TRIPWIRE 6.5

August 2004 / RNC / NYC

edited by David Buuck

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This special issue of Tripwire is occasioned by the collective actions of activists, artists, and citizens around the events of the RNC '04, as well as the Boog Reader's August '04 small press event, held at the C-Note in NYC.

thanks to David Kirschenbaum, Aaron Kiely, the contributors & performers.

Tripwire invites submissions of essays, translations, interviews, art & book reviews, bulletins, letters responding to previous issues, & visual art. Visual art submissions should be reproducible in black & white; visual artists are encouraged to include a statement about their work. At this time, we are not accepting unsolicited poetry for publication.
All submissions should include a hard copy.

The due date for Tripwire 8 (Prose/Narrative) is Nov. 1, 2004.

Subscriptions, submissions, & inquiries to:

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RODRIGO TOSCANO

Practical Men and Women of Ages Past

Brickslappers, unbucklers of walls
bread bollerers, taffy turfetists
chatterers of rates, half-rates promised
double rates on second thought tripled

ox-harnessing

each other
into boggy labor, dawn to dusk

The brewer mistress keeps the pot boiling
the maister of the house, sayeth
fuggettaboutit—I tells dat Indian guy
I says, dey don' give a fazool about our
only themselves...I says, to my wife
I gotta to stick my rates

s'all about

feedin-da-family

* *

The bricks blinking in chorus
the walls steady-eddy
the dough wending its way to extra life on the haunch
and paunch

The taffy talkity about

caramel, caramel—

conspiring with
chocolate
chocolate, and
white chocolate

UNITE
Capitalist Lunchtime Poem

Look, if a child stepped into a spring-trap—in front of you, you’d rush to unclamp the steely jaws from that agonized flesh & mind…

liberare

through instinct, or preservation (social)

what subverts this?

that we embrace what agonizes people by effect

if not design…

Distended bellies, minds out to pasture rummaging through mountains of refuse

cigarette butts collected in bags to be released

the remaining grains into a singular cig

20 sold for one noontime meal

Jakarta

–

astute—that’s us humans, in capacity…

dumber than dumb

this way of doing it

New York, August, 2004

CAROL MIRAKOVE

Two Poems

faulty intelligence

a USAmerican plane bombards Kakrak on July 1, suspecting Taliban, discovering a slaughtered engagement party*

President Bush called President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan on Friday to express his sympathy

they had been enjoying the night air and singing wedding songs at 1am drinking tea & chatting

USAmerican soldiers visibly shocked and saddened

killed 48 injured 117 civilian shrapnel

“the greatest effect was on the house next door”

scarlet flowers still bloom

congealed blood under an arch wept in a corner wept over bloody clothes

tugging her veil across her face “write about this” make them leave us

“my grandson’s and my daughter’s mouths were full of dust”

DICK CHENEY
Salam Pax
thinks we have forgotten
Afghanistan

I don’t know the difference
between my skirt and this table
JAMES A. BAKER III
but i have not forgotten
we have not forgotten
GEORGE W. BUSH


I beg them

imagine
your neighbor
a woman in her 50s
screaming in agony
wounded by a bomb

your neighbor
and you wait
for aid

you wait
the woman is actual
but distant
she’s a character
in a dream
that is my life
I appear to her
standing behind
the men I cannot kill

PHILIP M. CONDIT
NICHOLAS D. CHABRAJA
RONALD SUGAR
VANCE D. COFFMAN

JULES BOYKOFF
Three Untitled Poems

Neocon game boy
variations on a theme-con
“We believe this
[both direct & portfolio]
is the best place
[both direct & portfolio]
to serve our customers,”
said Wal-Mart spokesman
Eric Berger. Let’s call it
our attic, or would that be
too euphemismo? Too
National Security Strategy
of me?

• Auditory Sculpture. that might be you but this is me. AS Music, 2001.
My mind a spent cartridge.
Democracy a contact sport.
My mind a spent cartridge.
Democracy a contact sport.
My mind a spent cartridge.
Democracy a contact sport.
My mind a spent cartridge.
Pit bull in my neck.
Democracy a contact sport.
My mind caught shoplifting organic tofu. [Is that your question?]

For a new-wave giant sucking sound that's older than old-school &
“designed to counteract the image”
check-check-check my front man for the [“fear of being seen as”]
for [“their current plans do not differ”]
for the [“Giant pictures of the young shaggy-haired protestor that adorn the hallways of the convention center.”]
for [“its ‘bent value’ comes with a twist.”]
my front man for the war-war-war plan
[& “the strategy has served shareholders well”]

• Carol Mirakove. Occupied. (Kelsey St. Press, 2004).

