

connections

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Campaign for Common Ground

An Alternative General Plan

The primary components of Downtown Stockton as an entertainment center are now in place—the Fox Bob Hope Theatre, the Cineplex, Weber Point Event Center, the Ballpark and the new Arena. These are a great start toward rebuilding Downtown Stockton, though there clearly is need for better planning to handle peak traffic and parking for these attractions.

There's so much more to Downtown Stockton, however, than the entertainment district. If we are to ever have a revitalized City of Stockton, downtown needs people—not for three hours at a time, but round the clock. People living, working, shopping and, yes, playing downtown.

The City of Stockton Draft General Plan 2035 provides for double the current population. Most of the new homes planned to house the expanded population will be 5-10 miles from downtown Stockton, within self-contained communities—the so-called “village concept.”

And what does the plan project for residential units to be added downtown? 385 units, or about 1,155 people, out of almost 330,000 new residents—in the next 30 years. Paying lip service to revitalization of downtown Stockton while continuing to promote expansion into surrounding farm land and commercial “power centers” at the outer corners of the city will do little to restore vitality

to the city core. There is another way.

An alternative plan

Stockton is at a crossroads—toward San Jose-type growth or toward the alternative of a socially diverse, culturally rich, economically strong, and physically attractive city that provides its residents with a family-friendly environment for living and working that is supportive, healthy and safe, and that encourages a growing sense of community. We advocate the latter, pursuing the following objectives toward the goal. We must:

Strengthen Stockton's identity both by continuing the development of downtown and the waterfront and by limiting the urban sprawl that threatens to blur the boundaries between the city and neighboring municipalities;

Reduce social isolation, air pollution, urban congestion, noise, and wasted urban space by lowering the number and duration of private automobile trips required for daily living and work in Stockton. This can be accomplished by (a) encouraging mixed-use development that for many people would place living, working, and shopping within closer proximity, (b) making better accommodations for pedestrians and bicyclists throughout the city, and (c) supporting and expanding multiple modes of public transit both within the city and between

municipalities;

Provide adequate housing for all economic levels in the community, with careful attention to mixed-use development and an effort to minimize geographic stratification;

Support a reasonable and steady rate of urban growth of approximately 2.0% per year and guide the nature, direction, and quality of that growth through appropriate incentives, disincentives, and restrictions; and

Require that any new development beyond the already urbanized areas of the city comply with the principles outlined above and fully mitigate in advance all facets of the development's impact upon municipal services and infrastructure so as to not draw resources away from the needs of older sections of the city.

As concrete steps, the Campaign for Common Ground Plan recommends:

- At least 3,000 residential units—about 9,000 people— to be added within the downtown core;
- Maximized infill development with high density residential construction within current boundaries;
- Reduced “village” development and minimized expansion into surrounding farmland;
- User-friendly Bus Rapid-Transit system to reduce need for local auto traffic.

Take Action

“Be the change that you want to see in the world.”

—Mohandas Gandhi

What change do you want to see in Stockton? You can help. Add your voice and help us persuade the Planning Commission, the Mayor and the City Council to take these recommendations seriously.

ACTION: 1) CCG meetings are open to all. Come join us: 7:00-9:00 pm, 1st & 3rd Mondays. Family Resource & Referral Center, 509 W. Weber (west entrance), Stockton.

2) Join our contact list: Send your name, phone number, mail, e-mail to the address below or through our website.

3) Send contact information of friends or relatives who share your concerns and interests.

4) Make a contribution: Monetary or in-kind (supplies, postage, etc.).

5) Support CCG goals: Write a letter to the editor in support of our objectives. Speak in support of CCG goals at meetings of Planning Commission or City Council, or at public hearings on relevant issues.

6) Obtain endorsement: Ask your club or organization to support our common goals.

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From the editor

Not a conspiracy, it's a system

Bruce Giudici

One question comes to mind, as I wade through the hundreds of very important articles to come up with the few we print in Connections. The question is: why? Why aren't these articles covered big time in the mainstream media? The issues that they encompass are to vital the functioning of a viable democracy; we all have a stake in knowing what is being done either by us or for us. The corruption, the violence, the system. Every month, I feel that this paper is heavily weighted toward such "negative" articles —and that we should be more positive. But let's be honest. To have a more positive future, we must confront the evil that has overtaken our

elected leadership, our corporate culture and our media.

We must remove the fog of deception that has passed for reality for too long. Since the 1979 oil crisis and Iranian hostage crisis, this cabal of power has asserted itself in providing cheap oil at a huge cost: less citizen input, less corporate regulation, less government spending for human needs and more for military protection of the oil fields. Reagan, Bush I, Clinton and now Bush II have strengthened the iron grip of international corporate power to the point where our institutions are all corrupted. Political candidates are made media-viable by corporate money donations, who are then elected by corruptable electronic voting

machines controlled by a few private corporations. Corporate scandals involving big money going to top executives are no longer news. All mainstream media outlets - TV, radio and print - are controlled by corporate decisions guided by stock price and profitability, not by the need of the citizens to know. When push comes to shove, a Neil Diamond concert in Stockton demands more prominent coverage than corruption affecting the local elected representative to Congress.

Is there a conspiracy to undermine our democracy? No, a conspiracy isn't necessary. All we need is the magic of an unregulated marketplace.

What is the common thread

Bruce Giudici



running through the past 25 years of mismanagement? An abandonment of government regulation over the private profit (read: greed) motive that has unleashed corrupt influences unseen since before the last Depression in the 1930's. Clinton's statement that "the era of big government is over" merely affirmed Reagan's claim that "the government can't solve the problem, it is the problem." In the late 1990's, most people were even deluded into thinking that the stock market is where the common citizen can find an early retirement - like the lottery. And this perception persists.

The problem we face now is that almost two generations of Americans (those born since 1970) only know government regulation of capitalism through the lame prism of high school history books. The efforts that generated the great environmental laws of the 70's (the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, the Superfund act (now defunct) and the NEPA act) must be re-learned. We have become disconnected from these laws celebrating the commons that connect us, deluded by the image that we can solve every problem on an individual basis. Look at every effort to "reform" these environmental laws - they are all designed to weaken community protection in order to empower individual property rights. The pendulum has reached its rightward limit. Yet we must realize it and act upon it.

Earth Day is coming, celebrated in Stockton April 30. Please come to Victory Park and celebrate the natural world we have left. We must learn from our past. No one is going to do this for you. The articles included in Connections should always be seen as a cry for action. In these times of crisis, our community response will define the world we live in and the world we leave to the future. Just keep building and talking.

Feedback

No war, no terrorism

Editor,

There is indeed no war. A well-reasoned, unassailable editorial (from Connections, March 2006). Congress declared no war. Our basic law insists that Congress MUST declare it for there to be a war, so even if the dude usurping the White House seeks to be a wartime president: he's not. Not even a Scalito-Thomberts court could rule otherwise.

One step further, then: Bush wants a "war" on "terrorism." But there's no terrorism, either.

Sure, crashing hijacked planes into occupied buildings is—er—antisocial. But the 19 Saudis who

died in a bid for attention to a perceived injustice, what they see as non-Islamic occupation of Islamic lands, are no longer with us. No "terrorism" by non-Republicans for three and a half years.

The legitimate governments of Afghanistan and Iraq had nothing to do with 9/11/01, but Bush invented their "terrorism" to divert public scrutiny from the expectation of evil from our own elected officials.

Bush no longer needs a specter of gays marrying and aborting fetuses to blow smoke over systematic corporate looting of America's wealth, millionaires' stealing public assets for private gain.

There is no war—even if we kill thousands in the Middle East. AND no terrorism; no one starts life on The Dark Side, to be a "bad guy" upon growing up.

There are, however, greed and corruption, wholesale theft, spying upon private citizens, lies upon lies upon lies to cover the wounds. Our leaders have embarrassed us for 43 years in the eyes of the world. We put up with this because the guy in charge wants "unity."

I grow weary, but as part of the peace and justice movement I cannot rest while any voter still thinks that this emperor wears any clothes.

Fred Herman

The Center is yours...please help

The Peace & Justice Center is taking off. We've had films, music, crafters, meetings and gatherings, drum circles, and parties—and there's more on tap, from meditation to knitting to art shows (see pages 18-20). The possibilities are only limited by our imagination and energy.

Peace & Justice Network operates on a shoestring but the Center requires a somewhat bigger shoestring. The costs are simple: rent, lights, phone, insurance—we have to raise about \$1,000 more a month. We believe the benefits of the Center to our community are well worth the cost.

But we need your help. Consider, for example, adopting a phone bill for a month—one \$50 donation. Or maybe the light bill for 6 months—a \$50 donation every month (which breaks down to less than \$2 a day). A monthly donation with help provide stability so less of our energy will have to go into fundraising.

The P&J Center is a tangible expression of our commitment to a just and peaceful world. It provides a place to gather and create our vision of community. Thank you for being part of this great adventure.

Connections

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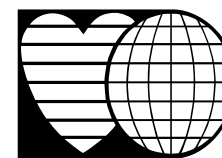
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"The Peace and Justice Network is a nonprofit educational organization committed to the vision of a world in which the equality of all persons is achieved, basic needs are met, conflict is resolved nonviolently, and the earth's resources are shared responsibly for the well-being of all her inhabitants and all future generations."

Life after Mark Lewis and the Blackwater

Eric Parfrey

Earth Day comes once each year right at the transition from stormy late winter to balmy spring. In this issue of Connections and the next special Earth Day issue, it seems appropriate to muse as to how events in our little piece of the world have changed since last year.

The obvious world events threaten to obscure everything local: we are still engaged in an increasingly unpopular war in Iraq and our president has the support of only one-third of the voters. The Democrats, as Washington pundits tell us, still have failed to mount an effective challenge to the ruling majorities in Congress because they have presented no convincing alternative.

But many of us in Stockton and San Joaquin County are not obsessed with 24-hour breaking news on CNN and who will control the U.S. Senate next year. Most are concerned about whether their kids will get to school safely (and stay there) and how long the commute to our far away jobs will take on this particular morning. We can't figure out why our paychecks don't seem to pay all the monthly bills anymore, but we suspect it has something to do with the increasing amount of co-pays for health insurance and the rising cost of gas.

Politics are always local, as one of the last of the great Irish politicians in Congress, Tip O'Neill of Boston, the former House speaker, is famously quoted as saying. So, just how has the local scene in Stockton and San Joaquin County changed since last year?

Lewis is gone

Mark Lewis, the tyrannical Stockton City Manager for the last five years, terrorized city staff and generally acted as if Stockton was his personal feudal kingdom. He was aided and abetted by a lethargic City Council majority who looked the other way and failed to question the most outrageous expenditures that he authorized.

Lewis was summarily dismissed after it was revealed that

he had paid 1970's crooner Neil Diamond \$1 million (without City Council approval) to perform a concert to open the newly constructed Stockton Events Center. Great idea, except for the fact that the City did the booking (instead of a professional organization), and most residents under the age of 50 don't remember pop hits like "Cherry Cherry."

The taxpayers ended up footing almost \$500,000 in losses in the ensuing debacle. It was the final straw for even our timid mayor, who suddenly regained his backbone and arranged Lewis' hasty departure from City Hall. Kudos to Mayor Ed Chavez (and Councilman Steve Bestolorides) who got rid of the cancer before it permanently infected the City and the County.

The Blackwater gone, too?

While there is much to celebrate about the rebirth of downtown (even if we don't like how the Events Center was financed), we are saddened that the local outpost of hip café culture in central Stockton, the Blackwater on Yosemite Street, has apparently closed for good.

The Blackwater was always a touchstone for everyone who hoped our fair city could continue to support a bohemian, folksy, rock 'n roll, punk kinda space. This is the place where I fondly recall first having seen Dirk Hamilton, Cake, Jackpot, Topsy House, and other great local bands in the early and mid-'90s.

We want to believe that Stockton can be cool and have a scene. Our local columnist Mike Fitzgerald has been right to harp on this issue; how can we hope to create a vibrant town if we can't sustain great local venues like the Blackwater and the recently closed downtown blues club, the Sutter Street Café?

Can Katrina happen here?

The most shocking and poignant new story from the last year has a strong local angle. Hurricane Katrina slammed into New Orleans at the end of August. Levees along the Mississippi

River failed. For weeks afterward, we were stunned by the images of poor, mostly African American families wading through putrid flood waters and being rescued from rooftops.

The aftermath of the disaster in New Orleans has provoked a long overdue debate about whether a Katrina-scale levee break could occur along the Sacramento or San Joaquin Rivers. Kudos to the Sacramento Bee for the continual, in-depth (so to speak) analysis of how safe our levees really aren't.

In Lathrop, between I-5 and the San Joaquin River, thousands of homes are being built near the same levee that failed during our own catastrophic flood of New Years Day 1997. Stockton developers are also lobbying the City to approve more huge subdivisions south of Weston Ranch next to the river and on delta islands. Under existing laws these new residents won't even be required to buy flood insurance, but they will certainly scream loudly for a bailout from the tax payers if the levees fail again.

Is this good planning? No. Which leads us to...

Suburban sprawl takes the "Village" name

We have a chance later this year to slow the relentless suburban sprawl on the fringes of Stockton and focus more of the growth in the downtown and existing neighborhoods. The City is updating the General Plan, which sets growth policies for the next 30 years. The City's draft plan, cooked up behind closed doors last year by our local developers and Mark Lewis' underlings, calls for more sprawling development on agricultural lands north of Eight Mile Road, east along Mariposa Road, and south of Weston Ranch. Under the developers' plan, over 100,000 new homes would be built (more than doubling the City population). Three-quarters of this growth is proposed in so-called urban "villages" that would ring the city. Only about one-quarter of the growth would be focused within the existing city area and

Earth Day: living with the earth

Earth Day is a time to celebrate and commit to the sustainability of our planet.

Stockton will celebrate its 18th annual Earth Day Festival at Victory Park on Sunday, April 30, from 11 am to 5 pm, while the 5th annual Calaveras Earth Day will be in Utica Park, Angels Camp the week before on Sunday, April 23, 11 am to 6 pm.

In Stockton, the Festival has become an institution, where you can discover something you never knew, meet friends, eat great vegetarian foods, dig great music, enjoy a quiet bike



ride, and buy local crafts in Stockton's most pleasant park. Walk, bike, or take public transit. No admission fee. Come join in the fun!

