

connections

Volume XXIV, Number 7

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Aug/Sept 2006

SAVE THE DATES

JULY 29
HEALTH RALLY..... 3

AUGUST 6
HIROSHIMA
REMEMBERED.... 1 & 6

SEPTEMBER 9
CONNECTIONS 20TH
ANNIVERSARY PARTY!

TUESDAYS
FRENCH FILM SERIES
..... 18 & 20

4TH THURSDAY
PEACE VIGILS.. 5 & 19

IN THIS ISSUE

ISRAEL/PALESTINE:
SOLUTIONS..... 3

BUSH V. GENEVA 4

NOT IN OUR NAME.. 5

REGISTER VOTERS .. 7

PROPOSITIONS 10

DOOLITTLES GET RICH
..... 11

August 6

Commemoration of Hiroshima Let the mistake not be repeated

An interfaith commemoration (atheists welcome) of the U.S. atomic bombings of Japan will be held at 6 PM Sunday evening, August 6 at Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Avenue in Stockton. The service will be held on the outdoor plaza in front of the church, and on the steps and lawn next to Pacific Avenue.

Pastor Dave Bennett of the church will take part, as will Fr. John Armistead of the Catholic Cathedral, Rev. Charles Hasegawa of the Stockton Buddhist Temple, Rev. Rick Nafzinger of the Circle of the Feminine Divine, Rabbi Raphael Pazo of Lodi, and Imam Osman Zarif, Jr. The keynote speaker will be David Dionisi, author of the new book *American Hiroshima* and co-founder of Freedom from War.

Live music will be provided by John Morearty on the Japanese bamboo flute, by soprano Renata Bricka, and by Rabbi Pazo on the Scottish bagpipes.

Please bring flowers in memory of the more than 200,000 people, mostly civilians, who died in the bombings, and in memory of those on all sides killed in the Pacific in World War Two. As the Hiroshima Memorial reads, "Let the mistake not be repeated."

The event is co-sponsored by the Peace and Justice Network and by Freedom from War. Information: Jim Walsh, 981-0544, or John Morearty, 464-3326.



**Vigils for peace—
every 4th Tues & Thurs**

The Delta lawn vigil/demonstrations are just north of Yokuts along Pacific Avenue, every fourth Thursday, 5-6:30 PM. The Cathedral vigils are at Lincoln/Rose Streets, every fourth Tuesday at 7 PM sharp. July 25, August 22 etc. All are welcome. See calendar for details and contacts.

Connections: 20 years & counting!

Come to the party!

You are heartily invited to come celebrate our first 20 years on Saturday, September 9th, from 1:00–5:00 pm at Oak Park (at California & Alpine in Stockton).



Connections has been an alternative to the mainstream news in our community since August 1986. Through

the years, there have been many changes. In production, cut and paste layout and the long drive to Galt have been replaced by a fancy computer and email. Local reporting has intensified and the quality and quantity of information available has increased amazingly thanks to the internet.

What hasn't changed is the dedication of our all-volunteer staff, from the editors (Laurie Litman 1986–91, Marj Fries 1992–95, Bruce Giudici 1996–2006), to the writers, ad reps, layout people, proofreaders, mailers, distributors, donors, and many others.

We have provided news for 20 years, during which time the mainstream media has become ever more concentrated and powerful. Papers like *Connections* provide a desperately needed alternative perspective to the corporate media. We offer the context to help you make sense of your daily news and resources to become truly informed and involved with the issues. *Connections* strives to keep you connected to the reality-based world.

So join us in honoring the hundreds of volunteers and loyal supporters who have made *Connections* possible all these years, and spend an enjoyable day at the park. Food and refreshments will be provided; you are welcome to bring a side dish or beverage to share. There will be a brief program at 2:30. Please RSVP by calling 467-4455 with the total in your party so we know how many to expect.



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Hold onto your seats

Bruce Giudici

What is it with this generation? Did we miss the lessons of ethics when growing up? Truly regrettable, for we now harvest the bounty of a system invested in corruption, passing the buck and doing unto others before they do unto you. It is a cancer that we must stop, even if we appear unrealistic and idealistic to those accustomed to the sewer in which our leaders thrive. To elaborate:

Locally, we have arenas built with neighborhood revitalization funds, while big box stores oozing sales tax dollars put local businesses out to pasture. Super levees are constructed to protect Lathrop only, putting those with weaker levees at risk. Meanwhile, developers get rich in the flood plain we tax payers will bail out when the floods hit (remember New Orleans). And we have our local politicians who shout loud and clear that we cannot open the empty prison facility on Arch Road to prisoners (because we have too much of that here already), while

also insisting that the 3 strikes law needs no changes (despite the recent prison overcrowding is a direct result of this law and the unsuccessful racist "war on drugs").