Laura Bush
(from Girl Scout Nation)

To demonstrate her support of the North American environmental movement, and to further her image as a soft faced, forward thinking gal about house, Laura Bush is systematically removing, non-native, invasive plant species from her 30 thousand acre west Texas ranch.

Or rather, having them removed.

Stopping just short of calling them “pesky little terrorists,” Bush recently told a group of reporters that restoring her land to its pristine, pre-invader status is one of life’s chief delights and while marvelously we all dwell upon god’s fairly green earth, certain someone’s should be so kind as to dwell a little bit elsewhere.

Nor she claims is this precious franchise given only to the aristocrats (though, really of aristocrats what does she know), but that the very protozoa possess individuality, and that beneath even the most dilapidated inner city microscope it can be seen that no two miserable jelly blobs behave the same under identical conditions, and the weeding out of this dark dwarf society is the flag of life carried forward by sturdy, unsuspecting allies.

**

Let us go by way of the relics, up through wilderness, so as to start at the top. A fountain falling right out of the wild forest, down into a pool flanked by pavilions, flanked in turn by studious men.

A lust for order motivates the symmetrical splendor though the city now sprawls far beyond its rectangle. Like the intimate scale of a house strung along an axial progression, creating a rhythmic sequence of opportunities, dividing lightness from dark.

Here in the quiet interior each lives by the cool, clean and most commendable virtue of being green. And though this is not a biological language, in two words, it is the whole story.

I opened the car door and dashing across the solid lawn I ripped from a vine against the brick, a handful of Harvard’s sacred ivy.

An intellectual suburb with energetic tree growth lies beyond the beauteous prairie, born companion to the lake. Shore fringing mangroves washed by the lethal, briny tide, anchoring roots crusted with oysters.

And still, no one can tell you what a plant is.

In the American garden. Supersized and frank. A speeded up stroll garden for the automobile- the parkway or scenic highway. Boring through the black hills of South Dakota to offer repeated vistas of presidential stone faces especially dramatic when lit for night viewing. Creating an interest not so much in arrival as in movement. The American circles can go uphill and down making a pattern quite independent of contours and abandoning patches in the corners of square fields to unwatered desolation. Rest stops and vistas arrange to make a coherent event of car travel.

And the pushing coarseness of pigweed and burdock overrunning the territory it claims by mob rule. A rabble of dandelions crowding the lawn, and mile by mile the ancient winds and modern insects, a sinless world. Altered.

Laura.

Bush.

**

What cannot fit in your pocket on national television is a Laura bush

The nation fit into the bush but not his pocket

Or maybe it’s not his pocket but a globe of imperial pins

An instant message with mega mobility or stellar sperm kit or lethal root ball

Either way it is a bush baby or a father bush either way it cannot fit into your pocket on national television is a Laura bush

What cannot fit into your left ventricle when you are trying, as a citizen to respond is a bush catching fire in a soft green room or an oval office.
Or a national pocket lined with leaves or a jockstrap of fire and deforestation

Or the cadets at the root of the bush pumping their axial progressions.

And we never heard mention of any economic aspect of our subject

And bush burning into another century

Declares weapons of diminutive figures

A limping curve of humanism

Rangers before puberty, before hair and instinct

Before glowing brighter in the advancing season of khaki and buckles

Before baby troops storm the shade of Laura bush

Gathering in genetic optimism

Two shrubby species of prickwood

Sprouting mental pubescence

Before the storm denies an immigrant species

Or non-natives torn at terminal points

Or minute seeds creating the illusion of smoke or a haze so pale as to constitute consensus

Twirls in dainty American tree skirts

Marking like sundials, only the well lit hours

And being in the end

An unbroken lawn to the edge of a televised cliff

An epic, bioperversity

In short, a bush.

JEFF CONANT

poem (after neruda, eliot, lorca, john and yoko)

the lazy heat and trembling bells

evoke a world

worn into silence

"WE HAVE NEVER BEEN"

nor worn nor won

but war without end

very nearly

erases the once-bright

memories of the living

there are no bells and the heat

is absent – or better, fictional –

in the real fog of san francisco

on the days that combat begins (again)

a world away, another world away.

At the Federal Building a crowd rounds

the corner singing, signs aloft (so

many, i

never thought...)