In Murphys, Earth Day keeps with the tradition of local folk and world music. This event is becoming an important focal point in a county beginning to feel growing pains. Come find friends who share your concern for our natural environment.

Family bike ride fun

What's full of family fun, is Earth friendly, free of charge, and healthy for your body, mind, and spirit? Earth Day's Family Bike Ride, that's what.

The 5-mile easy pedal starts from Victory Park (Earth Day Central), rolls through some of Stockton's historic neighborhoods to scenic Shimizu Drive, a serene drive paralleling the Smith Canal. We will cruise to the turn around point at Louis

Park. Take a refresher, have a drink, snack, and then journey back the scenic drive.

Registration begins 10:30 at Victory Park. Earth Day begins with the sound of Children's Taiko Drums at 11:00; the pedalers launch at 11:30. Dress your bike up for the occasion: fun is the name of the game. It's a wonderful way to start your day of Earth education and bonding. Be part of the journey.

virtually no new housing is proposed for the downtown.

Will we allow Stockton to become the Santa Clara Valley or the San Fernando Valley? The time is ripe for us to demand more from our elected officials, our planners, and our developers. Smart growth and changing demographics dictate that future development should emphasize more affordable housing, higher densities, more mixed-use along transit corridors, more infill and less reliance on low density subdivisions and shopping centers on farmland at the fringe.

Campaign for Common Ground (CCG) has written an alternative plan, based on public comments we heard at the City's phony workshops, and honed over two

years of meetings (see the Web site campaignforcommonground.org). Our plan switches the housing emphasis of the developers: we call for two thirds of the new growth to be created as infill within the city. We have submitted our plan to the Planning Commission, which will hold public hearings, probably beginning in April or May.

Keep the faith in Stockton and support the CCG alternative plan. Come to testify at the Planning Commission and make a difference.

Eric Parfrey is a city planner who arrived in Stockton in 1990. He and his wife, artist Marika Wolfe, live near Victory Park with four cats.

On GOP corruption and the environment

Kelpie Wilson

On February 12, I sat with Pete McCloskey at a public park in Lodi, California, to ask him a few questions about his race against the most anti-environmental congressman in history, Richard Pombo. McCloskey is challenging Pombo in the Republican primary, adding a lot of spice to the race, which includes three Democratic challengers as well.

Kelpie Wilson: What was your greatest accomplishment for the environment when you were in Congress in the 1960s and '70s?

Pete McCloskey: I suppose I tried to protect a few porpoises when the tuna fishermen were catching the porpoises in their nets. We tried to reduce the taking of endangered whale species, something my opponent Mr. Pombo now supports the increase of. Japanese whaling is one of the issues between me and him.

KW: What about the Endangered Species Act? What was your role in that?

McCloskey: Well, perhaps the greatest achievement, and we didn't know it at the time, was we held an Earth Day in 1970, and out of that Earth Day a lot of students got involved in saving the environment, or trying to. They listed 12 of my colleagues, the Dirty Dozen, and took out seven of them in the next election. The result was, when Congress convened in January 1971, everyone was now an environmentalist. They had seen a new force, college students, who favored the environment. Out of those next four years, we passed the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Amendments, the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Estuary Protection Act, the Coastal Zone Act; all of those came through my subcommittee, Fish and Wildlife, a subcommittee which is now under Pombo's jurisdiction as chairman of the House Resources Committee.

KW: So the ESA is now 34 years old, and even environmentalists agree that some changes are needed. Pombo wrote and passed a reform bill through the House. What is in that bill?

McCloskey: If it passes in the form that Mr. Pombo got it though his committee, it would gut the ESA, and it would gut the whole scheme of protection for endangered and threatened species. Pombo announced that this was nothing new; he wrote a book in 1995 saying that he wanted to abolish the Endangered Species Act. But he didn't just change those provisions that should be changed, and I can give you a few: we would like to make them more farmer friendly; we would like to make them so that, when the government gets an application to develop endangered species land, the government comes in right at the start and says you can do this or you can't do this or you have to mitigate what you're going to do. It's been hard to get through the bureaucracy.

What Pombo wants to do is make it even tougher to get through the bureaucracy. You could use the entire budget of the Fish and Wildlife Service just to pay off developers. He's put a provision in there that a developer who is restricted by endangered species concerns should be compensated for all future loss of profit for any project he might propose to develop that land. Well, he'd bankrupt the agency with that, and I think that's his purpose. Again, it's not just to end the problems of the Act, it's to abolish it or make it ineffective.

KW: Who are the top Republicans in history who've made important contributions to conservation and environmental protection?

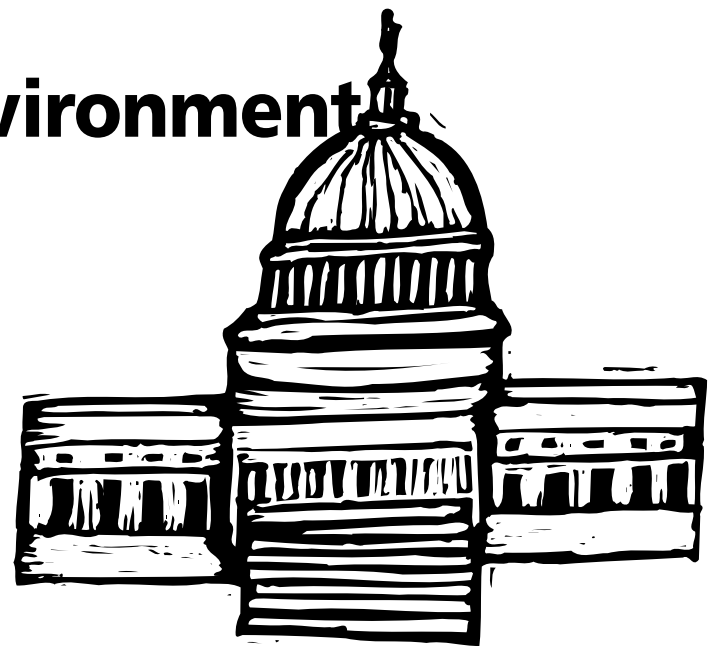
McCloskey: The father of Republican environmentalism is Teddy Roosevelt, who, with Gifford Pinchot, started to set aside wilderness and national forests and national parks. Teddy Roosevelt Island has become a national park in the middle of the Potomac River, right across from the Watergate Hotel. Pombo wants to sell Roosevelt Island for development for residential purposes, along with fourteen other parks, one of which is in his own district, in the town of Danville.

He believes that the solution to this country's ills is to take all of the public lands and turn them into private development. Well, the beauty that we have here, half of northern California, is in public lands. If you develop it, you lose the priceless privilege of kids out there that are looking for crabs or frogs or something of that kind, growing up near flowing rivers, or swamps, or tidelands, particularly the High Sierra. He's got a bill to put 18 dams in the Emigrant Wilderness. Well if you ever backpacked up there, the idea of one more dam in the High Sierra is crazy, but that's his view, and that's his belief, and that's why I'm running against him.

KW: So what are the Republican values that you represent and how are they different from Richard Pombo's?

McCloskey: In my time, we served with noble and ethical leaders: Gerald Ford, Bob Michael, John Rhodes, men of impeccable honesty. We didn't have anybody locked up for a violation of ethics. Of course we were in the minority, nobody wanted to bribe a Republican; you bribed the Democrats in those days. We had 36 or so congressmen indicted, and all but one of them was a Democrat. But now the Republicans have had the power for the last 13 years, and I believe they've been corrupted: the arrangements between Tom DeLay, the majority leader, and Jack Abramoff. Remember, Tom DeLay jumped Pombo over six other congressmen to make him chairman of the Resources Committee.

The values that we had were, first: honesty and ethics. Second: we wanted a balanced budget; we had fiscal responsibility. Pombo and his allegedly conservative friends have spent us into the greatest deficits in history, trillions of dollars in deficits. That's no Republican value. We were environmentalists of the Teddy Roosevelt theory. We believed in separation of church and state. We believed in the independence of the Supreme Court not being subject to politicians. Now you've got Pombo introducing a bill ...



he wants to give Congress the right to overrule Supreme Court decisions on constitutional issues. That's not a Republican value, that's almost radical. That would destroy the checks and balances that the Constitutional forefathers provided.

I suppose the worst value of all is that he wants to give away the public lands for development. My wife and I have spent half our lives, half our adult lives, trying to save special parts of California. I'll give you examples: the Bridgeport Valley over in Modoc County; the Bear Valley up in Calaveras County. We've managed to set those aside in conservation. Most recently, the Hearst Ranch, 82,000 acres. That preserves 15 miles of pristine beach. That's worth doing. It's worth preserving the remaining public lands of California, for your kids and my kids and grandchildren. Pombo wants to destroy all that. He really thinks development is the key to Northern California. You've seen what it's done in Southern California. A lot of us are fugitives from Southern California, trying to preserve the last of Northern California's open space wilderness.

KW: What he's trying to do is kind of like selling off family heirlooms to pay the rent.

McCloskey: I've differed strongly with the Bush administration. It's cut back all of the money for the parks and the forests. They want to put snowmobiles in Yosemite. What they want to do is roll back the environmental progress of 30 years, and it's just wrong. Pombo is their chief operative in doing that, so I'd like to

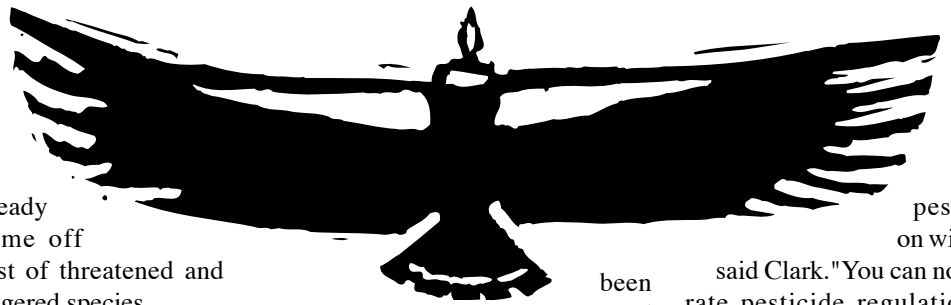
take him out of the Congress and maybe restore a Republican value of the preservation of open space in wilderness. He thinks wilderness is bad because no people are allowed to go into the wilderness. Well, that's baloney, you go into the wilderness like Mohammed went to the mountain or Moses went into the desert. You get inspiration from the wilderness. It is not in this man to preserve and protect wilderness.

KW: Getting back to Republican values, what are the worst examples of Pombo's corruption?

McCloskey: His corruption: ... When he put in this bill to amend the Endangered Species Act, he not only took out habitat protection but he put a provision in there to exempt farmers from using pesticides for five years in endangered species areas. We wonder: why would a California congressman do that? Then we see suddenly that he's funded in his travel, illegally, by a private foundation. He gets \$23,000 from this foundation to travel, which you can't accept. He's a founding governor of the foundation; he can't deny he knew it was a private foundation. But this foundation, who is it funded by? The Japanese Whaling Association, the Association of Fur Traders - these are the guys that import elephant tusks or endangered parrots, and finally, Monsanto gave this foundation \$115,000. Well, who benefits from the allowing of the use of pesticides? Monsanto. Whenever you find Pombo doing or not doing something, you chase it down to his contributors.

Big mines: He tried to get
(continued next page)

Endangered species and pesticides: bottoms up!



As the stage is being set for Senate action on the Endangered Species Act, Defenders of Wildlife released a report early March that highlights how Rep. Pombo's bill would undermine the recovery of endangered plants and animals. Titled "Pesticides and Wildlife," the report (<http://www.saveesa.org>) exposes the deadly provision in the Pombo bill that would allow pesticides to enter the market without any consideration for their potentially lethal impact on endangered wildlife.

Under current law, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service in advance of licensing any pesticide that may harm threatened or endangered plants and animals. This process assures that wildlife experts have the opportunity to evaluate the potential damage to a listed species before pesticide use occurs

and is an essential feature of the act. Pombo's bill, passed by the House of Representatives last year, would change all that.

"By exempting EPA from the consultation process, dangerous pesticides will freely enter the market without any regard to their impact on our nation's imperiled wildlife," said Jamie Rappaport Clark, executive vice president of Defenders of Wildlife.

"You would think that after almost losing our beloved national symbol, the bald eagle, to the deadly effects of pesticides, Congress would ensure that any law they pass would not cause us to potentially relive that sad time in our nation's history," said Clark.

Thirty years ago the bald eagle was near extinction, with a mere 417 nesting pairs in the lower 48 states. Thanks to the banning of DDT by the EPA in 1973 and the protections provided by the Endangered Species Act, the bald eagle is now fully recovered

and ready to come off the list of threatened and endangered species.

"We won't have many more success stories like the bald eagle if the Pombo bill becomes law," said Clark.

The report illustrates the important role that consultation with wildlife experts plays in keeping dangerous pesticides off the market. With more pesticides introduced into the market every year, it is critical to consider their impacts before they enter the market, not after their potentially deadly effects occur.

Thanks to the present consultation requirements, chlorfenvinpyr—one of the most reproductively toxic pesticides to birds ever evaluated—never reached the market and buffer zones have

been created to restrict pesticide use around rivers and streams to conserve salmon in the Northwest. "The Endangered Species Act is the only wildlife protection law that offers safeguards to protect imperiled wildlife from the fatal impacts of pesticides," said Clark. "Other laws only punish the offender after the damage is done."

Although required by law, the EPA consults with wildlife agencies infrequently. As a result, many pesticides on the market today are still impacting wildlife. In fact, an estimated 67 million birds are killed by pesticides each year in the United States. By removing the pesticide consultation requirement, it ensures that more species will be harmed by the deadly impacts of pesticides, not less.

"EPA has proved time and again that they do not have the mandate or expertise to make informed decisions on the effects of

pesticides on wildlife," said Clark. "You can not separate pesticide regulation and wildlife protection. If Pombo's bill becomes law a necessary tool to protect wildlife will be lost to us and the effectiveness of the act will be severely undermined," said Clark.

It was both the banning of DDT, a widely used pesticide known to make egg shells too thin to support the weight of a nesting mother, and the protections offered by the Endangered Species Act that led to the bald eagle recovery.

