

Coming to a high school or college campus near you:

March 4th, 2004



Our generation will speak out to demand:

**1 Fight the Prison Industrial Complex at School**  
From private prison financier Lehman Brothers to international prison investor Sodexho, the companies, the same companies that profit from and bankroll prison expansion are often present at your school. Fight back by organizing an action against one of the companies on March 4, 2004.

**2 Communities Not Prisons**  
The incarceration crisis in the United States is destroying communities and families, but people in your community are fighting back. Get involved in efforts to stop prison expansion including: sentencing reform efforts, struggles to stop police abuse and corruption, and efforts to stop prisons from being built in your state or community, and opposing racial profiling of people of color on campus and in your community.

**3 Protect Immigrant Rights, Fight Immigrant Incarceration**  
In many states and on the federal level, immigrants make up the fastest growing segment of the prison population. Stop the systematic targeting and incarceration of immigrants by: fighting reactionary legislation like the USA PATRIOT Act and the Domestic Security Enhancement Act, supporting basic due process for immigrants, supporting immigrant communities and the clear path to citizenship, and opposing targeting immigrant students on campuses.

**4 Books not Bombs, Schools Not Jails**  
Prisons are an integral part of war at home. At the same time the incarceration of over 2 million men and women in the U.S. has devastated many communities of color and poor families, military recruiters present the military service as the only option to life in prison for many young people of color. Meanwhile, the prison industrial complex has grown into a smaller version of the military industrial complex – dominating entire regional economies and dictating public policy to the detriment of public education. Incorporating the prison industrial complex into our analysis of war and racism will help us to better understand and fight back.

Actions will include:

Concerts, Rallies, Voter Registration events and much much more....

Brought to you by the National Youth and Student Peace Coalition (NYSPC)

**GET INVOLVED!**

For more info and resources, and to connect with other young people who will be making this campaign happen, check out [www.nyspc.net](http://www.nyspc.net) and [www.campusactivism.org/booksnotbombs](http://www.campusactivism.org/booksnotbombs). Contact us at [info@nyspc.net](mailto:info@nyspc.net), or 215-222-4711. Let's do this!

To endorse please email [info@nyspc.net](mailto:info@nyspc.net), visit [www.campusactivism.org/booksnotbombs](http://www.campusactivism.org/booksnotbombs) or call 215-222-4711.

**Initial Endorsers include:**

**180/Movement for Democracy and Education**

**Black Radical Congress-Youth Division**

**Campus Greens**

**Coalition to Demilitarize the University of California**

**Muslim Students Association of the US and Canada**

**National Youth Advocacy Coalition**

**New York Youth Bloc**

**Not With Our Money**

**Student Environmental Action Coalition**

**Student Peace Action Network**

**Students United for a Responsible Global**

**Environment**

**Students Transforming and Resisting Corporations**

**United Students Against Sweatshops**

**United States Student Association**

**Uptown Youth For Peace and Justice**

**Young Communist League**

**Young Democratic Socialists**

**Young People's Socialist League**

**Youth PAWR**

**On March 4th, 2004, demand:**

- **SCHOOLS NOT JAILS**
- **BOOKS NOT BOMBS**
- **END THE MILITARY OCCUPATION OF OUR SCHOOLS**
- **DEFEND FREEDOM ON THE HOME FRONT**

On March 5th, 2003, thousands of young people in more than 450 high schools and colleges nationwide participated in a Student Strike for Books Not Bombs and against the impending war on Iraq. The strike was initiated by the National Youth & Student Peace Coalition (NYSPC), a broad coalition fighting back against the militarization of our lives and our world.

One year later, it has become even clearer that our generation will continue to be betrayed by this government's drive to make our country an empire.

**So we will stand up as a generation on March 4th because...**

- There's always enough money for building weapons of mass destruction and for locking up young people, but there's somehow never enough for education. For every new missile or prison built, another public school is allowed to crumble, and another class of students can't afford to pay for rising tuition.
- We are losing our basic freedoms and constitutional rights one by one, as the government expands its power through USA PATRIOT Acts and detention camps. Those who speak out are treated like criminals, innocent people are rounded up from their homes, and we're all being watched--yet we are no safer.
- Today, people living in the U.S. find themselves on the front lines of a deadly "war on crime" with no end in sight. Since 1970, the number of men and women behind bars has grown by nearly 700% to a staggering 2.2 million. The bulk of the newly incarcerated are not serial killers or drug kingpins, but young people of color from urban neighborhoods who have been convicted of non-violent drug offenses. **There are now more African American men in prison and jail than in higher education.**
- While uncontrolled prison expansion affects all of us, low-income urban and rural youth suffer disproportionately. In urban areas, young people of color are increasingly targeted and criminalized by police, prosecutors and elected officials who measure success in terms of growth in arrests, even as crime rates decline. Meanwhile, in rural areas, where prisons have become a form of economic development, low-income young people are channeled into psychologically toxic prison jobs.

**Suggested Readings:**

- Prison Nation: The Warehousing of America's Poor
- Are Prisons Obsolete, by Angela Davis
- Lockdown America, by Christian Parenti

**Get in touch with national and community groups working on prison issues**

- Critical Resistance  
[www.criticalresistance.org](http://www.criticalresistance.org)
- Incite! - Women of Color Against Violence  
[www.incite-national.org](http://www.incite-national.org)
- Not With Our Money!  
[www.notwithourmoney.org](http://www.notwithourmoney.org)
- Prison Moratorium Project  
[www.nomoreprisons.org](http://www.nomoreprisons.org)

**Suggested Websites:**

- 360 Degrees  
[www.360degrees.org](http://www.360degrees.org)
- American RadioWorks: Corrections, Inc.  
[www.americanradioworks.org/features/corrections/index.html](http://www.americanradioworks.org/features/corrections/index.html)
- Mother Jones Special Report and Prison Atlas  
[www.motherjones.com/prisons](http://www.motherjones.com/prisons)
- Prison Activist Resource Center  
[www.prisonactivist.org](http://www.prisonactivist.org)
- Prison Sucks  
[www.prisonsucks.com](http://www.prisonsucks.com)

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