Nationally, we borrow from Social Security to fund tax breaks for our richest 1%, and then cut any funding that benefits the bottom 99%. Spared from cuts are homeland security and "defense" (read: piggy banks for well-connected politicians) and, of course, the interest on the national debt. The Bush regime crows at a deficit below \$300 billion (the fourth largest in history, but less than their previous bloated estimate), while borrowing for the rich precludes any concept of a surplus in our lifetimes. Mismanagement such as this has a name: fraud, and it is well rewarded. Once the criminals in the Bush regime are turned out one way or another, they will land in the private sector well-rewarded for 8 years of unprecedented larceny.

Internationally, hold onto your seats. The chickens are coming home to roost, big time. Israel may have set off the powder keg—bombing Lebanon and Palestine for a few kidnappings. That, and the Iraq disaster, makes Iran a mighty player in a region Bush thinks only needs a few elections to "fix." And they call us naive. The election talk is, of course, a ruse (the Palestinians had an election, didn't they?); the objective of \$3 gas and enough international unrest to keep it there is Bush's "Mission Accomplished."

The options before us today are all bad, especially given our experience with Bush who, in his sixth year in office, has no diplomatic success or experience to point to. Regardless, keeping the polling numbers close enough to fix the vote on election day is the Republican recipe for success

Bruce Giudici



these days, so the flags are waved, immigrants are scapegoated, and marriage is trumpeted to rally the easily deceived. For the rest of us, regardless of party, we know what we see—and it has to change. As election day creeps up and set-for-life politicians get desperate, stay alert to what the Bush regime orchestrates our Congress to authorize. It could get scary.

There is action stirring, though, where ever you live. Join a voter registration drive, protest in the street, write, and speak. The worse it gets, the more examples for change we have. Use the information in Connections, and then hit the web for more alternative sources. It is a great time for getting informed on the issues. Have a great summer.

Enough plutonium!

Nestled in the suburbs of Livermore, just 50 miles from San Francisco, is one of the worlds primary nuclear weapons labs—the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. It's the birthplace for a new generation of nuclear bombs and could soon be the home of up to 3,080 pounds of plutonium.

In November, 2005, a legal decision allowed Livermore Lab to double its plutonium limit from 1,540 to 3,080 pounds. Livermore Lab is situated on earthquake faults. When the decision to double plutonium was made, Livermore Lab's plutonium facility was on stand down, for chronic safety violations—including storing plutonium in paint and food cans.

One microscopic particle of plutonium, if inhaled, can cause lung cancer and numerous other diseases. For decades, Livermore Lab released plutonium to the city sewage system. Plutonium has been found in city parks.

Tri-Valley CAREs, the Livermore based "watchdog" for the nuclear weapons lab, has launched a petition campaign to stop the Dept. of Energy from trucking more plutonium to Livermore Lab kicks into high gear. You can help—from

your home or by "hitting the streets" with Tri-Valley CAREs.

To date, about 5,500 signatures have been collected to stop Livermore Lab from increasing its plutonium. Tri-Valley CAREs plans to collect 10,000 signatures, en route to stopping this dangerous plan. In response to pressure, the Dept. of Energy has announced plans to remove all special nuclear materials (including weapons grade plutonium) from Livermore by 2014. This is not a legal decision, and the Lab admits they may still increase plutonium.

There are 3 ways you can participate: (1) go to www.trivalleycares.org and download a copy of our petition. Get your friends to sign and mail it to us. (2) go to www.actforchange.com/livermore and sign an e-petition. And, saving the best for last, (3) join the wonderful group of people taking the petition into the community.

You can help us double and triple our effectiveness. With many hands and hearts pitching in, 10,000 signatures can be a piece of cake. To get involved, call Mary at (925) 443-7148 or www.trivalleycares.org.