"Our children today are fortunate to enjoy the sight of a bald eagle flying through our skies," said Clark. "But if Pombo's bill becomes law, future generations may lose out on seeing this majestic bird as well as other treasured wildlife."

ACTION: 1) Read the Report: <http://www.saveesa.org> 2) Call your Senators. Reject weakening the Endangered Species Act.

Source: Defenders of Wildlife release 3/7/06, www.den.org

hundreds of thousands of acres of mining lands transferred to mining companies for development. Even the Congress couldn't accept that. They took it out of a bill he inserted it in privately. We have about 200,000 of those acres in Northern California; he was going to put it up for sale to mining companies. You follow his contributions: half of those were from big oil, big timber, big railroads, and big mining companies. I'm not going to take any PAC money. I may lose, because I won't get as much money as he does. I'd like to draw the distinction between congressmen who are on the take and whose positions reflect their largest contributors and those who don't. Here is Abramoff going to jail for bribing congressmen and Pombo. You ask him ... "Oh, he never lobbied me." Baloney.

KW: Why won't Pombo debate you?

McCloskey: I don't know that he won't debate me. He always speaks through spokesmen. The spokesman says: We don't want to debate McCloskey; he's way back in the 70s. Those values of his, about honesty and not being controlled by lobbyists, that's the

seventies, and he's unworthy to debate. Well, if you're running for the Great Debating Society of United States, the United States Congress, I think you would want to debate your opponent. I always did. I served in the House 15 years and when someone ran against me, I'd say, I'll debate you every two weeks between now and Election Day. Let the public learn from hearing the debates. I won't say he's afraid to debate, but it looks that way.

KW: A final question. What are some of the ways that Pombo has been neglecting the district here, his own district?

McCloskey: There's the water quality in the San Joaquin River, the levees, and the strength of the levees in the Delta, most of all the traffic. Half of my old district seems to be moving from the Peninsula and the East Bay over here for affordable housing. The other morning, I drove out at 5:30 in the morning coming to Stockton on Route 580; cars were ten feet apart, four lanes abreast. At 5:30 in the morning there's an absolute traffic jam. He hasn't brought in any money to widen those highways. He really has not

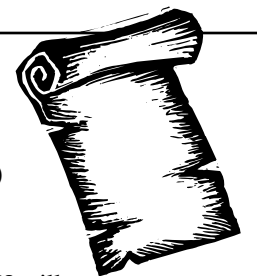
paid attention to this district. One child in six is getting asthma as a result of the air quality. He refuses to accept that global warming is an issue. He says that certainly automobile emissions are not creating greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming. That's a head-in-the-sand attitude for this valley, in which traffic and air pollution are crucial issues. San Joaquin County is part of the poverty belt of California. They're below poverty level, way below the average in California. He's just voted to cut Medicaid and Medicare and Head Start programs. That's not what a congressman from this district ought to be doing.

Kelpie Wilson is the truth out environment editor. She is also a mechanical engineer and does technical writing for the solar power industry. She has been a leader in the campaign to protect ancient forests in the Pacific Northwest and was the executive director of the Siskiyou Regional Education Project. Her first novel, Primal Tears, has been published by North Atlantic Books.

Source: *truthout* | Interview 2/28/06, www.truthout.com

ACLU Essay Contest

Invading privacy to fight terror



The San Joaquin Chapter of the ACLU will sponsor its Second Annual Bill of Rights Essay Contest. This contest is offered county-wide to all high school seniors and the winners are chosen by English professors from UOP and local attorneys. The prizes will be \$500 Grand Prize, \$250 First Prize, \$125 Honorable Mention.

The almost unanimous choice for the topic was under the Fourth Amendment ("The right of the people to be secure in their persons, house, papers, and effects, against unreasonable search and seizure, shall not be violated"). The question is: Should the government have the power to invade Americans, privacy, without oversight, to fight the „war on terrorism“?

If you or anyone on your staff thinks the essay question can be worded more effectively, please offer your suggestion(s).

This year, we're going to present the awards on stage at the Earth Day Festival on April 30 at Victory Park, Stockton. Interested? Contact Deane and Marcia Savage at 209-339-1599.

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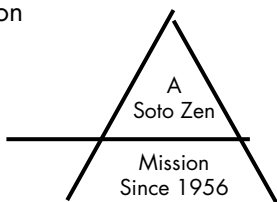


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Delta ecosystem collapses while pumping continues

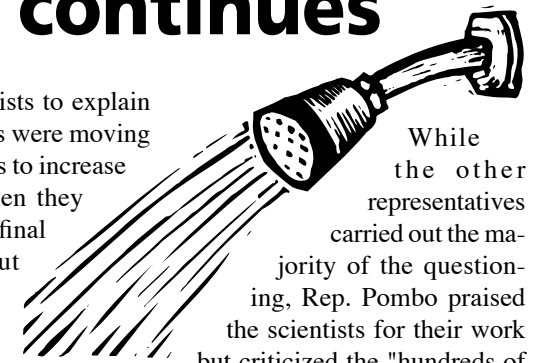
In early March, four members of congress were joined by over one hundred concerned Californians in Stockton to demand answers about the failing health of the California Bay-Delta Estuary. The evasion and murky responses they received drove home the message: The agencies in charge of the Delta need to be pulled in line to save the Delta.

Under pressure from his Delta constituents and other lawmakers, Richard Pombo (R-Tracy) chairman of the House Resources Committee in Washington D.C., held the hearing to get briefed by agency scientists investigating the recent ecosystem collapse. Representatives George Miller (D-Martinez), Grace Napolitano (D-Norwalk), and Dennis Cardoza (D-Atwater) also attended and raised numerous questions about the five year crisis that has occurred on the scientists' watch.

During the hearing, Miller

pressed the scientists to explain why their agencies were moving forward with plans to increase water exports when they had yet to reach final conclusions about the reasons for the precipitous population decline of several Delta species. The scientists responded with blank stares, incomplete answers and evasion. David Harlow, assistant field supervisor for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, at one point refused to answer, stating that "I've been advised by legal counsel not to speculate." The scientists admitted they had no timetable for results on the causes of the ecological collapse.

Delta expert Bill Jennings of the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance noted that the scientists selected for the panel were likely reluctant to respond because they represented the agencies that manage the water-export pumps.



While the other representatives carried out the majority of the questioning, Rep. Pombo praised the scientists for their work but criticized the "hundreds of millions (of dollars spent) on restoration efforts" and "billions in lost economic activity" due to restrictions on water exports, noting that "it doesn't seem that any of that has worked."

PLC's Mindy McIntyre and Matt Vander Sluis joined dozens of angry anglers outside a hearing calling for decreased water exports to protect the ailing California Bay-Delta Estuary. "Anglers fundamentally understand that a failure to restore the Delta is an attack on their way of life. And they are not happy about it at all," explained McIntyre.

Source: *Planning and Conservation League* release 3/7/06, www.pcl.org

Star wars and more costly weapons systems

The U.S. already has more than enough weapons to respond to current military challenges, and more humane, less expensive, and more effective ways to advance peace and security should be employed. Why not invest in peaceful prevention of deadly conflict <<http://www.fcnl.org/ppdc/>>, or SMART security <<http://www.fcnl.org/ppdc/smart.htm>>?

But the administration's February budget request continues to fund a wide range of costly weapons systems. Here's a list of a few of these weapons systems compiled by Christopher Hellman:

- The Pentagon is requesting \$10.4

- billion in FY07 for its Missile "Defense" Program, up roughly \$1.7 billion from the current \$8.7 billion, making it the single largest weapons program in the annual military budget.

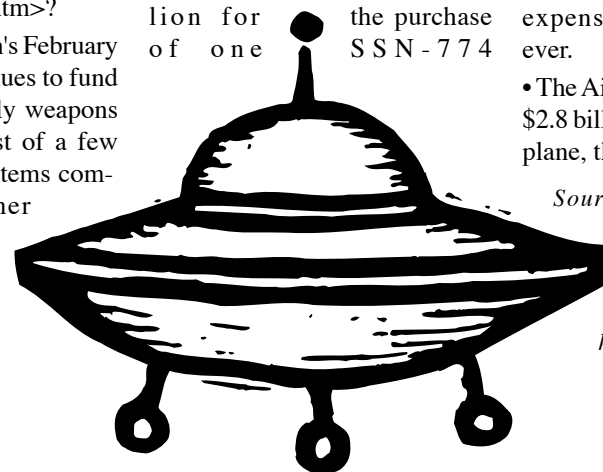
- The Navy is seeking more than \$1 billion for its \$36 billion Aircraft Carrier Replacement Program, and \$2.6 billion for the purchase of one SSN-774

- "Virginia" class nuclear attack submarine, the per unit cost for which has grown to over \$3 billion per vessel.

- The Air Force, along with the Navy, is requesting \$5.3 billion for continued joint development of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, which at a total cost of almost \$260 billion makes it the most expensive weapons program ever.

- The Air Force is also requesting \$2.8 billion for its premier fighter plane, the F-22 "Raptor."

Source: *FCNL March 2006 Washington Newsletter*.
FCNL, 245 Second St NE, Washington, DC 20002 800-630-1330
<http://www.fcnl.org/>



The runaway military budget: an analysis

Christopher Hellman

The Bush administration released its budget request for fiscal year 2007 (FY07) on February 6. As part of this request, the president is seeking \$439.3 billion for the Department of Defense. The request is \$28.5 billion more than the current Pentagon spending level of \$410.7 billion, an increase of seven percent. The figure does not include funding for the nuclear weapons activities of the Department of Energy (DoE) or other miscellaneous funds. Together these "extras" would bring the total amount requested to \$463 billion. Adjusted for inflation, this request exceeds the average amount spent by the Pentagon during the Cold War, for a military that is one-third smaller than it was just over a decade ago.

This increase continues a trend of growing military budgets that dates back to the last years of the Clinton administration and has accelerated since the September 11, 2001, attacks. The annual Defense Department budget (excluding DoE funding and the cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan) has grown by \$143 billion since 2001. Adjusted for inflation, military spending has grown by 27 percent over this period.

...growing to \$2.3 trillion by FY11

The Office of Management and Budget estimates that total annual funding for the Defense Department alone will grow to \$502.1 billion by FY11. Total Pentagon spending, not including funding for the DoE or for actual combat operations for the period FY07 through FY11 will exceed \$2.3 trillion. Meanwhile, in January the Congressional Budget Office estimated that the deficit for FY06 will be \$360 billion.

...plus Afghanistan and Iraq

The \$439 billion Pentagon request does not include funding for actual combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Supplemental funding for Iraq and Afghanistan in FY05 was

roughly \$100 billion. Shortly after the release of the FY07 budget request, the administration announced it was seeking \$65 billion for these wars in FY06. This amount is in addition to \$50 billion already allocated by Congress for Iraq and Afghanistan, for an FY06 total of \$115 billion. According to the House Budget Committee's Democratic staff, the U.S. has spent more than \$445 billion (including the FY06 funds) on these wars since Sept. 11, 2001. The FY07 budget request also included a \$50 billion "bridge fund" for the wars for the first part of next year.

...plus Homeland Security

The Defense Department is also requesting \$16.7 billion for Pentagon activities related to homeland security including detection of and protection against weapons of mass destruction, emergency preparedness and response, and protecting critical infrastructure. The administration is requesting a total of \$58.3 billion for homeland security in FY07.

...plus veterans

Beyond the annual defense budget and special war funding, the budget covers a broad range of military-related expenses. For example, the administration is proposing to spend \$4.6 billion for military aid to other countries. Veterans' benefits will account for \$73 billion in FY07, while military retirees will receive almost \$44 billion. And it is estimated that the portion of the interest on the national debt that is related to past military spending will exceed \$100 billion next year.

...and "energy"

The Pentagon's FY07 budget, when coupled with the Department of Energy's nuclear weapons program, amounts to \$463 billion, a sum that exceeds the average amount spent by the Pentagon during the Cold War for a military that is one-third smaller than it was just over a decade ago.

So, is it excessive?

Yet despite the staggering amount this nation already spends on the military and other security related programs, some in Washington believe that military spending is not excessive. In recent congressional testimony, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld noted that, while the annual military budget rivals those of the Cold War, as a portion of the overall U.S. economy, it is at historically low levels. "When I came to Washington in 1957 [military spending] was 10 percent of [Gross Domestic Product]. When I was Secretary of Defense 30 years ago, it was about 5 percent. And today it's about 3.6 or 3.7 percent," Rumsfeld said.

What is the economic burden of a \$440 billion military budget? Linking military spending to the GDP is an argument frequently made by supporters of higher military budgets. Comparing military spending (or any other spending for that matter) to the GDP tells you how large a burden

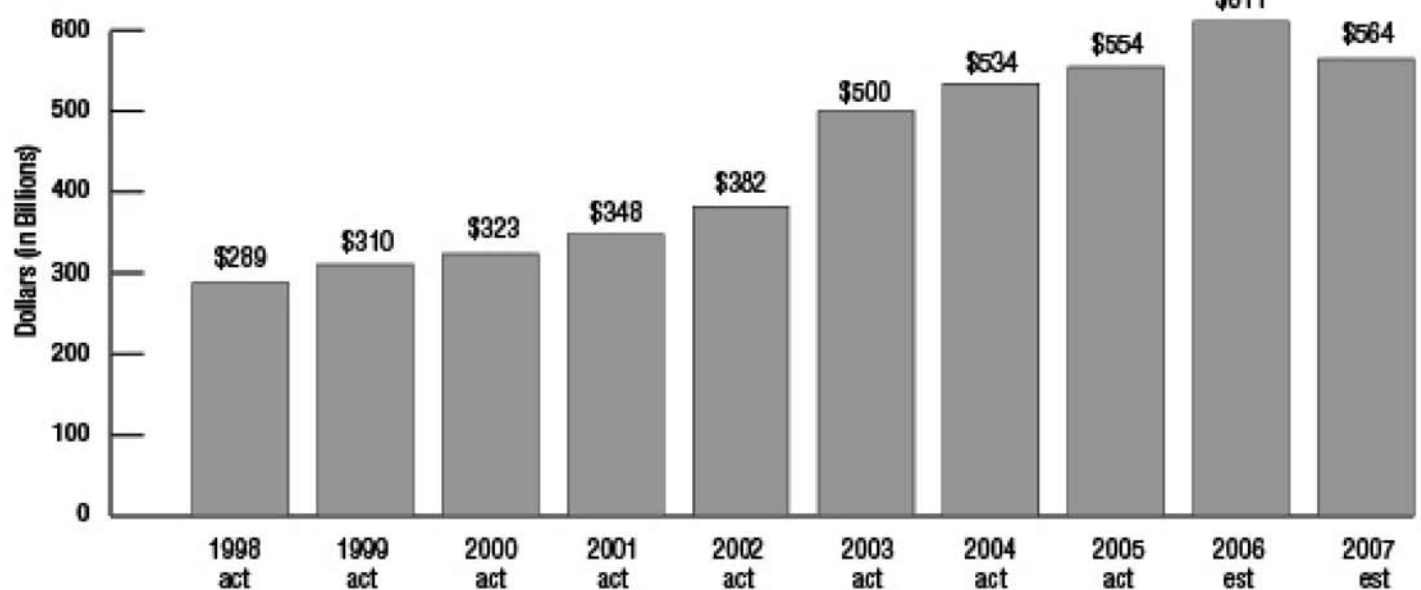
such spending puts on the U.S. economy, but it tells you nothing about the burden a \$440 billion military budget puts on U.S. taxpayers.