WAR IS OVER (THERE),

for most of us

have never been at war, much less

IN it,

but IT is all around us, is

(like diesel)

the very

air we breathe

"and now the dove and the leopard wrestle"

for their evening meal.
Collision Included

If you see a bear, paint it—
    Auto-foolscap rapscallions crushed
by the humming—Overt & decent, draining
Papadoc’s clean clock. Best bet
In a bettered gauntlet, the draining dumb bust-up
Like a neat loved rowing whisker
Pop the basted rain-enhanced bad border, boom
In a made bed making
The quiet constructions bust &/or burst breaking
Some inadequate unperfumed
But Cozy’s got a run-on in his adaptech
Doubly cupped & deftly blank, the bums
Parade across the pencil lead, peaking into
Ongoing glosses, gloves get lost &
Change replayed The flower pistols park
In a prayer by vitamin k, crazed yet comfortable
Looplike tatter-markets amok (it’s)
An unpert paycheck pelting

Yo mama is so chapbook she shows up on radar

and then went down
(to the ship?)
set my beer on the table and some fucker took it
set my beer
on the table
and some motherfucker
A gun is “fired.”
quote Force is, and therefore stays. unquote
dipshit in the new peak
smatter me o lugubrious swat team of dreams and fibrous melons
perhaped up we wince them awake (martians) and they are boring
(martians suck)
and when i got off the floor
hot-gun manifesto sauce and a gold damn chilada to clean the smelly nub
ANSELM BERRIGAN

We’re Not Gonna Turn Me In

Apparition host turns on sight
of a barbed sun. Warmth to gouge
a way with, catch flesh upon
and display. Western garden
will cut a deal: grow something
and be rewarded with growth.
A city kid’s green things: plastic
and metal veins pumping ideas
out of every tag-a-long fantasy
of changing names, time zones,
or body types. I’d like to be
ocean-shaped and crashing
at my edges, vicious and open.
Become an outpost of irrational
compassion instead, on the interior
run at all times while my surface
adapts to all these faces, these photos
of blood-soaked children carrying
each other between blasts. Sleep
so well I dream of bills. Why so
afraid of the bear in the closet?
It will shake me out of my ideals
the attractive drunk and her unfinished
sentences. Doom is pretty sexy:
the track lighting and pictures of plants;
the ambience of an audience expecting
what it will receive. My heart does not
beat too fast, is replaceable. The same
themes slap me into inaction, but I run,
owe, program, state, lift, grasp, love.
Having lost all sense of tone and its enemy,
shame. I worship no one, idolize
no one, have no heroes and want none.
A magnetic pansy rocking the division
in our sheathed collateral wreckage.
Won’t take my life. Won’t take yours.

TAYLOR BRADY

A Little Vigilance

I.
In the overheated forcing house, Political Islamist
plays it close with Militant Revanchist Thatcherite.
PI to Mr. T, you have a lovely daughter.
In the painted paradise of a crusade
above your door, I do not think that she will sing
to hear her voice’s echo slap as blowback from
the armored shell that hollowly entreats her
to relent and let herself be rescued.

Says Mr. T, for pity’s sake, fool, you’re
sweating bullets. These lush chemical vapors
burnish my reserve of gold. A tiny woman
once rode my lap to stroke these chains.
She represented discipline along my topiary coif, hard-edged
as the borders I had drawn way back around today’s per diem
for a shamus snooping ‘round the shame of my employ.

II.
And a stifled yawn,
with a stock disclaimer: This film
has been edited for television.

Deaths and endings have been reassigned
to me and sheet music I’m in bed with.

Getting used to it, I mean, how many
of these things did Miklos Rozsa score?
And why’s there so much skin
bunching up around your eyes?
Looking back, it’s clear who was
double-dealing whom, but the light
then wasn’t like today.

This trite amnesia plot is for
crowds at the premiere, not the dick
going dark behind his halo.
III.
In the middle of the shutout
the PI heckles. "Your city is a brightness
full of filthy grit. I supply a glut of
both, to broaden my angelic emanation,
glory hazing my heroics on the warning track."
Beefy Yankee henchmen help T. into a flex,
menacing the snooper over means of payment.
T., magnanimous, scowls a bonus: "Everybody knows
what you will surface: the body
in the oil sump, my rotten spawn
posing for the wide net of surveillance.
Cut to the chase, for which the new director's cut
rolls out eternities of unseen footage. No one
makes it to his credit line this time."

IV.
We pause here for commercial
and a question: Who's the absentee whose
machines and properties obtrude
to stud the farmed-out field of this
production? If that sedan with all its
Lebensraum and mirror-finished chrome
was really commandeered to be abandoned
(the rumor on the set's the seeming extra
who kept that plotline moving got perked
for higher billing with safe passage
to an undisclosed location, and thus
remains at large), then what rock-bottom terms
might slip your own remaindered carcass
into slick settlements behind that wheel?

