

PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONT'D FROM PAGE ONE

bought a ticket to success. Though it was her gift, I feel burdened. But I will not go back. My mother cannot give me a different past, nor can I chose a different future. At Harvard, my classmates stride into their future as powerful policy-makers, university intellectuals and moneyed skyscraper successes. As a class, they will dictate laws or buy them. But their ascendance climbs on the bent backs of their college janitors, their corporate secretaries, their farmers and seamstresses abroad, their waiters, nannies and messengers at home.

What is the opposite of a gift? I will not take it. This March, I showed my mom a video of our living wage campaign. When my mom saw Constance vaccuming a classroom at night, explaining how she has to have two or three jobs and slip into offices to raise her daughter by telephone, my mom cried. Did she see what I saw in the stories of those Harvard workers, of every worker? Constance's story, her story, my story. I am giving her a gift of my own. Freedom, justice--I also live for my American dream, flush with the hope of Constance's rose.

John Sweeney said in the spring of our sit-in that too often the American dream turns out to be an American nightmare. With no healthcare, no retirement, no sick pay, no respect, tags which pay next to nothing and paychecks that amount to nothing--this is the everyday nightmare messengers wake up to.

I am sick: looking at the cut on my thumb, eating a cheap, greasy burrito at Can-cun. Three out of the five of us there have been fired for organizing. This spring, a total of nine messengers lost their jobs for being pro-union, or simply pro-improvement in their working conditions. I don't know what to do but keep fighting. Will we, can we, win? We had no answers going into the sit-in; I have no answers now. I only know we have nothing but this hope, this despair, this fight.



photo: Sarah Kung



photo: Sarah Kung



photo: Sarah Kung



photo: Sarah Kung



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photo: Sarah Kung



photo: Sarah Kung



photo: Sarah Kung



photo: Nellie Nelson



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photo: Nellie Nelson





BIKING IN TRUJILLO BY CAMILLE KIM COOK

The Caribbean beach town of Trujillo is the oldest Spanish settlement in Honduras. Last year the town celebrated, with much fanfare and publicity, the 500th anniversary of the first Catholic Mass held in the Americas. For a town that was officially founded in 1525 in a uniquely gorgeous location, it is surprisingly pristine and undeveloped.

The downtown area is on a bluff overlooking the beach and the huge, spectacular bay. Adjacent to the downtown area is the Fortaleza de Santa Barbara, an impressive Spanish colonial edifice which has stood over Trujillo Bay since 1575. Directly behind downtown are the verdant mountains, Capiro y Calentura which have been designated a national park. There are miles and miles of virtually undeveloped white sand beaches, dozens of pristine rivers and endless tropical jungles surrounding Trujillo. But what is it like to bike here?

When I moved to Trujillo, Honduras from San Francisco I brought my Gary Fisher 21 speed road bike with me. Good thing too because the local geography makes having several gears a necessity for somebody in my age range and physical condition. A road bike is not necessarily the best thing on account of the hideously bad or nonexistent roads which are murder on tires as well as your butt. You really need a good sturdy mountain bike; but I like my bike because it was given to me in 1996 by a group of bike messengers who had come to San Francisco to participate in the World Cycle Messenger Championship (CMWC). My brother Mark (aka Markus or Fur) died on January 3, 1996 without seeing his dream of having the CMWC take place in SF become reality. I had to do something to support the CMWC. I offered to help with housing. At one point I had 17 messengers were staying in my house. Before they left they gave me the bike to show their appreciation. So I like this bike but it's the wrong bike for Trujillo.

It is possible to take a nice ride through Trujillo without going up any hills, but not without going down some nasty roads. There are basically only 2 roads in Trujillo, the high road (the 18th of May) and the beach road. As you ride into Trujillo on the only road into town you pass through the Jerico neighborhood on a flat paved road. It's a nice ride through the tropical rural outskirts of Trujillo. The twin mountains Capiro and Calentura rise to your left. The only thing disturbing your idyllic ride is the fact that you are taking your life in your hands due to the narrowness of the road (no shoulders or bike path), the quantities of pedestrians and other bikers and the lunctid drivers. Fortunately traffic usually isn't too bad and rush hour is quite short.

More businesses crop up as you approach the town proper and cross over the Rio Negro (Black River) into the neighborhood of the same name. The road here is still paved but narrow with deep gutters on both sides. All traffic coming into town (pick-ups, buses, Pepsi and beer delivery trucks, bikes, etc) must come down this road. It can get a little hairy but it's a short stretch.