Connections

Editor: Bruce Giudici, 786-3109; bgiudici@caltel.com

Associate Editors:

War & peace: John Morearty

Politics: Gary Barrington

Environment: vacant

Layout: Laurie Litman

Proofreader: Debbie Cousyn

Ad Rep: Beth Luna, 931-4543

Distribution Coordinator: Doris Haskell, 477-5166

Distribution Site: The Woodshed, 630 N. Grant, 462-8834

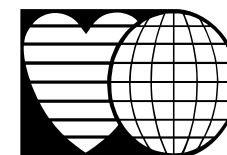
Distributors: Rosemary Atkinson, Reid Cerney, Eric Parfrey, Art Raab, Derrick Shavers, John Whitlock, and many others

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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."

Feedback

How can Iowa float?

Editor,

Is anyone else feeling frustrated about the idea of floating the battleship USS Iowa at the Port of Stockton? The City Council took a vote last night to spend \$42,250 to have a consultant look at the idea. The USS Iowa would have to be turned into a museum and right now there is no sum of money earmarked for such a project. According to the Record and the Port Director, the Council would have to use funds already earmarked for development of Rough and Ready Island.

We have seen in the past years with the ball park and the arena how ideas become structures and overruns not budgeted in the first place get stolen from all sources of other city funds. Is it really realistic that we as a city would have that many tourists visiting the port and wanting to see a battle ship? Right now, when you stroll downtown

on the waterfront on Saturday or Sunday, it is deserted.

We are not a big tourist town, and the last place I want to bring my grandchildren to entertain them is on a battle ship when I strive and hope for peace in our world, peace in our homes and less violence in our community.

City Council: please get our priorities right and do not put the city into more debt for entertainment until you face some of the real issues in the community. Our children do not deserve a city budget that has overruns, old battleships to finance and maintain when it is not safe for children to play in the parks, ride their bikes or even afford to use the Stockton Arena!

Mayor Ed Chavez: now that we got rid of Mark Lewis, let's not play his games any more. Work on keeping this Council squeaky clean.

Peig Fairbrook

Israel/Palestine—a thoughtful look with possible solutions

Rabbi Michael Lerner

The people of the Middle East are suffering again as militarists on all sides, and cheerleading journalists, send forth missiles, bombs and endless words of self-justification for yet another pointless round of violence between Israel and her neighbors. For those of us who care deeply about human suffering, this most recent episode in irrationality evokes tears of sadness, incredulity at the lack of empathy on all sides, anger at how little anyone seems to have learned from the past, and moments of despair as we once again see the religious and democratic ideals subordinated to the cynical realism of militarism.

Meanwhile, the partisans on each side, content to ignore the humanity of "the Other," rush to assure their constituencies that the enemy is always to blame. Each such effort is pointless. We have a struggle that has been going on for over a hundred years. Who tosses the latest match into the tinder box matters little. What matters is how to repair the situation. The blame game only succeeds in diverting attention from that central issue.

Within the context of blame, there's enough to go around. It all depends on where you start the story. Counting on lack of historical memory, the partisans on all sides choose the place that best fits them into a narrative in which they are the "righteous victims" and the others are the evil aggressors.

Palestinians like to start the story in 1948 with the expulsion of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their homes during the war on Israel proclaimed by neighboring Arab states, and the refusal of the Israeli government to allow these people to return to once the hostilities ceased. Israelis prefer to start the story when Jews were desperately seeking to escape from the genocide they faced in Europe, and a cynical Arab leadership convinced the British military to side with local Palestinians who sought to prevent those Jewish refugees from joining their fellow Jews living in Palestine at the time. I tell the story, and how to understand both sides, in my book *Healing Israel/Palestine*.

Or one can start more recently,

with this summer's escalation of violence. But where exactly did that start? (Go to the Israeli Human Rights Organization B'tselem website [<http://www.btselem.org>] to see that each side can point to outrageous acts on the part of the other.)

A beginning...

Since the death of Yasir Arafat and the assumption of power by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, Palestine's major political factions—Fatah and Hamas—observed a hudna, or ceasefire. Yet Israel, pointing to the fact that Abbas' police force (decimated by Israeli bombings during the 2nd Intifada of 2001-2003) was unable to fully restrain the violence of Hamas, the Al-Aqsa Martyr's Brigade and Islamic Jihad, used that weakness as its reason to claim that there was "nobody to talk to" when the peace forces in Israel pleaded (with former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and later with current PM Ehud Olmert) that the Palestinian request for negotiations should be accepted.