V.
Returning with this nagging sense of lack
viewers – you, more popularly we – find
what they missed at the beginning still intact
inside a truant present. The denouement is canceled,
pre-empted by hectoring public address whose
grain spikes the smooth plain of unrelated broadcasts

wholly owned by Major League Baseball,
thus unaccountable here. There
was never a good ending for this.
Roles went uncast. The writer got stumped
on snappy acronyms for Man from Bechtel,
Onward to the Endtimes Likudnik Antisemite,
and Voice of Invisible Hand of Invisible Man.
All the heavies ended up behind the camera,
killing time with Hawks. It's not just overtime, we need
new tempos. When the grip strikes the set
you need to be there, passing through the screen.
The substance of a Roman debt
	is
	the debtor’s body,
	portions
	into which it can be cut
	represent the sums
	of money
	of its several claimants.

Thus Linguet.

Or Rumsfeld, off book: “The oilfields
	of Iraq
	are
	the Iraqi people.” Subject and object
find premature false unity in this

Caesarean birth of late Enlightenment.

— A tongue of background slips forward.

There is a seditious joy in a thronging crowd. So much that even when convened in crisis, a mildly subdued terror boiling just beneath the surface, there races surging powers felt anew. An almost remembered power to create, in short, in spite of this destruction a new normality. (Not malady) a breathing life through city’s buildings on our terms, terms of life fashioned by us not imposed, and by so scant a percentage. Among the numbers I walked. The streets open-veined and tossing swelling information towards the seas of Union Square, where every face was sweating in the summer heat, thrown out into a meeting with our substance. We were the stuff that animates every structure bearing down its granite orders. This horror glimpsed, in eyes then verged euphoric in a brass of song All codified exchanges dropped away, hysterico-historical time new-measured by this civic animalty. The walls, though standing, seemed a mere screen we overran, a screen we’d seeped through meekly out of habit now deposed. Great writhing arteries tossed over rivers, our cost-bits flowing neither singly nor in pairs but as one variegated whole I am not a soloist but hermaphroditic a porous cell completely uncontaminable overflowing homes throngs in the property of blocks it thinks—somewhat on its own—outside its bursting parts—presage to (revolution)
26.
Sure I am
a poet — against
the war & a poet
against "poets"
"against the war"
& I'm a poet against the post-
war & well
I'm not really
much of a poet
either, come to
think about it
so sure

I'm trying to do my part
by Iraqifying
my CD collection
it's a great time
for tennis shoes
retrofitting extreme
makeovers in Kabul
these are my pants
my shirt my flak
jacket my foreign
policy my own
private Indonesia tho'
the Intel inside me
was non-actionable 'n'
so sure
d'mocracy just takes
time to airdrop some custom
made ballast boxes
arms that reach heaven
wards filled with collateral
damn age of information
has to count the seamstress
alone at the shoehorn
stitch by stitch
row by row
ya gotta see my thread-count now
depth in the spider hole
our bunkers ourselves
we’re not blocking traffic —
we are the traffic

— starburst smart mobs — on the move — aren’t these intersections —

ours — to begin with — who built this — city — whose —
nine-eleven — seventy-three
eight forty-six
nine o three
ten seven
M15
A07 — Oakland

a pre-emptive strike
on bizness as usual

for those about to dock — we refute you

cought traction at the puke-in
was ankle-deep in it
stick finger down throat ‘n’
say — Beccchhtel

my role is contingent
upon “advances
in spray-paint technology”

now everybody —
cluster

Legal Information for RNC Protests

— from the National Lawyers Guild, NYC Chapter

“I am going to remain silent.
I want to speak to a lawyer.”

LEGAL NUMBER: (212) 679-6018

NLG Legal Observers in green hats with cameras will document any arrests or unlawful police activity. Let them know if you see anything.

“What laws and police practices should I know about?”
You have First Amendment rights to protest lawfully. You have the right to hand out leaflets, rally on a sidewalk, and set up a moving picket line, so long as you do not block building entrances or more than half the sidewalk. The law requires a permit to march in the street, rally in a park with 20 or more people, or use electronic sound amplification. A “Mask Law” makes it unlawful for three or more people to wear masks, which includes bandanas; the NYPD aggressively enforces this law. Police will seize signs on wood sticks, metal and pvc piping; it’s OK to attach signs to cardboard tubing. The police won’t allow placing signs on fences or trees.