Having made it though Rio Negro you turn right in lieu of continuing straight and going up a Hyde-Street-style hill to downtown. You go one block down a

previously paved road which now has more potholes than pavement, where you must turn left onto the beach road, which is dirt. This is the downtown beach area. To your right are restaurants fronting onto the Caribbean. To your left is the hill road heading up to downtown. It was paved a few months ago and is currently great fun to ride down. Depending on the time of year the beach road may have been recently graded, in decent shape and fun to ride down or it may be one huge pothole, making for a bumpy, dusty ride. As you continue on you go up a slight grade into the Cristales Neighborhood, primarily inhabited by Garifuna people (also known as balck caribs) and a few crazy gringos like myself. The Garifuna are the descendents of escaped slaves who settled along the Caribbean coasts of central America. Anyway, if you take the second right and go one block down another gutted dirt road you arrive at the Zona Viva of Cristales. Stop here and have a beer or a Gifiti, the local Garifuna aperitif. If you still feel like it you can continue along the road into the San

Martin neighborhood and then along the coast to several Garifuna fishing villages.

But if you like more of a challenge than me you could go straight instead of turning right onto the beach road. This will take you on a short, steep, paved ride into downtown. The downtown area is relatively flat and you can ride around its 6 block area and do all of your shopping and errands easily. The if you are still not tired you can go for a ride up the mountain. There is a road leading straight out of downtown right

up the mountain into the national park. I have not done this ride on a bike but I have in a car and I can tell you that the road is a joke but the scenery is spectacular.

If you decide not to ride up the mountain, you go leave downtown either by the fun road leading down to the beach or you can go past the old cemetery and over the 18th of May Street and then turn right down another previously paved but now pathetic excuse for a road. This is the road to my house and I am skittish on it ever since I fell while riding down it too fast. Its varied terrain and steep grade make it rather dangerous. But, again, the view going down is great. Now you know the two roads through Trujillo, come visit sometime

Although the hilly terrain and beautiful bay may remind you somewhat of San Francisco, there's one big difference: the weather. Most of the time you are riding, you are sweating like a pig. At least I am. Daytime temperatures range from about 80-90. This is great for hanging on the beach but at midday can fast turn an easy ride into a serious workout. Most people around town are now used to seeing me arrive red-faced and dripping. But I'm not complaining because most days I have plenty of time to take a beer break in Cristales or down on the beach. If you have questions about Trujillo feel free to contact me at Camillekc@yahoo.com.



Quake City Rumble (cont'd from page 1)

meaning that the points you accumulate down town are a worth less than those obtained at the beach or on the top of Eureka valley. There are also two time trials-one hill and one flat-that will be held within the race. What this means is that as you are competing in the time trial(s), you are still racing in the alley cat and will be getting points for the trials. The top ten riders of these time trials will compete in a flat sprint and hill sprint. The winner of this gets the goods. Sounds like a good race, but I have a Question for Super Mike: What's up with your races having no DFL prize!? Last year I came in last at one of these races; I think people should at least get something for paying money to get tortured. The race will end at the Crowbar, located in North Beach. I Plan to have a go at this one. If you don't see me at the bar by five o'clock, avenge my death.

On Sunday, Howard Williams will be throwing his famous Mountain Lion race, also known as The Masochist's Tour of The City. For those of you not familiar, it is a time intensive race, with each checkpoint nestled snugly on top of the highest peaks of San Francisco. If you are going to be too sore from the Godspeed race, you can always trade your hangover for a nosebleed and man one of his checkpoints. Those who don't drink will by far have an easier time of this weekend than the ones who do, but for this day it is important for people in both categories to bust out those water bottles and stay hydrated, especially if you are racing. After the race there will be a picnic at Pioneer Grove (12th and JFK Drive, right behind the log cabin next to Stow Lake) in Golden Gate park.

Monday marks the last day of the rumble as well as the 24th annual Giro Di San Francisco, the last race of the UCSF season. This is pretty fun to watch, because the racecourse is up in Battery Point. Each of the four turns in the race are pretty hairy because when the racers get to them they're going at high speeds and there's not enough room for everybody, so somebody is going to get squished. It's also the best place for those of you who would like to satisfy your spandex fetish. Being the most fully sanctioned and sponsored professional race of the weekend, there will be many different classes of racers, including seniors, two different women's classes, hand cycles, and of course, messengers. Registration opens 7 a.m. at the corner of Battery and Union streets. If you are racing in the messenger class, your registration should be done before the race, which starts at 12:40. **YOU MUST WEAR A HELMET WHILE PARTICIPATING IN THIS RACE AND THIS IS A GEARED BIKE ONLY EVENT.** Reg is \$5.