Our economy may be able to bear higher military spending, but the question today is whether current military spending levels are necessary and whether these funds are going towards the proper priorities. Further, such comparisons are only made when the economy is healthy. It is unlikely that those arguing that military spending should be a certain portion of GDP would continue to make this case if the economy suddenly weakened, thus requiring dramatic cuts in the military.

Christopher Hellman is a Military Budget Analyst at the Center for Arms Control and Nonproliferation in Washington, DC.

Source: FCNL March 2006 Washington Newsletter. FCNL, 245 Second St NE, Washington, DC 20002 800-630-1330 <http://www.fcnl.org/>

The Runaway Military Budget



Bar chart of the runaway military budget

Notes: Shows "budget authority" spending that is authorized to occur in current or future years. FCNL's analysis includes discretionary and mandatory spending for the Department of Defense, Department of Energy nuclear weapons programs, military spending by other agencies, foreign military financing and training, mandatory contributions to military retirement and health care, and the costs of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. For FY07, the president requested only \$50 billion for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, despite the fact that current spending on the wars is much higher (\$115 billion in FY06). Unless Congress changes current policies, the FY07 column likely will be much higher by the time we report next year.

Source: White House Office of Management and Budget, Budget of the U.S. Government, Fiscal Year 2007



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Information overload: moral judgement needed

Norman Solomon

As each new season brings more waves of higher-tech digital products, I often think of Mark Twain. Along with being a brilliant writer, he was also an ill-fated investor—fascinated with the latest technical innovations, including the strides toward functional typewriters and typesetting equipment as the 19th century neared its close.

Twain would have marveled at the standard PC that we take for granted now. But what would he have made of the intrusiveness of present-day media technology—let alone its recurring content?

It's getting harder and harder to drive out of cell-phone range—that is, if you really want to. And judging from scenes at countless remote locations, many people would rather not forfeit 24/7 phone access for conversations that involuntary eavesdroppers hear half of. (Virtually always, it seems, the more boring half.)

These days, mainstream media fascination with blogs and the bloggers who love them often seems to assume that the very use of the Internet enhances the content or style of what has been written. It's a seductive cyber-fantasy. Speed is useful, and so are hyperlinks and visuals-on-demand, but—fortunately or not, depending on your point of view—there's no digital invisible hand that can move any piece of writing very far along the road to worthwhile reading.

A central paradox of the rapid advances in media technologies is that the quantum leaps in computer hard drives and software have been accompanied by an approximately zero boost in human mental capacity—or in what we refer to with such words as "insight," "wisdom" and "compassion." You can't visit a local mall or an online site and pull out a credit card to purchase an upgrade in gray matter or human connection.

The momentum of digital communications has conveyed a sense of inevitability. As last

year's cutting-edge gizmos become old hat, resistance appears to be futile. But the question is not whether we're "pro" or "anti" technology. More pertinent are inquiries like: What's the point of all this hyper-computerized stuff? How does it relate to the most important meanings of life?

To explore the answers to such questions, even the finest desktops and search engines are unlikely to be much help. Mega-outfits like Microsoft and Google offer incredible ease and speed. When we're seeking information or images, they can do almost everything better and faster than we can—except think and reflect, feel and create, love and mourn ...

A half-century ago, there was much talk about the fear that machines would replace people in the workplace. Now, "automation" has an almost quaint ring to it. But the high premium put on speedily moving a business agenda goes back many decades. "In an age of advanced technology," Aldous Huxley foresaw, "inefficiency is the sin against the Holy Ghost."

In recent years, the corporate emphasis on the efficient use—and, let's face it, exploitation—of human beings has become more overbearing. By now, no one expects a big com-

pany to exhibit much loyalty to employees in the long run. And the ubiquitous presence of media technologies in the workaday world, from computer to cell phone to BlackBerry, has facilitated chronic employer demands for greater "productivity." While a new digital gizmo may serve the worker, that worker is still expected to serve management's often-insatiable drive for profits—more efficiently than ever.

News outlets routinely provide breathless accounts of the latest digital dazzles. But precious little media attention focuses on the deeper qualities of the human experience, the content of the lightning-fast communications or the ultimate end-product. Data streams move faster than the eye can see. Information doesn't flow, it rockets. But what's it all for?

Even the most wondrous media technologies can't supply an iota of meaning. Yet the prevalent media discourse keeps equating digital breakthroughs with human breakthroughs. But that's a very dubious proposition.

Norman Solomon is the author of the new book *War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death*. For information, go to: <http://www.WarMadeEasy.com>.

Source: *truthout* Perspective 3/7/06 www.truthout.org



Impeach Bush

He's taking us into the darkness with him—it's time

Garrison Keillor

These are troubling times for all of us who love this country, as surely we all do, even the satirists. You may poke fun at your mother, but if she is belittled by others it burns your bacon. A blowhard French journalist writes a book about America that is full of arrogant stupidity, and you want to let the air out of him and mail him home flat. You hear young people talk about America as if it's all over, and you trust that this is only them talking tough. And then you read the paper and realize the country is led by a man who isn't paying attention, and you hope that somebody will poke him. Or put a sign on his desk that says, "Try Much Harder."

Do we need to impeach him to bring some focus to this man's life? The man was lost and then he was found and now he's more lost than ever, plus being blind.

The Feb. 27 issue of the *New Yorker* carries an article by Jane Mayer about a loyal conservative Republican and U.S. Navy lawyer, Albert Mora, and his resistance to the torture of prisoners at Guantánamo Bay. From within the Pentagon bureaucracy, he did battle against Donald Rumsfeld and John Yoo at the Justice Department and shadowy figures taking orders from Dick (Gunner) Cheney, arguing America had ratified the Geneva Convention that forbids cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment of prisoners, and so it has the force of law. They seemed to be arguing that the president has the right to order prisoners to be tortured.

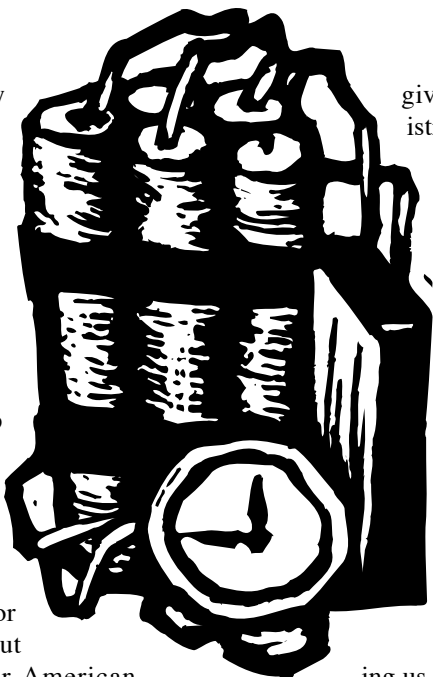
One such prisoner, Mohammed al-Qahtani, was held naked in isolation under bright lights for months, threatened by dogs, subjected to unbearable noise volumes, and otherwise abused, so that he begged to be allowed to kill himself. When the Senate approved the Torture Convention in 1994, it defined torture as an act

"specifically intended to inflict severe physical or mental pain or suffering." Is the law a law or is it a piece of toast?

Wiretap surveillance of Americans without a warrant? Great. Go for it. How about turning over American ports to a country more closely tied to 9/11 than Saddam Hussein was? Fine by me. No problem. And what about the war in Iraq? Hey, you're doing a heck of a job, Brownie. No need to tweak a thing. And your blue button-down shirt—it's you.

But torture is something else. When Americans start pulling people's fingernails out with pliers and poking lighted cigarettes into their palms, then we need to come back to basic values. Most people agree with this, and in a democracy that puts the torturers in a delicate position. They must make sure to destroy their e-mails and have subordinates who will take the fall. Because it is impossible to keep torture secret. It goes against the American grain and it eats at the conscience of even the most disciplined, and in the end the truth will come out. It is coming out now.

According to the leaders of the bipartisan 9/11 Commission, our country is practically as vulnerable today as it was on 9/10. Our seaports are wide open, our airspace is not secure except for the nation's capital, and little has been done about securing the nuclear bomb materials lying around in the world. They



give the administration D's and F's in most categories of defending against terrorist attack.

Our adventure in Iraq, at a cost of trillions, has brought that country to the verge of civil war while earning us more enemies than ever before. And tax money earmarked for security is being dumped into pork barrel projects anywhere somebody wants their own SWAT team. Detonation of a nuclear bomb within our borders—pick any big city—is a real possibility, as much so now as five years ago. Meanwhile, many Democrats have conceded the very subject of security and positioned themselves as Guardians of Our Forests and Benefactors of Waifs and Owls, neglecting the most basic job of government, which is to defend this country. We might rather be comedians or daddies or tattoo artists or flamenco dancers, but we must attend to first things.

The peaceful lagoon that is the White House is designed for the comfort of a vulnerable man. Perfectly understandable, but not what is needed now. The U.S. Constitution provides a simple ultimate way to hold him to account for war crimes and the failure to attend to the country's defense. Impeach him and let the Senate hear the evidence.

Source: <http://www.salon.com/opinion/feature/2006/03/01/keillor/print.html>



MSM = truth? Check out the alternatives & decide for yourself

If you tap in to some of the alternative media, you will get a very different perspective on events. Especially now, when the mainstream media often acts as a cheerleader for whatever the administration does, it's necessary to go a little further to get your news. An internet connection is helpful.

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Global Alliance Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space — <http://www.space4peace.org>

The Guardian: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/worldlatest/>

Angry Arab News Service—<http://www.angryarab.blogspot.com/>

Corporate Watch—<http://www.corpwatch.org/home/PHH.jsp>

We're on the web too!

The Peace & Justice Network of San Joaquin County (pjnsjc) website has information, calendar, media links, and more. Under construction and growing. Share your ideas on how the website should evolve.

<http://www.pjnsjc.org>

Feingold's call to censure Bush

On March 13, 2006, Senator Russ Feingold of Wisconsin delivered a passionate speech demanding Senate censure of President Bush for breaking United States law. This is a slightly abridged text of the senator's speech.

Mr. President, when the President of the United States breaks the law, he must be held accountable. That is why today I am introducing a resolution to censure President George W. Bush.

The President authorized an illegal program to spy on American citizens on American soil, and then misled Congress and the public about the existence and legality of that program. It is up to this body to reaffirm the rule of law by condemning the President's actions.

All of us in this body took an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States and bear true allegiance to the same. Fulfilling that oath requires us to speak clearly and forcefully when the President violates the law. This resolution allows us to send a clear message that the President's conduct was wrong.

And we must do that. The President's actions demand a formal judgment from Congress.

At moments in our history like this, we are reminded why the founders balanced the powers of the different branches of government so carefully in the Constitution. At the very heart of our system of government lies the recognition that some leaders will do wrong, and that others in the government will then bear the responsibility to do right.

This President has done wrong. This body can do right by condemning his conduct and showing the people of this nation that his actions will not be allowed to stand unchallenged.

To date, members of Congress have responded in very different ways to the President's conduct. Some are responding by defending his conduct, ceding him the power he claims, and even seeking to grant him expanded statutory authorization powers to make his conduct legal. While we know he is breaking the law, we do not know the details of

what the President has authorized or whether there is any need to change the law to allow it, yet some want to give him carte blanche to continue his illegal conduct.

To approve the President's actions now, without demanding a full inquiry into this program, a detailed explanation for why the President authorized it, and accountability for his illegal actions, would be irresponsible. It would be to abandon the duty of the legislative branch under our constitutional system of separation of powers while the President recklessly grabs for power and ignores the rule of law.

Others in Congress have taken important steps to check the President. Senator Specter has held hearings on the wiretapping program in the Judiciary Committee. He has even suggested that Congress may need to use the power of the purse in order to get some answers out of the Administration. And Senator Byrd has proposed that Congress establish an independent commission to investigate this program.

As we move forward, Congress will need to consider a range of possible actions, including investigations, independent commissions, legislation, or even impeachment. But, at a minimum, Congress should censure a president who has so plainly broken the law.

Our founders anticipated that these kinds of abuses would occur. Federalist Number 51 speaks of the Constitution's system of checks and balances: "It may be a reflection on human nature, that such devices should be necessary to control the abuses of government. But what is government itself, but the greatest of all reflections on human nature? If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself."

Mr. President, we are faced with

an executive branch that places itself above the law. The founders understood that the branches must check each other to control abuses of government power. The president's actions are such an abuse, Mr. President. His actions must be checked, and he should be censured.

This President exploited the climate of anxiety after September 11, 2001, both to push for overly intrusive powers in the Patriot Act, and to take us into a war in Iraq that has been a tragic diversion from the critical fight against al Qaeda and its affiliates. In both of those instances, however, Congress gave its approval to the President's actions, however mistaken that approval may have been.

That was not the case with the illegal domestic wiretapping program authorized by the President shortly after September 11th. The President violated the law, ignored the Constitution and the other two branches of government, and disregarded the rights and freedoms upon which our country was founded. No one questions whether the government should wiretap suspected terrorists. Of course we should, and we can under current law. If there were a demonstrated need to change that law, Congress could consider that step. But instead the President is refusing to follow that law while offering the flimsiest of arguments to justify his misconduct. He must be held accountable for his actions.