“What do I do if the police talk to me?”
You have a constitutional right to remain silent. If the police try a friendly conversation, you can say nothing and walk away. If the police say, “MOVE!” or give some other order, you may ask, “Why?” but you are advised not to say anything more. If you do not follow an order, you risk being arrested. Notify a Legal Observer about the order. If the police ask to search you or your bag, you should say, “NO, I do not consent to a search.” If the police search anyway, you are advised to continue to say, “I do not consent to a search”. If you physically interfere with the search, you risk arrest. If the police question you, including asking your name, you may say nothing and walk away. If the police prevent you from leaving, ask, “Am I free to go?” If “YES,” you may say nothing and walk away. If “NO,” say, “I wish to remain silent. I want to talk to a lawyer,” and wait for the police to arrest or release you.

“What can I do to prepare for a possible arrest?”
Write “NLG (212) 679-6018” on your wrist or ankle; call this if you are arrested or see an arrest. Carry in your pocket several quarters to make telephone calls and a phone card for possible long distance calls. Carry a granola bar in your pocket; food is often missed in jail. Carry in your
pocket one photo ID with a good address; do not carry ID with different addresses. Do not carry anything you do not want the police to have, such as phone books or valuables.

“What do I do if I get arrested?”
You are advised to state clearly, “I am going to remain silent. I want to speak to a lawyer”. Repeat this to any officer who questions you. Do not believe everything the police say—it is legal for the police to lie to get you to talk. When asked, you can give your true name and address, show photo ID, and allow yourself to be photographed and fingerprinted for purposes of confirming ID; refusal to provide ID will delay your release from jail. Remember your arresting officer’s name and badge number. Remain calm and prepare yourself for a possible wait in jail for 24-36 hours.

“What will happen to me if I am arrested?”
You will be handcuffed and driven to a jail or detention center and later taken to court. In the police’s discretion (if only charged with Disorderly Conduct), you may be released from jail with a summons or desk appearance ticket (“DAT”), which tells you when to return to court. If you are charged with a misdemeanor or felony, you will likely “go through the system” to be arraigned before a judge. Don’t talk to anyone but a lawyer about the facts of your arrest. A court employee will interview you about community ties (address, employment, family) for purposes of bail or release on your own recognizance (“ROR”); it’s OK to answer these questions—just don’t talk about your arrest. A lawyer will briefly meet you about your case. Get the lawyer’s name and phone number. You will be arraigned on the charges against you before a judge. Your lawyer will enter your plea; when in doubt, plead, ‘Not Guilty’. Conditions for release are set, either bail money or ROR. The next court date is scheduled on a court slip for you to keep. You may be offered an Adjournment in Contemplation of Dismissal (“ACD”). If you agree, your case is adjourned for 6 months. If you are not arrested during the 6 months, the charge is dismissed and the case is sealed. An ACD is NOT a plea of “Guilty.”

“What if I am not a U.S. citizen?”
There are far greater risks involved if you are arrested and you are not a U.S. citizen. Talk to a lawyer before coming to a protest. Always carry the name and telephone number of an immigration lawyer. Carry your immigration papers such as your “green card,” I-94, or work authorization with you as well.

National Lawyers Guild (NLG): (212) 679-6018

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12:41AM It appears that arrestees are being taken to Pier 57. 3 or 4 buses have arrived, people are being let out of the buses and processed.

12:22AM Mixed reports regarding release information. Arrestees are likely being taken either to Central 100 Centre St. or to Pier 57 (b/w 15th St. and 16th St. at the West Side Highway). NYPD Central Booking says that people arrested during Critical Mass won't be processed for at least 4-6 hours.

11:51PM Important phone numbers: Legal Hotline (NLG and People's Law): 212-679-6018
Central Booking (police # to find out info about people who were arrested): 212-374-3838

11:08PM Police are now reporting at least 250 cyclists arrested. The show at St. Mark's Church is starting up. There is reportedly a band starting up and a crowd of people at the church entrance. The officers carrying arrestees and many of the staff police have withdrawn.

11:00PM Po lice are reporting at least 250 cyclists arrested.

8:58PM More arrests near the Lincoln Tunnel.

8:56PM Arrests also at 35th & 7th Avenue and 35th & 9th Ave. NLG and many witnesses on the scene. Police were attempting to coral cyclists.

8:45PM People have blocked 7th Avenue, cyclists are being forced to ride against traffic.

8:46PM Estimates of 10,000 bikes total.

August 27 2004 www.nycindymedia.org
"We're flaming"

Special RNC/NYC '04 Issue

Anselm Berrigan
Jules Boykoff
Taylor Brady
David Buuck
Jeff Conant
Laura Elrick
Carol Mirakove
Yedda Morrison
Rod Smith
Rodrigo Toscano

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