

The *Platypus* Affiliated Society presents:

## What is a movement?

A discussion on the meaning and direction of Leftist political "movements" historically and today.

With panelists:

**Luis Brennan** (new Students for a Democratic Society)

**Elena Davis** (Pomegranate Health Collective)

**Chuck Hendricks** (UNITE/HERE labor union)

**Jorge Mujica** (Movimiento de 10 Marzo)

**Richard Rubin** (Platypus)

Thursday, October 16, 2008 7-9PM  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
280 S. Columbus Dr. main auditorium  
Chicago, IL 60603

Questions for panelists:

- 1) Please introduce yourself and the group you are representing (if there is one) at the forum.
- 2) How do you (how does your group) characterize a "movement," specifically, as a political and social force? How do you (propose to) strengthen this political-social "movement"? Is the objective to create widening circles of resistance or to achieve a concrete reform? How do you create a broader social vision and develop functional programs with concrete objectives?
- 3) How do historical memories of past "movements" inform you (your group)? What historical examples do you regard as informing your attitude towards movement building today? Why? (For example, some groups make a hard distinction between a "United Front" and a "Popular Front", with is a notion passed down from the "Old" Left 1920-30s, while other groups organize around the particularity of identity, which is a notion largely passed down from the "New" Left of the 1960-70s) Does your "movement" suffer from the failures of such past "movements"? What questions remain open?
- 4) What guiding principles lend cohesion to your group's participants and actions? How do you measure organizational/ political unity? How do two sects of activist or two social movements with overlapping but distinct goals work together with integrity in a coalition? What are the dangers or merits of such unity?
- 5) How do you (how does your group) understand leadership within a movement? What is the role of leadership, politically? How do understand leadership in connection with a "movements" own self-understanding and objectives?
- 6) What do you (what does your group) see as the short and long term challenges faced by Leftist "movements" today?