The facts are straightforward: Congress passed the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, known as "FISA", nearly 30 years ago to ensure that as we wiretap suspected terrorists and spies, we also protect innocent Americans from unjustified government intrusion. FISA makes it a crime to wiretap Americans on U.S. soil without the requisite warrants, and the President has ordered warrantless wiretaps of Americans on U.S. soil. The President has broken that law, and that alone is unacceptable. But the President did much more than that.

Not only did the President break the law, he also actively misled Congress and the American people about his actions, and

then, when the program was made public, about the legality of the NSA program. He has fundamentally violated the trust of the American people. The President's own words show just how seriously he has violated that trust.

We now know that the NSA wiretapping program began not long after September 11th. Before the existence of this program was revealed, the President went out of his way in several speeches to assure the public that the government was getting court orders to wiretap Americans in the United States, something that he now admits was not the case. On April 20, 2004, for example, the President told an audience in Buffalo that: "Any time you hear the United States government talking about wiretap, it requires...a wiretap requires a court order. Nothing has changed, by the way." In fact, a lot had changed, but the President wasn't being upfront with the American people.

Just months later, on July 14, 2004, in my own state of Wisconsin, the President said that: "Any action that takes place by law enforcement requires a court order. In other words, the government can't move on wiretaps or roving wiretaps without getting a court order." Last summer, on June 9, 2005, the President spoke in Columbus, Ohio, and again insisted that his administration was abiding by the laws governing wiretaps. "Law enforcement officers need a federal judge's permission to wiretap a foreign terrorist's phone, a federal judge's permission to track his calls, or a federal judge's permission to search his property. Officers must meet strict standards to use any of these tools. And these standards are fully consistent with the Constitution of the U.S."

In all of these cases, the President knew he wasn't telling the complete story. But engaged in tough political battle during the presidential campaign, and later over Patriot Act reauthorization, he wanted to convince the public that a systems of checks and balances was in place to protect innocent people from government snooping. He knew when he gave those reassurances that he had authorized the NSA to bypass the

very system of checks and balances that he was using as a shield against criticisms of the Patriot Act and his Administration's performance.

This conduct is unacceptable. The President had a duty to play it straight with the American people. But for political purposes, he ignored that duty.

After a New York Times story exposed the NSA program in December of last year, the White House launched an intensive effort to mislead the American people yet again. No one would come to testify before Congress until February, but the President's surrogates held press conferences and made speeches to try to convince the public that he had acted lawfully.

Most troubling of all, the President himself participated in this disinformation campaign. In the State of the Union address, he implied that the program was necessary because otherwise the government would be unable to wiretap terrorists at all. That is simply untrue. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth. You don't need a warrant to wiretap terrorists overseas period. You do need a warrant to wiretap Americans on American soil and Congress passed FISA specifically to lay out the rules for these types of domestic wiretaps.

FISA created a secret court, made up of judges who develop national security expertise, to issue warrants for surveillance of suspected terrorists and spies. These are the judges from whom the Bush Administration has obtained thousands of warrants since 9/11. They are the judges who review applications for business records orders and wiretapping authority under the Patriot Act.

The Administration has almost never had a warrant request rejected by those judges. It has used the FISA Court thousands of times, but at the same time it asserts that FISA is an "old law" or "out of date" in this age of terrorism and can't be complied with. Clearly, the Administration can and does comply with it, except when it doesn't. Then it just arbitrarily decides to go around these judges, and around the law.

The American people look to us to take action, to speak out, with one clear voice, against wrongdoing by the President of the United States. In our system of government, no one, not even the President, is above the law.

The Administration has said that it ignored FISA because it takes too long to get a warrant under that law. But we know that in an emergency, where the Attorney General believes that surveillance must begin before a court order can be obtained, FISA permits the wiretap to be executed immediately as long as the government goes to the court within 72 hours.

The Attorney General has complained that the emergency provision does not give him enough flexibility, he has complained that getting a FISA application together or getting the necessary approvals takes too long. But the problems he has cited are bureaucratic barriers that the executive branch put in place, and could remove if it wanted.

FISA also permits the Attorney General to authorize unlimited warrantless electronic surveillance in the United States during the 15 days following a declaration of war, to allow time to consider any amendments to FISA required by a wartime emergency. That is the time period that Congress specified. Yet the President thinks that he can do this indefinitely.

The President has argued that Congress gave him authority to wiretap Americans on U.S. soil without a warrant when it passed the Authorization for Use of Military Force after September 11, 2001. Mr. President, that is ridiculous. Members of Congress did not pass this resolution to give the President blanket authority to order warrantless wiretaps. We all know that. Anyone in this body who would tell you otherwise either wasn't here at the time or isn't telling the truth. We authorized the President to use military force in Afghanistan, a necessary and justified response to September 11. We did not authorize him to wiretap American citizens on American soil without going through the process that was set up nearly three decades ago precisely to facilitate the domestic surveillance of terrorists, with the approval of a judge. That is why both Republicans and Democrats have questioned this theory.

This particular claim is further undermined by congressional approval of the Patriot Act just a few weeks after we passed the Authorization for the Use of Military Force. The Patriot Act made it easier for law enforce-

ment to conduct surveillance on suspected terrorists and spies, while maintaining FISA's baseline requirement of judicial approval for wiretaps of Americans in the U.S.

It is ridiculous to think that Congress would have negotiated and enacted all the changes to FISA in the Patriot Act if it thought it had just authorized the President to ignore FISA in the AUMF.

In addition, in the intelligence authorization bill passed in December 2001, we extended the emergency authority in FISA, at the Administration's request, from 24 to 72 hours. Why do that if the President has the power to ignore FISA? That makes no sense at all.

The President has also said that his inherent executive power gives him the power to approve this program. But here the President is acting in direct violation of a criminal statute. That means his power is, as Justice Jackson said in the steel seizure cases half a century ago, "at its lowest ebb." A letter from a group of law professors and former executive branch officials points out that "every time the Supreme Court has confronted a statute limiting the Commander-in-Chief's authority, it has upheld the statute."

The Senate reports issued when FISA was enacted confirm the understanding that FISA overrode any pre-existing inherent authority of the President. As the 1978 Senate Judiciary Committee report stated, FISA "recognizes no inherent power of the president in this area." And "Congress has declared that this statute, not any claimed presidential power, controls." Contrary to what the President told the country in the State of the Union, no court has ever approved warrantless surveillance in violation of FISA. The President's claims of inherent executive authority, and his

assertions that the courts have approved this type of activity, are baseless.

The President also has argued that periodic internal executive branch review provides an adequate check on the program. He has even characterized this periodic review as a safeguard for civil liberties. But we don't know what this check involves. And we do know that Congress explicitly rejected this idea of unilateral executive decision-making in this area when it passed FISA.

Finally, the President has tried to claim that informing a handful of congressional leaders, the so-called Gang of Eight, somehow excuses breaking the law. Of course, several of these members said they weren't given the full story. And all of them were prohibited from discussing what they were told. So the fact that they were informed under these extraordinary circumstances does not constitute congressional oversight, and it most certainly does not constitute congressional approval of the program. Indeed, it doesn't even comply with the National Security Act, which requires the entire memberships of the House and Senate Intelligence Committee to be "fully and currently informed of the intelligence activities of the United States." Nor does the latest agreement to allow a seven-member subcommittee to review the program comply with the law. Granting a minority of the committee access to information is inadequate and still does not comply with the law requiring that the full committee be kept fully informed.

In addition, we now know that some of the Gang of Eight expressed concern about the program. The Administration ignored their protests. One of the eight members of Congress who has been briefed about the program, Congresswoman Jane Harman, ranking member of the

House Intelligence Committee, has said she sees no reason why the Administration cannot accomplish its goals within the law as currently written.

None of the President's arguments explains or excuses his conduct, or the NSA's domestic spying program. Not one. It is hard to believe that the President has the audacity to claim that they do.

And perhaps that is what is most troubling here, Mr. President. Even more troubling than the arguments the President has made is what he relies on to make them convincing: the credibility of the office of the President himself. He essentially argues that the American people should trust him simply because of the office he holds.

But Presidents don't serve our country by just asking for trust, they must earn that trust, and they must tell the truth.

This President hides behind flawed legal arguments, and even behind the office he holds, but he cannot hide from what he has created: nothing short of a constitutional crisis.

The President has violated the law, and Congress must respond. Congress must investigate and demand answers. Congress should also determine whether current law is inadequate and address that deficiency if it is demonstrated. But before doing so, Congress should ensure that there is accountability for authorizing illegal conduct.

A formal censure by Congress is an appropriate and responsible first step to assure the public that when the President thinks he can violate the law without consequences, Congress has the will to hold him accountable.

If Congress does not reaffirm the rule of law, we will create another failure of leadership, and deal another blow to the public's trust.

The President's wrongdoing demands a response. And not just a response that prevents wrongdoing in the future, but a response that passes judgment on what has happened. We in the Congress bear the responsibility to check a President who has violated the law, who continues to violate the law, and who has not been held accountable for his actions.

Passing a resolution to censure the President is a way to hold this President accountable. A resolution of censure is a time-honored means for the Congress to express the most serious disapproval possible, short of impeachment, of the Executive's conduct. It is different than passing a law to make clear that certain conduct is impermissible or to cut off funding for certain activities. Both of those alternatives are ways for Congress to affect future action. But when the President acts illegally, he should be formally rebuked. He should be censured.

The founders anticipated abuses of executive power by creating a balance of powers in the Constitution. Supporting and defending the Constitution, as we have taken an oath to do, require us to preserve that balance, and to have the will to act. We must meet a serious transgression by the President with a serious response. We must work, as the founders urged us in Federalist Number 51, to control the abuses of government.

The Constitution looks to the Congress to right the balance of power. The American people look to us to take action, to speak out, with one clear voice, against wrongdoing by the President of the United States. In our system of government, no one, not even the President, is above the law. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the resolution be printed in the Record following my remarks. I yield the floor.

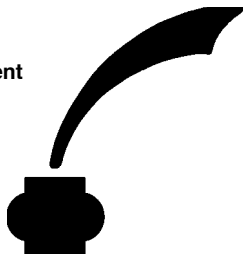
Senator Feingold is an independent thinker and respected leader who votes the courage of his strong progressive convictions, no matter the political cost. He voted against the Iraq War in 2002, and in 2005, was the first senator to call for a specific timetable for US troops to exit Iraq. Russ Feingold is best known for his work with Senator John McCain to clean-up election campaign finance abuses, via the Campaign Finance Reform Act of 2002.

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Sen. Barbara Boxer, 1700 Montgomery St, Ste 240, San Francisco, CA 94111. 415-403-0100; 112 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510. 202-224-3553, senator@boxer.senate.gov

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, One Post Street, Ste 2450, San Francisco, CA 94104. 415-249-0707; 331 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510. 202-224-3841, senator@feinstein.senate.gov

Rep. Dennis Cardoza (R-District 18) 445 West Weber Ave. Suite 240, Stockton, CA 95203. 209-946-0361, 503 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515, 202-225-6131.

Rep. Richard Pombo (R-District 11), 2321 W March Lane, Ste 205, Stockton, CA 95207. 209-951-3091; 1519 Longworth Bldg, Washington, DC 20515. 202-225-1947, rpombo@mail.house.gov

Rep. John Doolittle (R-District 4), 2130 Professional Dr, Ste 190, Roseville, CA 95661. 916-786-5560; 1524 Longworth Bldg, Washington, CA 20515. 202-225-2511

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, 2201 C St, NW Washington, DC 20520

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814. 916-445-2841

State Sen. Michael Machado (D-District 5), 31 E Channel St, Room 440, Stockton, CA 95202. 209-948-7930; State Capitol, Rm 4035, Sacramento, CA 95814. 916-445-2407

Assemblyperson Barbara Matthews (D-District 17), 31 E Channel St, Room 306, Stockton, CA 95202. 209-948-7479; State Capitol Room 5135, Sacramento, CA 95814. 916-319-2017

Food safety rules to change?

Congress removes right to know what you're eating

On March 8, despite massive public opposition, including 50,000 calls and letters from supporters of the Organic Consumers Association, the House of Representatives passed the controversial "national food uniformity" labeling law, which would eliminate over 200 state food safety labeling laws. The law basically takes away local government and states' power to require food safety labels such as those required in California and other states on foods or beverages that are likely to cause cancer, birth defects, allergic reactions, or mercury poisoning. The bill would also prevent local municipalities and states from passing laws requiring that genetically engineered foods and ingredients be labeled. Under the bill, hundreds of state laws and regulations would be eliminated, including those relating to the safety of milk, fish, and shellfish. In order to become law, the bill will now have to go to the Senate for a vote. Because of the enormous public backlash against the bill, Washington analysts believe the bill will have great difficulty passing in the Senate. OCA and other public interest organizations have vowed to go "all out" to stop this anti-democratic, anti-consumer bill in the Senate. Take action here: <http://www.organicconsumers.org/rd/labeling.cfm>

You and me against the world

Biotech corporations are facing off against developing nations and most of the world this week in Brazil in a debate over the United Nation's Biosafety Protocol. The precedent-setting treaty is an international agreement signed in January 2000 by 132 of the world's nations. But the three main countries that grow genetically modified crops (the United States, Argentina and Canada) refuse to sign it, because the international law would require that countries be notified if the grains they are importing are genetically modified. Biotech companies want

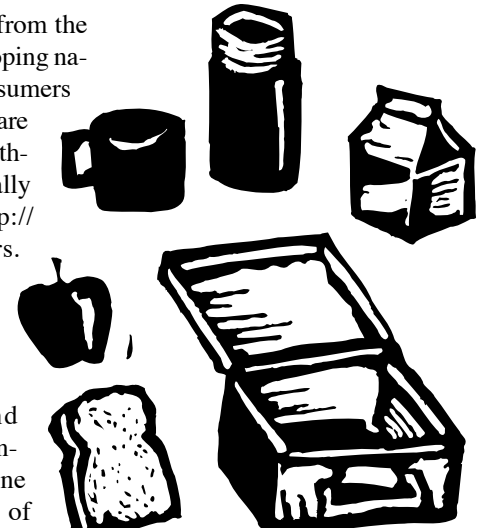
that language removed from the treaty, saying that developing nations and anti-GMO consumers in industrialized nations are not entitled to know whether their food is genetically engineered or not. <http://www.organicconsumers.org/ge/goliath060313.cfm>

Num...benzene!

