

THE FIRST ANNUAL FARMER'S MARKET

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON BOOKSTORE.

Wednesday, May 11 • 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Join the **Students for Local Foods** at the UO Bookstore in welcoming farmers and speakers as they share information about locally grown foods.

Farmer's Market at the UO Bookstore, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Buy fresh produce and food. Meet with your local farmer about CSA opportunities or internships.

Featured farmers: Byrd's Share Basket, Fox Hollow Creek Nursery, Little Wing Farm, Muslin Creek Farm, Menzter Farm, Nettle Edge Farm, River Bend Farm, Rogue Creamery, Sweet Briar Farms, Sweetwater Nursery, Tea Lady Specialty Teas, Wintergreen Farm, Waltland Butterfly Flower Garden

Speakers in the EMU Amphitheater, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Enjoy FREE local snacks while experts discuss locally grown foods and community supported agriculture.

Featured speakers: Jen Anonia, Ann Bettman, Susan Bowi-McCoy, Kate Darby, Rachael DeBuse, Galen Martin, Jeremy Roth & Jason Schreiner.

For more information, contact Karen Pettinelli at (508) 259-4427 or email kpettine@gladstone.uoregon.edu

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news BY CARRIGAN, ROBERTSHAW & GESSERT

Brink of Disaster

Undercovered #44. More stories not in the mainstream press.

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, a five-year U.N.-commissioned study by 1,300 prominent scientists from 95 countries, reports widespread degradation of oceans, tropical forests, plains, and other ecosystems, and events of sudden irreversible decline: collapse of fisheries and coral reefs, introduction of new diseases and invasive species. The study warns that Earth's systems are "on the brink of disaster" (*Independent*).

• While the Bush administration pushes nuclear energy, Russians and Ukrainians observe the anniversary of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster with fears about the crumbling sarcophagus above Chernobyl's still-active core. If the sarcophagus collapses, it will cause another nuclear disaster (*Independent*). Meanwhile, nuclear debris from closed U.S. bomb materials factories and nuclear plants is heading for west Texas, where a company called Waste Control Specialists has planned a massive radioactive disposal and conversion complex that will earn billions of dollars in dumping fees. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has scheduled nuclear waste shipments over the protests of Texas environmental officials (*Dallas Morning News*, Olive Hershey). The Navajo Nation, living atop one of the world's largest uranium deposits, has outlawed uranium mining and processing anywhere on its 27,000 square miles. "This legislation just chopped the legs off the uranium monster," said Navajo Norman Brown (*Arizona Republic*).

• An Algerian detainee at Guantanamo has alleged that U.S. military guards nearly drowned him in a toilet, and jumped on his head, leaving his face paralyzed. The military has not responded to his attorney's requests for the videotapes (*Washington Post*).

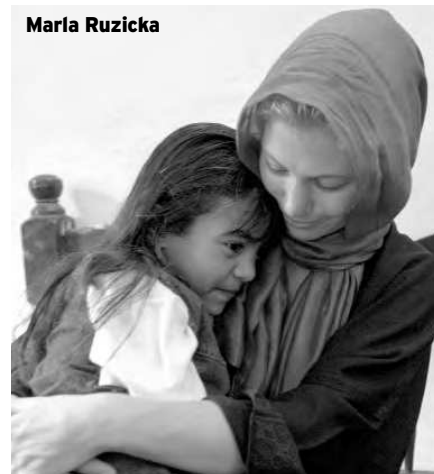
• The American Civil Liberties Union is urging Congress to review Section 218 of the USA PATRIOT Act, which allows the government to obtain search warrants for primarily criminal searches, in secret and without proving that a crime has probably been committed. Section 218 was the basis for detention of Brandon Mayfield, a Portland lawyer wrongly linked to the Madrid train bombing (ACLU).

• In 1995, the Chinese government abducted Gendun Choekyi Nyima who was then 6 years old and had just been recognized by the Dalai Lama as the 11th Panchen Lama, the second most prominent holy man in Tibetan Buddhism. The world's youngest political prisoner recently turned 16, still in custody (*Democracy Now*).

• The U.N. World Food Program says that increased aid is urgently needed to continue to feed 1.5 million Ethiopians. In southern Ethiopia, many children have dropped out of school to look for food and work, and in eastern regions, 5 percent are severely malnourished, with children dying every day of hunger (*Addis Ababa Daily Monitor*).

• Women and girls fleeing the ethnic cleansing of Darfur are being raped by Sudanese security forces deployed to protect them. Human Rights Watch calls on donors and humanitarian agencies to give a greater emphasis and more resources to preventing

Marla Ruzicka



sexual violence in refugee camps (Human Rights Watch).

• Tom Hayden wrote a letter to Howard Dean, asking him as Democratic Committee chairman to make the party respect its anti-war majority and start working to get out of Iraq. You can read this document at common-dreams.org/views05/0429_23.htm

• Iraqi civilian casualties climbed after the Jan. 31 elections, from 785 - 854 in January to 916 - 983 in February. Figures for March and April are still incomplete, but April looks bad (iraqbodycount.org). Coalition casualties have decreased as foreign troops stay near their bases and train Iraqis; most reporters stay in their hotels for fear of kidnapping. Many violent incidents go unreported by both press and U.S. troops. "Our generals want to hear about the number of attacks going down not up," said one soldier. The Pentagon counts 152,000 Iraqi soldiers and police preparing to take over security, but many desert when attacked and others cooperate with the insurgency (*Independent, Telegraph*).

• Ahmad Chalawi, convicted of 32 counts of fraud, fabricator of WMD tales, and spy for Iran, is acting minister of Iraqi oil (truthout).

• Marla Ruzicka, a young California activist, founded Innocent Victims of Conflict and did door-to-door surveys of casualties in Iraq. She persuaded the U.S. Congress to give \$17.5 million to victims in Afghanistan and Iraq. Ruzicka recently obtained evidence that the U.S. military actually *does* record civilian deaths and wrote an article about it for Human Rights Watch, then was murdered near Baghdad April 16, reportedly by a suicide bomber. "A [casualty] number is important not only to quantify the cost of the war," Ruzicka wrote, "but to me each number is also a story of someone whose hopes, dreams, and potential will never be realized, and who left behind a family" (civicworldwide.org).

• Various groups within whale and dolphin species teach each other cultural customs. Humpback whales feeding in the Gulf of Maine slam their tails against the water to stun fish and krill. South Pacific sperm whales defend themselves against orca attacks by forming a circle with tails facing out, and Australian bottlenose dolphins wear sponges on their snouts, perhaps to protect their skin while foraging on the ocean floor (National Wildlife Federation).

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Undercovered this month is written by Michael Carrigan, Brooke Robertshaw, and Kate Rogers Gessert.

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