Instead, Israel announced a unilateral withdrawal from Gaza and the northern West Bank (implemented in 2005) and from forthcoming sections of the West Bank (to have begun with the removal of illegal outposts this summer) that would de facto create new borders. These borders would incorporate into Israel large parts of the West Bank that Israel had agreed to leave during the 1990s.

It wouldn't be hard to see why Sharon went ahead with the unilateral withdrawal. If his intention was, as stated, to hold on to as much of the West Bank as possible, it would be far easier to convince the world that "there is nobody to talk to" if Hamas would win the coming election, since Hamas was universally recognized to be a terrorist group. When the Palestinian people complied by falling for this trick and establishing a government run by people who refused to acknowledge the right of Israel to exist, it was easy for Olmert to affirm the Sharon unilateralism and announce plans to withdraw from the West Bank that would be the political cover for Israel

annexing significant parts of the Occupied Territory. Hamas played its expected role by lobbing Qassam rockets at Israeli population centers, thereby "proving" for the Israeli right that any withdrawal would only intensify Israeli vulnerability and give Israeli hard-liners reason to oppose Olmert's partial withdrawal as appeasement that had already failed to bring peace in Gaza.

Of course, from the standpoint of Hamas, this was only part of an ongoing struggle to free thousands of Palestinians who continue to be "arrested" (or, from the Palestinian perspective "kidnapped") by the IDF, incarcerated without charges or trial for six months in huge prison camps, often subject to torture.

Yet Hamas, faced with an economic boycott (including the withholding to Hamas of taxes Israel collected from Palestinians that Israel had previously promised it would give back to the Palestinian Authority) that was preventing it from being able to function as a government, made statements that indicated it was exploring the idea of de facto recognition.

For Israeli militarists and the settlers, Hamas recognition of Israel, however partial, would have been a dramatic propaganda defeat. Within days Israelis began shelling inside Gaza (allegedly to stop Hamas' firing of Qassam rockets against Israeli population centers). One such shell landed on a Gaza beach, killing a family of eight. A few days later, a Hamas group captured Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, and Israel used this as its excuse to implement a plan it had developed months before to re-enter Gaza and destroy the Hamas infrastructure.

Escalation

At this point a huge escalation took place. Instead of narrowly focusing on Hamas' capacity to make war, the Israelis chose the path of collective punishment, a frequently ineffective counterinsurgency policy used to eliminate public support for resistance movements. In the height of the oppressive summer heat, Israel bombed the electricity grid, effectively cutting off Gaza's water and the electricity needed to keep refrigeration working, thereby

(continued on page 15)

July 29, Weber Point

Join newly formed SJ County Health Care Coalition

July 29, 2006 at the Weber Point Waterfront under the big awning, 10:00 am–2:00 pm.

The problems of rampant health care inequities are well known. The crisis, which impacts health care in San Joaquin County, is lamented on a daily basis. While there are no immediate "fixes" to the problems which have developed over the past few years, there are positive trends toward solving the issues.

Health Care for All-San Joaquin has long worked toward SB 840 (Kuehl) and universal, comprehensive, single-payer health care for all California residents. Many other groups have supported this effort. Now, we're joining forces in a Health Care Coalition: California School Employees Association Chapters 318 and 821 took the lead in forming this activist group.

Other members include Peace and Justice Network, Interfaith Council of San Joaquin, Stockton Teachers Association, California Nurses Association, California Alliance for Retired Americans, League of Women Voters, Service Employees International Union, Democrats of Greater Stockton, Lincoln Teachers Association, Persons and Congregations Together (PACT), Catholic Charities, Grey Panthers and Carpenters Local 25. It is exciting to realize that such a wide representation from so many facets of our community are working together to make affordable health care a reality for all.

Join us! For more information, contact Jerry or Carol Bailey, (209) 951-0499; cjbhcfasj@hotmail.com or Chris Niehaus (209) 472-6108; cniehaus@csea.com

Study: Canadian health care system beats US

Harvard Medical School has released a study revealing that Canada's health care program is doing a better job of taking care of its citizens than the U.S. health care system... and at half the price. "Most of what we hear about the Canadian health care system is negative; in particular, the long waiting times for medical procedures," said Dr. Karen Lasser an instructor of medicine at Harvard who worked on the study. But the survey found the wait times weren't that different between the U.S. and Canada. What's more, twice as much money is spent on medical bills per person in the U.S. in comparison to Canada,

yet Canadians are healthier and live two to three years longer. According to the survey results, "Canadians were 7 percent more likely to have a regular doctor and 19 percent less likely to have an unmet health need." U.S. respondents were almost twice as likely to go without a needed medicine due to cost. "Based on our findings, if I had to choose between the two systems for my patients, I would choose the Canadian system hands down," said Dr. Lasser.