The U.S., U.K. and China have launched investigations into benzene in soft drinks. Results of independent laboratory tests in New York, show a couple of soft drinks in the U.S. contain as much as four times above the legal benzene limit for drinking water. Benzene, a known carcinogen, is formed when two ingredients in the beverage react with each other: sodium benzoate (a preservative) and ascorbic acid (vitamin C). The FDA will not release the names of the beverages with high benzene levels but says the companies are being asked to change their ingredients. <http://www.organicconsumers.org/foodsafety/benzene060303.cfm>

Buy local organic, save the climate

Global climate change has become the planet's most important environmental threat. Citizen efforts to reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs) have typically involved calls for conversion to renewable energy and increased automobile fuel efficiency. But did you know that 20-25% of GHGs are created by the production and long-distance transportation of our food? The Mayor of London recognizes this important fact and is taking strategic measures to boost locally grown and organic foods in the region. Plans include placing high taxes on long-haul transport trucks and providing incentives to hospitals and schools to purchase local and organic foods. "I want London to set a standard for other cities around the world to follow in reducing its own contribution to climate change. How we deal with food will play an important role in this," says Mayor Ken Livingstone.



<http://www.organicconsumers.org/btc/london022706.cfm>

Moo!

USDA Secretary Mike Johanns met with Japanese leaders on Friday to convince them the U.S. beef supply is safe from Mad Cow Disease. Unfortunately, on Saturday, the day after the meeting, the USDA announced the discovery of another new case of Mad Cow Disease in the U.S. Japan, the top importer of U.S. beef, has recently banned U.S. beef imports, due to concerns over safety of the meat. Despite objections from Japanese and American consumers, the USDA still allows the feeding of blood, slaughterhouse waste, and manure to animals—practices banned in Europe and Japan in order to prevent the spread of the disease. <http://www.organicconsumers.org/madcow.htm>

Just one more soda...

A new study published in the journal *Pediatrics* reveals kids who drink just one sweetened beverage per day can pile on an average of 15 lbs. of additional fat per year, in comparison to children who drink nonsweetened beverages. <http://www.organicconsumers.org/school/study2.cfm>

Source: *Organic Bytes* 3/14/06, a publication of: ORGANIC CONSUMERS ASSOCIATION, 6771 South Silver Hill Dr, Finland, MN 55603 Subscribe: <http://www.organicconsumers.org/organicbytes.htm>

Speak out: get soot pollution out of our air

Particulate pollution, also known as soot, comes from diesel engines, power plants and other industrial sources, as well as from the fine dusts kicked up by mining and agriculture operations. During the last 10 years, two thousand studies have linked soot pollution to numerous serious health problems, including asthma attacks, missed school days due to respiratory symptoms, strokes, heart attacks, emergency room visits, hospital admissions, lung cancer and premature death. Infants and children, people with asthma, the elderly and people with heart or lung disease are especially at risk from inhaling this widespread pollution.

Scientists at the Environmental Protection Agency have recommended that the national standards governing the allowable levels of soot pollution be strengthened, but EPA Administrator Johnson is ignoring these recommendations and has instead proposed exempting agriculture and mining operations from the requirements of the law, and weakening

critical air quality standards for cities and towns of under 100,000 people. These changes would effectively cause more rural areas to suffer a disproportionate share of soot's dangerous health risks.

The EPA is accepting public comments on its proposed changes to the soot pollution standards through April 17th.

ACTION: Send a message, before the April 17th comment deadline, urging the EPA to strengthen, not weaken, the soot standards and ensure safe air to breathe for all communities.

Source: *Earth Action alert 3/8/06*
Natural Resources Defense Council,
40 W 20th St., New York, NY 10011
<http://www.nrdc.org>

The most important letter: yours

Subject: Docket ID EPA-HQ-OAR-2001-0017 - particulate air quality standards
 Environmental Protection Agency, Mailcode: 6102T
 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
 Washington DC 20460
 Fax: 202-566-1749
 Email: a-and-r-Docket@epa.gov

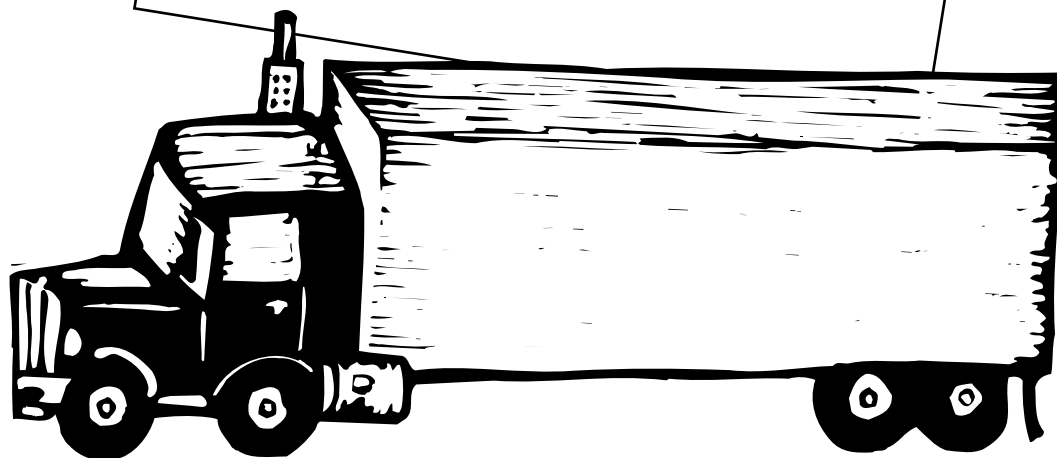
Dear Administrator Johnson and EPA staff,

I am writing to express my concern about air pollution, which can seriously harm my and my family's health. We are facing an asthma epidemic among American children—particularly in the San Joaquin valley—and cardiovascular and respiratory diseases among adults are widespread and serious. Hundreds of scientific studies have found links between particulate air pollution—at levels people are breathing today—and respiratory problems, increased use of asthma medications, missed school days from respiratory illness, emergency room visits, strokes, heart problems and premature death.

The proposed standards for particulate matter are completely inadequate to protect the health of children and sensitive adults. In addition, exempting mining and agriculture operations from the coarse particulate matter standards and removing protections from areas with populations under 100,000 would cause more rural areas to suffer a disproportionate share of the health risks.

Instead, I strongly urge you to follow the advice of your Science Advisory Board's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee and strengthen both the fine particle and coarse particle standards to levels that the science shows would adequately protect the public. For the health of my family and of future generations, I urge you to set standards that will make the air safe to breathe in all of our communities.

Sincerely,
 [Your name and address]



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NEW!!! Beautiful PJN mugs as well as engraved mugs with peace cranes on one side and Margaret Mead's famous quote on the other.

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East Timor repeated: the case of West Papua

John Pilger

In 1993, I and four others traveled clandestinely across East Timor to gather evidence of the genocide committed by the Indonesian dictatorship. Such was the depth of silence about this tiny country that the only map I could find before I set out was one with blank spaces stamped "Relief Data Incomplete." Yet few places had been as defiled and abused by murderous forces. Not even Pol Pot had succeeded in dispatching, proportionally, as many people as the Indonesian tyrant Suharto had done in collusion with the "international community."

In East Timor, I found a country littered with graves, their black crosses crowding the eye: crosses on peaks, crosses in tiers on the hillsides, crosses beside the road. They announced the murder of entire communities, from babies to the elderly. In 2000, when the East Timorese, displaying a collective act of courage with few historical parallels, finally won their freedom, the United Nations set up a truth commission; on 24 January, its 2,500 pages were published. I have never read anything like it. Using mostly official documents, it recounts in painful detail the entire disgrace of East Timor's blood sacrifice. It says that 180,000 East Timorese were killed by Indonesian troops or died from enforced starvation. It

describes the "primary roles" in this carnage of the governments of the United States, Britain and Australia. America's "political and military support were fundamental" in crimes that ranged from "mass executions to forced resettlements, sexual and other horrific forms of torture as well as abuse against children." Britain, a co-conspirator in the invasion, was the main arms supplier. If you want to see through the smokescreen currently around Iraq, and understand true terrorism, read this document.

And it is all happening again, wrapped in the same silence and with the "international com-

munity" playing the same part as backer and beneficiary of the crushing of a defenseless people. Indonesia's brutal occupation of West Papua, a vast, resource-rich province—stolen from its people, like East Timor—is one of the great secrets of our time. Recently, the Australian minister of "communications," Senator

was a separate geographic and ethnic entity with a distinctive national character. A report published last November by the Institute of Netherlands History in The Hague revealed that the Dutch had secretly recognized the "unmistakable beginning of the formation of a Papuan state," but were bullied by the admin-

banker David Rockefeller. Sitting opposite them were Suharto's men, known as the "Berkeley mafia," as several had enjoyed US government scholarships to the University of California at Berkeley. Over three days, the Indonesian economy was carved up, sector by sector. An American and European consortium was handed West Papua's nickel; American, Japanese and French companies got its forests. However, the prize—the world's largest gold reserve and third-largest copper deposit, literally a mountain of copper and gold—went to the US mining giant Freeport-McMoRan. On the board is Henry Kissinger, who, as US secretary of state, gave the "green light" to Suharto to invade East Timor, says the Dutch report.

Freeport is today probably the biggest single source of revenue for the Indonesian regime: the company is said to have handed Jakarta \$33 billion between 1992 and 2004. Little of this has reached the people of West Papua. Last December, 55 people reportedly starved to death in the district of Yahukimo. The Jakarta Post noted the "horrible irony" of hunger in such an "immensely rich" province. According to

announced that it would resume "co-operation" with Kopassus at the Australian SAS base near Perth. In an inversion of the truth, the then-Australian defense minister, Senator Robert Hill, described Kopassus as having "the most effective capability to respond to a counter-hijack or hostage recovery threat." The files of human-rights organizations overflow with evidence of Kopassus's terrorism. On 6 July 1998, on the West Papuan island of Biak, just north of Australia, Special Forces massacred more than 100 people, most of them women.

However, the Indonesian military has not been able to crush the popular Free Papua Movement (OPM). Since 1965, almost alone, the OPM has reminded the Indonesians, often audaciously, that they are invaders. In the past two months, the resistance has caused the Indonesians to rush more troops to West Papua.

The fate of the 43 asylum-seekers in Australia is precarious. In contravention of international law, the Howard government has moved them from the mainland to Christmas Island, which is part of an Australian "exclusion zone" for refugees. We should watch carefully what happens

An estimated 100,000 Papuans, or 10 per cent of the population, have been killed by the Indonesian military.

Helen Coonan, failed to place it on the map of her own region, as if it did not exist.

An estimated 100,000 Papuans, or 10 per cent of the population, have been killed by the Indonesian military. This is a fraction of the true figure, according to refugees. In January, 43 West Papuans reached Australia's north coast after a hazardous six-week journey in a dugout. They had no food, and had dribbled their last fresh water into their children's mouths. "We knew," said Herman Wainggai, the leader, "that if the Indonesian military had caught us, most of us would have died. They treat West Papuans like animals. They kill us like animals. They have created militias and jihadis to do just that. It is the same as East Timor."

For over a year, an estimated 6,000 people have been hiding in dense jungle after their villages and crops were destroyed by Indonesian Special Forces. Raising the West Papuan flag is "treason." Two men are serving ten- and 15-year sentences for merely trying. Following an attack on one village, a man was presented as an "example" and petrol poured over him and his hair set alight.

Some history

When the Netherlands gave Indonesia its independence in 1949, it argued that West Papua

was a separate geographic and ethnic entity with a distinctive national character. A report published last November by the Institute of Netherlands History in The Hague revealed that the Dutch had secretly recognized the "unmistakable beginning of the formation of a Papuan state," but were bullied by the admin-

istration of John F. Kennedy to accept "temporary" Indonesian control over what a White House adviser called "a few thousand miles of cannibal land."

The West Papuans were conned. The Dutch, Americans, British and Australians backed an "Act of Free Choice" ostensibly run by the UN. The movements of a UN monitoring team of 25 were restricted by the Indonesian military and they were denied interpreters. In 1969, out of a population of 800,000, some 1,000 West Papuans "voted." All were selected by the Indonesians. At gunpoint, they "agreed" to remain under the rule of General Suharto—who had seized power in 1965 in what the CIA later described as "one of the worst mass murders of the late 20th century."

In 1981, the Tribunal on Human Rights in West Papua, held in exile, heard from Eliezer Bonay, Indonesia's first governor of the province, that approximately 30,000 West Papuans had been murdered during 1963-69. Little of this was reported in the West.

The silence of the "international community" is explained by the fabulous wealth of West Papua. In November 1967, soon after Suharto had consolidated his seizure of power, the Time-Life Corporation sponsored an extraordinary conference in Geneva. The participants included the most powerful capitalists in the world, led by the

the World Bank, "38 per cent of Papua's population is living in poverty, more than double the national average."

The Freeport mines are guarded by Indonesia's Special Forces, who are among the world's most seasoned terrorists, as their documented crimes in East Timor demonstrate. Known as Kopassus, they have been armed by the British and trained by the Australians. Last December, the Howard government in Canberra

The silence of the "international community" is explained by the fabulous wealth of West Papua.

to these people. If the history of human rights is not the history of great power's impunity, the UN must return to West Papua, as it did finally to East Timor. Or do we always have to wait for the crosses to multiply?

For information on how help, visit <http://www.freewestpapua.org/>.

Source: *truthout* Perspective 3/9/06 www.truthout.org

Bush, Singh unmake history

J. Sri Raman

George W. Bush and Manmohan Singh had just finished addressing their joint media conference in New Delhi, after issuing a joint communique on March 2. Singh saw it as an occasion for a dramatic statement. Turning to the US leader, India's Prime Minister declared: "Mr. President, we have made history." They had indeed made history. Or, more correctly, they had unmade history. A three-day visit of President Bush threatened to undo a proud history of decades, of India in the international arena. It also made a more than perceptible difference to the country's current political history.

The three days ended an entire era of India's role as a frontline state in the international struggle for nuclear disarmament. The role, of course, was relinquished with the country's declaration of itself as a nuclear-weapon state in 1998. With the Bush visit, however, India's rulers bade a final and formal farewell to the role. The three days also marked the beginning of a new period when New Delhi may abandon pretensions to an independent foreign policy.

