. 'You have not entered the United States.'

Apparently a section of LAX just beyond the security line is asserted to be 'not in the United States' -- though it is squarely inside the airport -- so the laws of the US do not apply. (This assertion, by the way, should alarm any US citizen who is aware of how the White House argued that Guantanamo is not 'in the United States' - is a legal no-man's land -- so the laws of the US do not apply.) Toward the end of her second five-hour detention she asked, 'Why am I being detained?' 'Lady, this is not detention,' the TSA agent told her. 'Detention is when I take you to the cells out back and lock you up.'

Last week in Boston, while attending Bioneers by the Bay, I heard that one of the speakers for our event, an environmentalist named Gunter Pauli, was going to miss the time of his scheduled speech; he had been physically taken OFF THE PLANE by TSA agents and had to take a much later flight. More chillingly, the camerawoman doing my interview said that another well-known environmental writer found that his girlfriend was effectively 'disappeared' for three days as she sought to enter the US from Canada. Lisa Fithian, an anti-globalization activist, was denied entry across the Canadian border in 2001 and was offered the choice of turning back or being arrested.

A friend emails me a [story](#) from USA Today about a 24-year-old college graduate who testified before Congress about her family of immigrants and the difficulties they face; shortly afterward, the entire family was arrested by immigration agents. [Another online piece](#) reports that Blackwater is setting up operations along the US/Mexico border and an insightful [post on Daily Kos](#) describes how the TSA list will revert from the airlines to the management of the Department of Homeland Security shortly and that by February we may well face the need to apply to the State for permission to travel. If this proposed regulation goes through, we will move from 1931 to about 1934--when the borders started to close-- with the stroke of a pen. Jews in America have hardwired into their DNA a sense of the distinction between those who got out before the borders closed and those who waited a moment too long.

Why should Congress impeach and prosecute this instant, not waiting till February? Why should this impeachment and prosecution be solidly bipartisan? After February it is the leaders on both sides of the aisle -- and the people writing these essays -- who are at most risk of being turned back at the border. People who can't leave in a police state are effectively silenced. And history shows that Republicans are at the exact same risk as Democrats of being violently silenced once liberties are lost. I am reading about IBM's close, profitable involvement with Nazi Germany -- much akin to Prescott Bush's [well-documented](#) close and profitable involvement with Nazi Germany through German industrialist, Fritz Thyssen. Right up to the top of the solidly Nazi hierarchy of the IBM affiliate, corporate executives were terrified of taking a wrong step in the eyes of the Party: 'There are concentration camps', they would whisper to their US backers. The teenage son of one solid Nazi ally was taken hostage when he resisted Party orders. So alignment with the regime in a police state offers no ultimate protection.

Let us think like business consultants analyzing the decisions of a business that claims it is going to close its door in just a year. What kinds of decisions is it making? Here is a quiz, if you still doubt that we need to shift our thinking and recognize what appears to be 'a paper coup':

- Is building a US Embassy in Baghdad the size of eighty football fields and at a cost of well [more than half a BILLION dollars](#) evidence of short- or long-term thinking?
- These walls would crumble if the next legitimate president independently ends the war. How about defending and expanding the basis for FISA violations at this late stage -- after all, these folks will be gone in a year?
- How about the decision to fight so hard for a US attorney who will defend the view that the President is above the law?
- Why would that matter so much in an administration folding its tents?
- Why the rush to establish Guantanamo as a permanent part of the landscape and even seek money at one point to double its size -- if the next President, a truly independent Republican or Democrat, might just close it down?
- Why the push to expand a war that makes no military or popular sense, rush through military tribunals that the next President might just disband, and, by the way, drum up a fresh new World War III?
- Do the neo-cons advising Giuliani look like a fresh page for an independent, transparent election or an ideological continuity of government in themselves?
- Do these look like the short-term tactics of a fading administration -- or the institutional strategic bases for some kind of new long-term beginning?
- Why work so hard to make sure that the man who defended the infamous "enemy combatant" concept will be the new Attorney General? - Why the push to expand a war that makes no military or popular sense, rush through military tribunals that the next President might just disband, and, by the way, drum up a fresh new World War III?

Increasingly, reputable figures are starting to talk about 'a coup.' Jim Hightower notes in an important essay, "[Is a Presidential Coup Under Way?](#)" that a coup is defined in the dictionary as a sudden forced change in the form of government. (He also spells out the basis for a rigorously modeled impeachment and criminal prosecution.) Daniel Ellsberg's [much-emailed speech](#) on recent events notes that, in his view, a 'coup' has already taken place. Ron Rosenbaum speculates in an [essay on Slate](#) about the reasons the Bush administration is withholding even from members of Congress its plans for Continuity of Government in an emergency - noting that those worrying about a coup are no longer so marginal. [Frank Rich notes](#) the parallels between ourselves and the Good Germans. And Congress belatedly realizes as if waking from a drugged sleep that it might not be okay for the Attorney General to say the President need not obey the law. Congress may realize why Mukasey CAN'T say that 'waterboarding is torture' -- the minute he does so he has laid the grounds for Bush, Cheney and any number of CIA and Blackwater interrogators to be tried and convicted for war crimes. They are so keenly aware that what they have been doing is criminal that laws such as the Military Commissions Act of 2006 have been drafted specifically to protect them and the torturers and murderers they have directed from criminal prosecution. That is why insisting that Mukasey say that waterboarding is torture is, in spite of the alarming apparent defection of Feinstein and Schumer, an important tactic and even the perfect opening for the impeachment bid that Kucinich is bringing on November 6th to be followed by Congressional investigations into possible criminality.