Learn more: http://www.organicconsumers.org/2006/article_636.cfm



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"Together, we will walk the pathway to health and wholeness."

Pentagon applies Geneva rules to detainees



The Bush administration's belated decision to recognize the applicability of the Geneva Conventions to terrorism suspects in military custody is a step forward, Human Rights Watch said mid July. But because the Pentagon memorandum that codifies the change does not extend to detainees held by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), it represents only partial compliance with the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in Hamdan v. Rumsfeld.

"The Pentagon's decision to apply the Geneva rules to anyone captured on the battlefield is welcome news for soldiers around the world," said Joanne Mariner, terrorism and counterterrorism director at Human Rights Watch. "The Geneva rules protect everyone taken into custody in wartime, including American servicemen and women."

The administration's decision is an important reversal from past policy. In January 2002, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld announced that detainees captured in Afghanistan were "unlawful combatants" who were not entitled to protection under the 1949 Geneva Conventions governing the humane treatment of prisoners. Human Rights Watch emphasized at that time that the U.S. approach was tragically shortsighted. By ignoring its obligations under the Geneva Conventions, the United States was undercutting the viability of these crucial international protections.

The July 7 memo, signed by U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England, instructs recipients to ensure that all Department of Defense (DOD) policies, practices and directives comply with Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions. "You will ensure that all DOD personnel adhere to these standards," the memo says, citing the Supreme Court's decision in Hamdan.

Notably, the Pentagon memo asserts that Defense Department policies and practices already comply with Common Article 3. This claim severely undercuts

the administration's assertion, made in current debates over the Hamdan ruling, that compliance with Common Article 3 would impose an unreasonable burden on U.S. troops.

Common Article 3 provides that all detainees, whether prisoners of war, civilians or so-called unlawful combatants, are legally entitled to humane treatment in all circumstances. They may not be subject to "cruel treatment and torture" or "outrages upon personal dignity, in particular, humiliating and degrading treatment."

While the United States has consistently claimed that it treats detainees humanely as a matter of policy, its views of what constitutes humane treatment have been far off the mark. Bush administration officials have, for example, claimed that "waterboarding" (suffocating a person until he believes he is about to drown) is not torture. In a November 2002 memorandum to Rumsfeld, Defense Department General Counsel William J. Haynes also stated that abusive techniques such as forced nudity and 20-hour interrogation might also "be legally available."

Human Rights Watch expressed concern that the Pentagon's recognition of the applicability of Common Article 3 only covered detainees in U.S. military custody, and not those held by the CIA. Some three dozen terrorist suspects are believed to be in CIA custody in secret prisons abroad, and there have been numerous, credible allegations that they have been subject to torture.

Human Rights Watch also noted that many CIA and military detainees were not captured as part of an armed conflict. Although the U.S. government has asserted that anyone apprehended for involvement in terrorism may be treated as an enemy combatant, no matter where they are found and regardless of the circumstances, this open-ended expansion of the concept of armed conflict has no basis under international law.

Human Rights Watch pointed

out that a number of detainees held at Guantánamo and in Iraq were captured during international armed conflicts, and thus merit the protections of the Third or Fourth Geneva Conventions. Those conventions extend to all combatants captured in international armed conflicts, even those who are deemed to be unprivileged combatants not entitled to prisoner-of-war status.

Because terrorist groups are not states, other military operations against them are covered by Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions, which governs armed conflicts that are not between two states. Those detained as a result of such military operations must be protected from mistreatment as provided under Common Article 3.

The Pentagon's policy change goes some way toward bringing Defense Department policies into compliance with the Supreme Court's recent ruling in Hamdan v. Rumsfeld. In that decision, the court ruled that the military commissions established at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba by President George W. Bush were illegal under both U.S. military law and the Geneva Conventions. In reaching this conclusion, the court found that Common Article 3 to the Geneva Conventions applies to the armed conflict with al-Qaeda.