The chief highlight of the visit was the further advance achieved towards a US-India nuclear deal. The much-advertised differences

between the two sides over vital details of the deal were ironed out to produce what was hyped as a "historic" accord, despite the fact that it still awaited US Congressional approval. In the reams already written on the subject, it has been repeatedly pointed out that it represented a US abandonment of its commitment to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), as it "rewarded" a state that had refused to sign the treaty. To an Indian peace activist, it is equally important, if not more so, that the deal represented India's abandonment of principled opposition to the monopolist nuclear militarism of the P5, the "nuclear club" that the country has now come close to entering as a near-equal member.

The immediate political condition for the deal had already been made clear to India: the deal was made dependent on India's compliance with the US on the Iran issue in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). During the Bush visit, this was made part of a broader and more belligerent condition. The US President, in his parting message, called upon India to join his regime in its crusades for "democracy" in such select countries as Myanmar, Syria, Cuba and, of course, Iran. Niceties of protocol did not stop

him from naming countries with which India had good state relations, even as he refrained from drawing attention to a danger to "democracy" in places like Saudi Arabia.

Scoffing at attempts to equate India with Iran, Under Secretary of State Nicholas Burns has stressed the former's "democratic" credentials. Technically, of course, India cannot be given recognition as a nuclear-weapon state in terms of the NPT, as it did not test and acquire nuclear weapons before 1967. The sanction of a special status for India under the deal, however, is in no doubt. The status puts India in a category perilously close to that of Israel.

The Israelization of India spells a danger to South Asia all the more for the unambiguous denial of a similar nuclear deal to Pakistan. Proceeding to Islamabad from India, Bush clearly rejected President Musharraf's demand for a like deal on the grounds of "different (Indian and Pakistani) needs and histories." The Pakistani leader responded by hinting, not so darkly, at "other options" before his country. A nuclear arms race in the subcontinent, with China and the US cheering the rivals on, is now far from a fantasy.

Source: *truthout* / Perspective 3/9/06 www.truthout.org

Stop spread of nukes in India

When President Bush arrived in New Delhi last week, India had the capacity to produce 6 to 10 nuclear weapons per year. When he departed after reaching a tentative nuclear deal with India, that South East Asian nation will potentially be able to produce nearly 50 nuclear weapons per year.

Before the new U.S.-India nuclear agreement is implemented, however, Congress will have to approve changes to existing legislation that would weaken several nonproliferation laws. This deal would undermine years of work by the U.S. to strengthen the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the international agreement endorsed by 188 nations that bans the export of nuclear technology to countries that don't

agree to international inspections of their nuclear programs.

India has refused to sign the NPT and has conducted tests of a nuclear weapon as recently as 1998. Nonetheless, the Bush administration wants to provide India with nuclear technology and fuel. In exchange, India has agreed to international inspections for 14 of its 22 nuclear reactors. This proposal undermines the NPT by tacitly encouraging other countries to make bilateral nuclear agreements with non-NPT members in violation of a basic principle of that agreement.

The proposed U.S.-India agreement could also deteriorate relatively stable relations between India and Pakistan if the latter perceives this agreement to be

an aggressive move. What would stop Pakistan from reaching a similar agreement with China? Furthermore, even while the U.S. is criticizing Iran (an NPT member) for developing its nuclear technology, the U.S. is simultaneously creating a double standard by offering India (a non-NPT member) similar nuclear technology. The U.S. loses a lot from this nuclear agreement with India and gains very little.

ACTION: 1) Congress can block this deal. Call your senators.

Source: *FCNL alert 3/7/06, Friends Committee on National Legislation, 245 Second St. NE, Washington, DC 20002-5795 <http://www.fcnl.org> (202)547-6000*



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Mickey McGuire

A month ago, two letters appeared in the Tracy Press criticizing evolution and defending intelligent design.

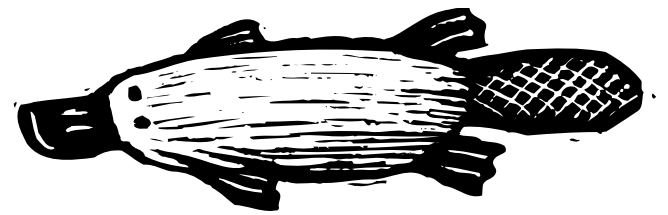
One asked the rhetorical question, "Where's the proof?" Another suggested that, "It all boils down to what is it that you believe?"

Philosophy comes down to what you believe. Science boils down to empirically verifiable facts and repeatable experiments.

The theory of evolution incorporates two fundamental assumptions. First, populations of plants and animals have changed slowly over time. The second is that the motor behind change is the tendency of plants and animals to randomly mutate, allowing the process of the survival of the fittest to naturally select the best traits.

The idea of intelligent design is shorn of the biblical references that used to be part of "creationism." There are various versions of this argument, which include all, or part of the following: Earth is 6,000 to 10,000 years old, all species were created suddenly and simultaneously, and a catastrophic flood caused mass extinctions. There is no scientifically verifiable evidence for any of these conclusions. There is only the "default argument" that says, "Anything in nature that cannot be explained must have supernatural causes."

Proof of evolution can be found throughout the various sciences. One example is in the fossils uncovered in sedimentary rock. Sedimentary rock usually results from solidified sediment deposited on river, lake and ocean bottoms over millions of years. When such areas are uplifted, due to geologic action, rivers cut through the rock forming gorges. The walls of those canyons form a kind of timeline, with the oldest deposits near the bottom and the more recent sediment layered above. Fossils found in the lower strata are the ancestors of the creatures found above them. We have numerous sequential fossil records of how various species have developed over time. Two weeks ago, the



Chinese announced that they had discovered the oldest ancestor yet of Tyrannosaurus rex. It lived 90 million years before the T. rex of "Jurassic Park" fame, was about a third the size of its descendants and had relatively longer arms. The new specimen joins a dozen others on the fossil road to the final version. The fossil record illustrates the process of evolution.

Another source of proof is the presence of vestigial organs in modern creatures, useless leftovers from a previous era. Whales have finger bones in their fins, indicating that they have evolved from land mammals.

Flightless kiwi birds have vestigial functionless wings. Fetal birds develop and lose teeth before they are hatched. Cave dwelling animals and fish have rudimentary sightless eyes and humans have a useless second stomach (the appendix). Studies of the human genome, which tell us about our genetic design, show that at one time humans were able to synthesize (manufacture) vitamin C. Then we discovered fruit. Snakes have an unutilized gene for legs on their genome. All of these examples demonstrate evolution from earlier creatures that had use for such organs and abilities.

Field biologists, like Charles Darwin, have another take on evolution. Darwin concluded that the Galapagos Islands had at one time been a single land mass. As the oceans rose, the peaks became 19 islands.

Landlocked creatures like the iguana and the land tortoise began to change and adapt to slightly different environmental challenges on the various islands. Darwin noted the differences wrought by natural selection.

Field biologists all over the world have corroborated what Darwin observed 170 years ago. Isolated sea islands have a curious similarity. While many have freshwater lakes, none have

freshwater fish. Such islands have no mammals other than bats. They tend to have few species of plants that come in many varieties. The logic of evolution easily explains the unique flora and fauna of isolated ocean islands.

Scientists who study microbiology and insects find other examples of natural selection. Diseases like staphylococcus and tuberculosis have become resistant to our best medicines. Many insects have also developed resistance to modern insecticides. Random mutations have allowed them to adapt to these man-made chemical formulations, many of which never existed previously in nature. Microbes and insects are so numerous and multiply so quickly that they are able to evolve in years instead of millennia.

Lake Nicaragua was, at one time, a body of water like San Francisco Bay. A volcanic eruption closed off the connection to the sea. After years of rainfall the new lake gradually turned from saltwater to fresh. While many sea creatures likely perished, some saltwater fish, including sharks, were able to gradually adapt to become freshwater copies of their sea going cousins a few miles away. This is one more "proof" of evolution.

Some say that we should "teach the controversy." But there is no controversy among practicing scientists.

Supporters of intelligent design have published no empirical studies based on data. There is no controversy about Zeus launching lightning bolts or about Neptune causing hurricanes. These stories belong in an English class until they can meet the same criteria of other theories found in scientific textbooks.

Mickey McGuire, a retired high school social studies teacher, is among a select group of local residents rotating their columns in the Saturday Tracy Press.



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George and Laura breakfast musings and recent events

It has been six months since we last heard from the first couple when, during breakfast, they mused over the trials and tribulations of Katrina, Rita, and Cindy, the triple threat to their comfort zone. They expressed their concern about Tom Delay. George and Laura had no opinion of Jack Abramoff. Abramoff has been accused of extracting millions of dollars from various Indian tribes to buy congressional votes for casino rights. Abramoff was not averse to playing off one tribe from another. He set a new standard in pay for play lobbying.

The president put Social Security on the back burner once the opposition got its act together. That and the Katrina disaster pretty much took the wind out of his sails.

The ongoing insurrection in Iraq coupled with the increasing death toll of American military personnel eroded Bush's support among his faithful followers. His approval rating dipped to 37%. In spite of this depressing news, the president continued to link Iraq to the global war on terrorism. According to the president, democracy is right around the corner and freedom is on the way.

More recently, the president's warrantless, wide-spread wire tapping was exposed by a New York Times investigative reporter, albeit, one year after the fact. When confronted at a news conference, George Bush, in his customary swagger mode, not only owned up to the illegal, unconstitutional wire tapping, he had the chutzpa to declare his inherent presidential power to wire tap, FISA be damned. It is his steadfast contention that the congressional war powers authorization of October 04, covers covert wire tapping and pretty much anything else he deems necessary in fighting the war on terrorism.

Once again, we join George and Laura Bush at a robust breakfast of buttermilk pancakes and sau-

sages. Yummy. What follows is a digest of their sparkling give and take.

Laura: Here we are, George, beginning a new day together before your scheduled appointments and meetings keep you on the go right up to your afternoon nap. I know how much you relish your relaxation time, which no one deserves more than you.

George: Laura, your understanding gives me the confidence I need to do my job. Karl, Dick, Condi, and Karen are supportive but you are second to none.

Laura: You are too kind, George. I can't tell you how proud I am to be married to the champion of freedom and democracy.

George: Thank you, Laura. I needed that. I didn't become president and commander-in-chief by making hard decisions based on which direction the wind blows.

Laura: George, I admire your unwavering persistence in making the hard choices. It upsets me no end when others call it arrogance.

George: Laura, someone once said that it is lonely at the top. It is never lonely when you're with me. The good Lord blessed me the day I met you at the library.

Laura: I remember that day as it was yesterday. You seemed a tad shy when we were introduced by a mutual friend. You were in search of a primer on dyslexia which was on a reading list recommended by your mother.

George: Mother was not subtle in her dedication to my self improvement.

Laura: Speaking of Barbara, she offered to help organize the White House Easter egg hunt. When I accepted her offer she called me a "good egg." I think you have inherited Barbara's sense of humor. You are so silly, at times.

George: Oh, she's a card when she's in a good mood. When she's



on a tear you best watch your backside. Just kidding.

Laura: You are a such a kidder. By the way, Barbara is joining Lynne Cheney and me for lunch next Tuesday. We want to be emotionally supportive of Lynne who was devastated by Dick's unfortunate quail incident.

George: Some wise acre talk show host made the comment that the quail has now been removed from the endangered species list. Dick confided that his hunting days are over. He's going to try his hand at fly fishing. In good fun, I told Dick that it was OK to get hooked on fishing as long as he doesn't hook his fishing partner. He didn't appreciate my comment.

Laura: George, you have such a sense of humor. Maybe a little will rub off on Dick. An occasional smile would do wonders for him.

George: With the increasing number of revelations about Tom Delay, Scooter Libby and Jack Abramoff I could use something to smile about, myself.

Laura: Well, Jen and Barbara will be here on Easter break. Time for a family barbecue at the ranch. That should put a smile on your face.

George: Just what I need along with another side of pancakes and a sausage or two.

Laura: Coming right up, mon cher.

*Reid Cerney,
political pundit*

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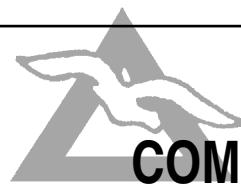
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Tuesday Film Night

6:30 pm, PJN Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton

March 21

After Stonewall

Melissa Etheridge narrates this documentary that explores the progress and challenges of the post-Stonewall lesbian/gay rights movement through archival footage and interviews with leaders such as Barbara Gittings, Armistead Maupin, Jewelle Gomez and Dorothy Allison.

March 28

Arguing the World

This captivating documentary closely examines the climate of the Cold War. At a time when people listened to what great thinkers had to say, Irving Howe, Daniel Bell, Nathan Glazer and Irving Kristol were considered four of the most brilliant and influential minds of their time.

April 4

What the Bleep Do We Know!?

The neurological processes and quantum uncertainty of life are explored in this film. Interviews with various experts are interspersed throughout the film, which combines narrative, documentary and animation.

April 11

Bush's Brain

Karl Rove, President Bush's closest advisor, has almost single-handedly shaped the policies of our nation. Feared and admired by Republicans and Democrats alike, Rove has raised a new and disturbing question for Americans: Who really runs the country?

April 18

Zinn: You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train

Author of "A People's History of the United States," historian and activist Howard Zinn has been at the forefront of progressive thought in America for decades. Matt Damon narrates.

April 25

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington

When idealistic junior senator Jefferson Smith (James Stewart) arrives in Washington, he's full of plans and dazzled by his surroundings—qualities he retains even in the face of widespread corruption on the part of his colleagues.

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Trailhead: Campo Seco Staging Area

Time: April 8, 2006 9:00 am–3:00 pm

Here is a rare chance for you to see this magnificent portion of the Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail (MCCT) without hiking 12 hours round trip from the Campo Seco Staging Area. Last year we saw 40 different species in bloom. We will carpool/caravan to Paloma and 2 miles down Gwin Mine, then turn onto a dirt road go about 1/2 mile and park. Archeologist Philomene Smith will share information on the Chinese that came in search of gold more than a century ago before we start up the trail. Then we will take the "ankle express"(walk) from the Log Boom west to Patti's Point and perhaps beyond on one of the most beautiful and challenging segments of the MCCT on the

EBMUD "Longest Mile".

