

news Briefs

HOW DO WE GET OFF THE SQUIRREL CAGE?

Europeans are working the equivalent of nine weeks less per year than Americans and are taking six-week vacations. How did we get ourselves into this insanity, and how do we get out?

A community symposium "Overwork and Time Poverty in America" is planned from 7 to 9 pm Thursday, Oct. 23 at the UO Baker Center, 325 E. 10th Ave. The event is sponsored by the UO Labor Education and Research Center (LERC) and is a component of the national *Take Back Your Time Day* initiative.

Associate professor Marcus Widenor of LERC says the symposium is an opportunity to hear scholars and activists from different perspectives examine our relationship with leisure time. It examines the options we face in attempting to solve the problem through public policy alternatives, through workplace policies and in the individual choices we make about using our time, he says.

"Workers in the U.S. are time-impooverished," says local community activist Hope Marston. "Many work 60-hour work weeks out of fear they'll be fired if they don't, and they're exhausted, not refreshed after their one to two week vacation. So, all the time you might have spent volunteering in your community, or relaxing with your family vanishes. It's time we take back our time!"

The symposium topics include "Time Scarcity: Myth or Reality?" with Gaylene Carpenter, UO Arts and Administration; "Are Americans Really Overworked?" with UO economist Bill Harbaugh; "Consequences of

Overwork" with Jean Stockard, UO Planning, Public Policy & Management; "From the Folks Who Brought You the Weekend: A Labor Perspective" with Barbara Kellogg of SEIU 503; and "Your Leisure Assertive Rights" with Forrest McDowell of the Cortesia Institute.

For more information, visit www.time-day.com

STUDENTS RALLY IN SF

Students from around the country will be participating in protests this weekend, speaking out against the USA PATRIOT Act, the war in Iraq, and other public policy agendas.

In San Francisco and in Washington, DC on Saturday, Oct. 25, students from the Campus Anti-war Network (CAN) will join with other national student groups to speak out. For the San Francisco protest, West Coast CAN Representative and San Francisco State University student Katrina Yeaw says, "This will be a great opportunity for students from all over the West Coast to meet up and march together. We need to show the whole world that there are loud and enthusiastic students against the occupation in Iraq."

The march begins at 11 am at the corner of Fulton and Larkin streets at the edge of the Civic Center in San Francisco.

Meanwhile, CAN is gearing up for its second national conference, Nov. 1-2 at the University of Illinois in Chicago. Members hope to align with as many other peaceful organizations as possible to discuss change. For more information, see www.antiwar-network.org — *Aria Seligmann*

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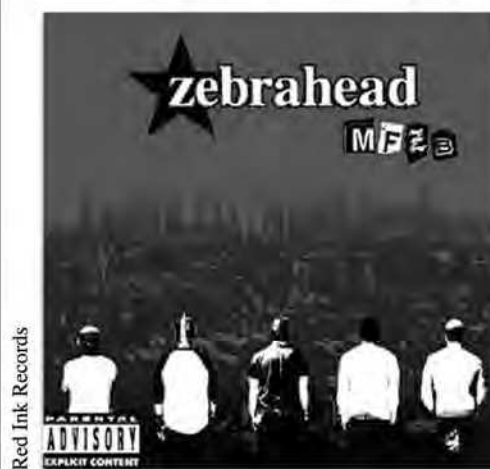
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