[This is](#) the "Blackwater Tactical Weekly." (Yes, Blackwater has its own weekly e-newsletter.) Look at "Islamist protest in N.Y. - 'Mushroom cloud on way'" -- it is reasonable to speculate that Blackwater is focusing on becoming more active domestically in managing domestic protests and rallies. (Regarding this particular rally, note the repetition of the White House 'Mushroom Cloud' sound-bite and other signs bearing current White House talking points, that are attributed to alleged Muslim protesters in New York City. The US has a long history of using agents provocateurs -- people dressed as those they are targeting, who pose as conveying a more violent or threatening message than that of the real group itself or who commit acts of violence to stigmatize the group. The Cointelpro program of the 1970's discredited many rallies in this way. An alleged or infiltrated violent, threatening Muslim rally would be the perfect defensible trigger for a Blackwater response.)

See also that Blackwater may be exploring the management of private flights in US airports because of a threat or 'threat' to private aircraft. ("Extremists may target private US planes: TSA.") This entry point to the air travel system would seem defensible -- after all Blackwater personnel do in fact guard airports around the world, for example in Bosnia. The danger is that a bleeding of Blackwater into US airport security in general would affect a coup in essence -- quite quickly and serenely -- even as a coup in fact need not be declared. It is a short step from managing private plane and private airport security to aiding the TSA -- which is a branch of Homeland Security -- and Homeland Security and Blackwater have already worked in alliance with one another in New Orleans. A TSA agent blogged about having signed up for Blackwater -- at ten thousand a month, which is a lot more than TSA agents make now and a real incentive -- but I have no evidence of reverse movement. The White House [recently announced](#) that the Watch List and No-Fly List together have 775,000 citizens and that they are adding 20,000 A MONTH. This trend on both sides, if not confronted, points to an easy slide to a paramilitarized domestic flight experience in the US and a routine aggressive searching of hundreds of thousands of citizens, the growth being exponential enough so that being aggressively searched could easily soon become a common experience at airports. Nothing at present prevents Blackwater agents from being deployed to help or replace the TSA domestically. Or from being deployed at the next New York City rally such as the one that is being featured on their website. And airports being the lifeline of freedom, if you are scared to fly or can be bullied, interrogated, tasered or worse when flying, you are no longer free. History shows that there is no easy retroactive movement toward a free society once travel is truly restricted.

The Mukasey hesitation on torture is our cue to call a halt to these crimes. (By the way, strapping victims to boards to prepare them for torture was common at Buchenwald.)

Congress must ask:

- What is torture?
- Has it happened?
- Who ordered it?
- How high up the chain of command does this go?
- And what does our system of laws say about such crimes and those who commit them?

If it takes hearings and possible prosecutions to restore the rule of law and maintain a free society, then it is past time for the hearings to begin.

**(Just some suggestions for our new Prime Minister to confer with the Prez. about when he visits next....)**

# BORDERLANDS COOPERATIVE

## MEMBERSHIP, SHAREHOLDERS & SUBSCRIBERS FORM

Please return your completed form to Borderlands Cooperative, PO Box 3079, AUBURN 3123

Use this form to

- Become a member, shareholder or subscriber
- Renew your membership

### 1. Your details

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Suburb \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

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**2. Membership/Shareholder.** The primary activities of Borderlands are to provide consulting services, meeting spaces and to contribute to supporting ecological, social and cultural regeneration and sustainability through collaborative endeavors and critical inquiry.

All members of the Cooperative are required to be active members.

Active membership requires:

- For members payment of annual memberships fees **OR**
- For shareholders
  - ◊ Participate in at least one activity each financial year such as a meeting, or use the space or other resources of the cooperative **AND/OR**
  - ◊ Make a donation to further the activities of the cooperative

I wish to  become a member or  renew my membership by:

|             |                 |                |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|
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|             | <i>Dec–Feb</i>  | <i>\$18/12</i> |
|             | <i>Mar–May</i>  | <i>\$12/8</i>  |
|             | <i>June–Aug</i> | <i>\$6/4</i>   |

Payment of membership fee of \$\_\_\_\_\_ [Note: All memberships are due



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Purchase of \_\_\_\_\_ share(s) in the Cooperative at \$100 each.

Donation of \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed as cheque or money order \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive the newsletter by  email  post

(NEW MEMBERS ONLY) I agree to become an active member of the cooperative.

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Tick here if you **don't** want to receive emails on events or issues.

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# Borderlands Christmas Market

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> of December

## WHEN

Wednesday & Thursday 10am - 8pm  
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## WHAT'S ON SALE

- \* Huge range of second hand books.
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