In the evening, there will be a huge award ceremony/going away party at Lennon Studios, located at 271 Dore in south of Market starts at 3pm. Bands to play include the Crosstons, Blown to Bits, The Sick, Chixpak, and the Lewd. Party ends when it ends. Strewn in between all of these events are the fixed gear races, put together by Richie. We really haven't figured out exact dates for these events, but what we know for sure is that they will be interspersed with the other events. Perhaps what will happen is that there will be one or two events per

day, after each race. So far, Ritchie has planned a fixed gear alley cat, a skid competition, a track stand contest and a backward circle contest; these races have both male and female categories.

Two new categories are in the works. Freestyle fixie is one of those categories-just think of all of those tricks you do at the stoplight when you see someone cute. Also new is the stopping contest, where contestants start on the top of a hill and stop on a demarcated line well before the bottom. These are all good things to be adept at if you ride a fixie for work. But I think one of the most underrated talents of all is the ability to stop from full speed in the shortest distance possible. I'm surprised that this is the first time that anyone has thought of making this a category.

This is something that fixed gear riders are eternally tested at. There's going to be more info to come on this part of the race, as details are still being ironed out. Registration for the Quake City Rumble starts Thursday, August 28th at Cassidy's, which is located at 1245 Folsom. If you are coming from out of town and concerned about a place to stay, drop a line to the Sfmessengers@yahoo.com, and no doubt things can be figured out.

If you are feeling really adventurous and want to sleep under the stars, the Rob Hill Campsite (just east side of Washington Blvd., Between Compton and Central Magazine Blvd.) in the Presidio has been reserved for event participants (bikers of the world) starting Noon, Saturday, August 30th, 2003 thru Noon, Monday, September 1st. The site accommodates up to 60 people and includes portable toilets; picnic tables, BBQ grills and a central campfire ring. Tap water available. Come prepared; Nothing else is for sale within a mile. Everyone is welcome. Volunteers are needed for shifts during the days to watch bags while people race etc. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Joe Corio. These races planned here, as well as all the other races planned around the world, are very crucial to the sanity and well being of the messenger community. Why we tolerate dodging cars and/or cleaning up lawyer's fuckups isn't very easy to explain to those who don't do it or couldn't cut it. No, I can't even begin to explain to an outsider, especially considering how fast most of us ride to the bar or the liquor store when the day is done to wash the taste of work out of our mouths. What I can explain is that it's a good thing, this Rumble. We actually get to compete and spectate at an event where people compete for things that are more ceremonious than the reward of making it home in one piece or getting flattened by a car.

Special thanks to our sponsors: SFBMA, Timbuk2, Chrome, Re-Load, Baileyworks, The Freewheel, Sports Basement, Godspeed, Annie's Bar, The Tempest, Cassidy's, Lennon Studios, TKO Records, Prohibition Ale, Pabst Blue Ribbon, Speakeasy Brewery, San Francisco Bicycle Ballet, Team Satan, Bike Hut, Fast Signs, Lusty Lady, and Cassidy's Irish Bar and FastSigns.

- By Spillr

Courier Disaster Response Team Report

BY SERENITY ENRIQUEZ

Dear SF Bike Messengers, Urban Warriors, and freaks,

The Courier Disaster Response Team needs your help if you are available to help us with CMWC. We need people to help with first aid & safety for the SF pre-event (aug. 30-sept 1) and in seattle during CMW 2003 from sept. 12-14 (+day before and after for travel).

CMWC/ CDRT volunteers will be housed and rumor has it, fed. Volunteers will have to be currently certified in First Aid/ CPR and will be given a first aid kit to use and then keep for themselves. If you aren't currently certified, it's okay, we can use people in logistics and organizing.

I'm trying arrange transportation, but it is not solid yet. Would you like to assist and help organize? I definitely need help recruiting volunteers right now - I recently spent three days in Miami, FL for an Adolescent/ HIV research conference, several more at a global HIV Vaccine research conference in Seattle and then took a red-eye flight to Washington D.C. to review grants for the federal government.

So the time when I would have been doing most of my leg work and recruiting for CMWC volunteers, I was out of town.

So if any of you who have wondered about how they can help CDRT, here's the time. Be creative- it would be a pity to have this all limited by my own imagination.

Keep the rubber side down!

Love,
Serenity

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
NANCY JEAN ELIZABETH MOODY
1951 2003