The route between Spanish Gulch and Patti's Point is very rugged and steep because of property boundaries and topography. The elevation change in this 1/2 mile is 550 feet. From Patti's Point on a clear day one can see Mokelumne Peak (near Bear Valley—close to the terminus of the MCCT), Butte Mountain in Jackson, and the Crystal Range.

Bring a bag lunch, comfortable hiking shoes, backpack, canteen, sunscreen, insect repellent, binoculars and camera. Round trip is about 2-3 miles. Much of the route is a difficult grade but we will stop and smell the roses.

RSVP: Advance registration is required as parking at the Lower Log Boom is limited. Call Steve Diers at (209) 772-8204 or sdiers@ebmud.com for informa-



tion and registration. Limit 75 participants. Participants under the age of 18 must have written permission from a parent or guardian and those under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. No pets or alcoholic beverages. No charge for this event.

Knitting at the PJC

Peig Fairbrook will teach a knitting workshop at the Center beginning Monday, May 15th, at 3:30 pm. Classes will be 1-1/2 hours in length for a total of 6 weekly sessions. The fee for the entire workshop is \$50 per person. Mothers and daughters might wish to join together for this fun class! Or fathers and sons. A minimum of 6 people is required to begin.

Peig is a gifted local artist, with her pottery, hand-painted silk scarves, and fabric art displayed throughout our community. At the time of enrollment, a materials list will be sent to those attending. Please call the Peace & Justice Center at 467-4455 to express your interest and obtain more information. To view a sampling of Peig's work, visit her website at <http://www.peig.net>.

Meditation Class

April 26 - May 17
Wednesdays 6:30-8:30
With Connie Nafzinger

The Peace and Justice Center is proud to present a six-week series of peace meditation classes called "From Inner Peace to Outer Peace".

Peace isn't just an ideal; it's a way of life, a way of breathing and living. We often forget to stop and breathe and simply enjoy being. This series of classes will build simple skills which enable you to stop for a moment and re-center yourself, giving

your mind and body a chance to heal and change and reflect that peace which lives in our hearts. We are building our society from the inside out.

Connie Nafzinger is a peace educator and meditation teacher who has worked in The Netherlands, Scotland, England, and the United States promoting peace within and around us.

Register by calling 467-4455 or by visiting our Center at 231 Bedford Road, Stockton. \$40 registration fee.

Sex and the environment

Annette Souder, the Sierra Club director of Global Population and Environmental Program, will discuss "Sex and the Environment," addressing the environmental problems as a result of the population boom. The Global Population Program's mission is to protect the global environment by supporting efforts that slow population growth like access to reproductive healthcare and a basic education. The program will start at 6 pm, Thursday, March 23 in the President's Room on the UOP campus. Refreshments will be served. Admission is free.

Volunteer at Asparagus Fest

Concerned Citizens of Stockton is recruiting volunteers to raise funds by working at the Asparagus Festival April 21-23. The task is simple and your time will help cover the costs of League for Voter Education projects and legal assistance. If you are interested, email sylwv@aol.com, call 464-1004 or 465-0293.

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April Calendar

Feb 4 - Apr 2

Student Art Exhibition, Haggin Museum, 1201 Pershing Ave, Stockton (Victory Park). 940-6315

Mar 6 - Apr 1

Steve Pereira watercolor show, M-F 10-5, Sat 11-3. Tidewater Gallery, 223 E. Weber Ave. 463-4033

Mar 9-Apr 6

Adele Fox mixed media artist, Delta College Horton Gallery, Tue 11-4, Wed/Thu 11-6:30, F 11-1 954-5507

Mon, Mar 20

Pacific Arts Woodwind Quintet concert, 7:30 pm, UOP Recital Hall 946-2344

Thur, Mar 23

Sex and the environment—talk by Annette Souder, UOP President's Room, 6 pm. Refreshments. Free. 662-0932 (see page 18).

Mar 24-Apr 15

Stockton Civic Theatre presents Pulitzer Prize-winning play Picnic, Thurs 7:30 pm, Fri/Sat 8 pm, Sun 2:30 pm. 2312 RoseMarie Lane. \$20/\$18/\$15/\$8. 473-2424.

Sat, Mar 25

Community Band Festival, 8 am, Delta College Atherton Auditorium, Free. 954-5110.

Delta College Concert Band concert. 7:30 pm. Delta College Atherton Auditorium, \$5-7.50. 954-5110.

Sun, Mar 26

Peace & Justice Spring Fest 1:00–5:00 pm. Food, music and lively interaction. Join us in welcoming spring and new beginnings! Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Road, off Pacific Avenue Miracle Mile. Free, donations welcome (see page 20).

Friends of Chamber Music presents the Rosetti String Quartet. 2:30 pm. Spanos Concert Hall, UOP. \$25, UOP/Delta students free, other students \$5 with ID. 946-0540

Sat, Apr 1

Dance Recital—All the Right Moves. 8 pm. Delta College Atherton Auditorium, \$11-13. 954-5110.

Mon, Apr 3

Dave Brubeck Festival: David Grisman quintet, Spanos Concert Hall, 7:30 pm. Public \$20-25, seniors/students \$15-20. 946-2867

Tues, Apr 4

Dave Brubeck Festival: Bobby Watson with Pacific Jazz Ensemble and Young Sounds of San Joaquin, Spanos Concert Hall, 7:30 pm. \$10/\$5 UOP students free. 946-2867

Wed, Apr 5

Bolivarian Movement series part 1: The struggle for education in Mexico. Film "Grain of Sand" presented by Dr. Nelly Blacker-Hanson. Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd. 6:30 pm. Free, donations accepted. (see p. 20).

Dave Brubeck Festival: Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra and the Brubeck Institute Jazz Quintet, Spanos Concert Hall, 7:30 pm. \$20-25/\$15-20. 946-2867

Thur, Apr 6

P&J Center meeting, Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. 6 pm. All welcome.

Peace & Justice Network board meeting, P&J Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. 7 pm. All welcome.

Thu, Apr 6; Sat, Apr 8

UOP University Choirs with the Stockton Symphony Orchestra

performing Belshazzar's Feast by William Walton. Thur 8 pm, Sat 6 pm Atherton Auditorium, Delta College. 946-2116

Fri, Apr 7

Dave Brubeck Festival: Poncho Sanchez Latin Jazz Band, Spanos Concert Hall, 7:30 pm. \$20-25, seniors/students \$15-20 946-2867

Sat, Apr 8

Mokelumne River walk, 9 am 772-8204 (see p 18).

Wed, Apr 12

Bolivarian Movement series part 2: Venezuela and the World Social Forum presented by Gail Ryall. P&J Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. 6:30 pm. Free admission, donations accepted (see p 20).

Thur, Apr 13

Health Care for All San Joaquin group meeting, 6-8 pm. P&J Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton.

Wed, Apr 19

Bolivarian Movement series part 3: "The Revolution will not be Televised" film, detailing the failed coup v. Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. P&J Center, 231 Bedford Rd. 6:30 pm. Free, donations accepted (see p 20).

Apr 21–23

High school art show at the P&J Center, 231 Bedford (see page 20)

Sun, Apr 22

Calaveras County Earth Day Celebration, Utica Park, Angels Camp. 11 am–5 pm. Great food, bands, booths, and more. Free.

UOP Symphonic Wind Ensemble concert, 2:30 pm. Spanos Concert Hall, UOP. 946-2116

Tues, Apr 25

"A Forgotten Resistance: The Mosque of Paris", 26-minute film about French Muslims aiding Jewish children and the Resistance during World War II, followed by a discussion with Holocaust survivor Annette Herskovits. 7:30 pm. Pacific Theater, UOP. Free. 298-1442 (see p. 18).

Sun, Apr 30

Earth Day Festival, Victory Park, Stockton. 11 am-5 pm. Great food, bands, booths, and more. Free!

Fri, May 6

Mother's Day Jewelry/Art/Craft Gift Show. P&J Center (more details next issue).

Weekly

Tuesdays

Stockton City Council Meeting, every Tuesday at City Hall, 5:30 pm. <http://www.stocktongov.com/clerk/pages/CouncilAgenda.htm>

PJN Website Corner

Join us at <http://www.pjnsjc.org>

The Peace and Justice Network website is growing by leaps and bounds. Go to <http://www.pjnsjc.org> and unleash the power of the internet.

You can find all of the information about our new Peace and Justice Center and the diverse programs presented there.

Sign up for our new listserv. This is a subscriber e-mail list we will use to announce events and send other information vital to our activities.

Our monthly newspaper, *Connections*, is available online, as well as information about our

cable access TV shows "Talking it Through" and "The Reality Show".

You might find the resource pages most valuable. "Become an Activist" or "Volunteer." To connect to organizations that do various social justice work, go to the "Related Links" page. Be sure to check the variety of alternative media links.

Last but not least, on our home page is a "Donate Now" button which will take you to a secure server to donate to PJN with ease and safety from your home or office.

Peace and Justice Network



of San Joaquin County

Tai Chi, 6-8 pm, Northeast Community Center, 2885 E Harding Way.

Center, 2885 E. Harding Way & Golden Gate.

First & Third Fridays

Poetry, 8:30–10:30 pm Latte Lounge, 235 E Miner Ave. 466-6224.

Monthly

Second Mon
PFLAG meeting 209-870-3339.

Saturdays

Birding Field Trips with S.J. Audubon Society. sanjoaquinaudubon.org

Tai Chi Chuan at the Confucius Church on Lafayette St., 8:30 am–11: am. (209) 952-8582.

Sundays

Tai Chi, 2:30–4, Northeast Community

UOP Theater Film Schedule

All films begin at 8 pm at Pacific Theatre, unless stated
Cost: \$5 to general public; \$3 to faculty, staff and alumni;
Free to UOP students

March—Women's History Month series

23,24,25 March of the Penguins
30,21 Rent

April

1 Rent
6,7,8 Original Blues Brothers
13,14,15 Brokeback Mountain

French series

20 The Piano Teacher
21 Sex is Comedy
22 A Very Long Engagement
27,28,29 Memiors of a Geisha

May

4,5,6 Monster
6 @ 10 pm Dazed and Confused

Talking It Through

Talking It Through is now two half-hour shows.

The Real Show hosted by Margee Ensign is on Monday at 6pm

Talking It Through is hosted by Adrian Nichols and Sammy Nunez every Monday evening at 6:30pm

SJTV: Stockton, Lodi and Manteca cable channel 26

EDUCATION • ENVIRONMENT • POLITICS • CULTURE

Sponsored by the Peace & Justice Network, InterFaith Council of San Joaquin County, Pacific Complementary Medicine Center

Check the TV page of Wednesday's Record for latest info.

**Studio volunteers wanted! All ages...we'll train.
Call 467-4455.**

Latin America on the rise: the Bolivarian Movement

Jim Walsh

The Peace and Justice Network of San Joaquin County will sponsor a series of programs about the Bolivarian Movement currently gaining momentum in Latin America. Highlighted at the recent World Social Forum meeting in Caracas, Venezuela, the Bolivarian Movement is an alternative to the neoliberal agenda, or "globalization." Come learn of the struggle for self-determination by the people of Latin America.

The series will be presented on three consecutive Wednesday evenings starting at 6:30 pm at the Peace and Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd. The programs are free; donations are gladly accepted and greatly appreciated.

A discussion will follow each program. Other resources will be available at the Peace and Justice Center, open 10:00 to 3:00 pm weekdays. For more information, call 467-4455 or visit our website at <http://www.pjnsjc.org>.

April 5

The first program on the struggle for public education in Mexico will be hosted by Dr.

Nelly Blacker-Hanson, currently a visiting Assistant Professor at UOP. She will show the film documentary "Granito de arena (Grain of Sand)" by Jill Freiberg. The film is 62 minutes long.

For over 20 years, global economic forces have been dismantling public education in Mexico. Granito de Arena is the story of that resistance—the story of hundreds of thousands of schoolteachers whose grassroots, non-violent movement took Mexico by surprise, and who have endured brutal repression in their 25-year struggle to defend public education.

April 12

The second program on Venezuela and the World Social Forum will be led by Gail Ryall, who represents the Coalition of Labor Union Women on the Sacramento Central Labor Council. For two weeks in January and February of this year, she accompanied the U.S./Cuba Labor Exchange to Venezuela and Colombia. Besides attending the Sixth World Social Forum in Caracas and seeing health, housing and anti-poverty projects, the delegation met with labor unions

and other organizations.

Using slides and narrative, she will describe what she saw and heard on the trip, comparing Venezuela and Colombia.

April 19

The concluding program will feature the documentary film "The Revolution will not be Televised." On April 12, 2002, the world awoke to the news that Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez had been removed from office. Two independent filmmakers were inside the presidential palace at that time. They were also present 48 hours later when, remarkably, he returned to power amid cheering aides. Their film records what was probably history's shortest-lived coup d'état. It's an extraordinary portrait of the man the *Wall Street Journal* credits with making Venezuela "Washington's biggest Latin American headache after the old standby, Cuba."

The Center Needs You!

Do you have a talent you would like to share it with the community?

Drama Club

Do you want to act? Direct? Write? If so join in the fun of live theater at the Center.

House Band

Can you play an instrument? Or sing? Help us start a PJC house band to play at the Center and other PJN events.

Education Series

Share your talent and unique knowledge with the community through our ongoing educational programs.

Call 467-4455 or come by the Center to join in the fun.

connections

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Mail to: Peace & Justice Network, Box 4123,
Stockton, CA 95204 (209) 467-4455

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Connections is supported by donations and advertisers.



Peace And Justice Center

SPRINGFEST

2006


Join us for the first weekend in Spring at the Peace and Justice Center for a celebration of the season.

Live Entertainment
Free Food
Spring Surprises
March 26 1:00 - 6:00

Free Admission. Donations Accepted

Peace & Justice Center

High School Art Show



featuring students from
Stockton & Lincoln Unified School Districts

231 Bedford Road, Miracle Mile, Stockton
Friday, Saturday, Sunday - April 21-23, 2006

Friday, April 21 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Saturday & Sunday, April 22-23 12:00 - 5:00 pm

Judges provided by The Stockton Art League
For further information, contact Peace & Justice Center
(209) 467-4455 or email: pjcsjc@sbcglobal.net