"This policy change does not impose new burdens on U.S. soldiers, nor will it impede their effectiveness," Mariner said. "Rather, it enhances U.S. moral authority at a time when that authority has been under serious question."

Source: HRW press release 7/11/06
www.hrw.org

Not in our name: Vietnam, Iraq and the voters' pledge

Dan Ellsberg

According to recent opinion polls, most Iraqis don't believe that we're making things better or safer in their country. What does that say about the legitimacy of prolonged occupation, much less permanent American bases in Iraq? What does it mean for continued American armored patrols such as the one last November in Haditha, which, we now learn, led to the deaths of a Marine and 24 unarmed civilians?

Questions very much like these nagged at my conscience at the height of the Vietnam War, and led, eventually, to the publication of the first of the Pentagon Papers in June of 1971, 35 years ago.

As a former Marine Commander and defense analyst in 1970, I had exclusive access to highly classified defense documents for research purposes. They came to be known as the Pentagon Papers and constituted a 47-volume, top-secret Defense Department history of American involvement in Vietnam titled, "U.S. Decision-making in Vietnam, 1945-68." The Pentagon Papers made it very clear that I, like the rest of the American public, had been misled about the origins and purposes of the war I had participated in -- just as are the 85% of the troops in Iraq today who still believe that Saddam Hussein was responsible for 9/11 and that he was allied with Al Qaeda.

Deja vu

That period had several similarities to this one. Congress was debating the withdrawal of U.S. armed forces from Indochina while President Nixon was making secret plans to expand, rather than exit from, the ongoing war in Southeast Asia -- including a major air offensive against North Vietnam, possibly using nuclear weapons. Today, the Bush administration's threats to wage war against Iran are explicit, with officials reiterating regularly that the nuclear "option" is "on the table." Americans saw the color photographs of the My Lai massacre; now we are seeing photographs eerily similar to those from Haditha: women, children,

old men and babies, all shot at short range.

What was it that prompted me to begin copying 7,000 pages of highly classified documents -- an act that I fully expected would send me to prison for life? I came to the conclusion that the system I had been part of, giving my unquestioning loyalty to for 15 years, as a Marine, a Pentagon official and a State Department officer in Vietnam, was a system that lies reflexively, at every level, from sergeant to commander in chief, about murder. And I had the evidence to prove it.

The papers showed very clearly how we had become engaged in a reckless war of choice in someone else's country -- a country that had not attacked us -- for our own domestic and external purposes. It became clear to me that the justifications that had been given for our involvement were false. And if the war itself

was unjust, then all the victims of our firepower were being killed without justification.

That's murder.

Haditha holds a mirror up not just to American troops in the field, but to our whole society. Not just to the liars in government but to those who believe them too easily. And to all of us in the public, in the administration, in Congress and the media who dissent so far ineffectively or who stand by as murder is being done and do nothing to stop it or expose it.

Americans must summon the civil courage to face what is being done in their name and to refuse to be accomplices. You can help right now by visiting www.VotersForPeace.US and immediately signing the Voters' Pledge.

Source: *VotersForPeace*, 6930 Carroll Ave., Suite 240, Takoma Park, MD 20912 (301) 270-2355

I don't care what they say
I'm not going to do it that way
I don't care what the laws are for
I'm not going to obey no more
I don't care why they drop the bombs
I'm not going to go along

Because
War is bad, killing is worse
Use you brain and not your force
Don't send our kids to fight your war
You'll waste their lives like you did before

I don't care about no terrorist
Its our government we need to resist
I don't care about Iran or Iraq
I just want to get our freedoms back
I don't care who wins the fight
I want my son to know what's right

And that is
War is bad, killing is worse
Use you brain and not your force
Don't send our kids to fight your war
You'll waste their lives like you did before

You'll waste their lives like you did before

You'll waste their lives like you did before

—Gary Barrington

Three mothers

John Morearty

The bereaved mother told us what I did not expect.

Delta College lawn along Pacific Avenue was crowded with TV trucks and peace demonstrators on Thursday, June 22 as gray-haired Nadia McCaffrey of Tracy stepped up to the mike. On the bosom of her long black dress glowed a big white button with gold star and peace symbol: "Gold Star Families Speak Out." Next to her stood a twelve year old boy and a strong young man.

Two years ago Nadia's son Sergeant Patrick McCaffrey, California National Guardsman, was shot multiple times and killed while patrolling in Iraq. "Ambushed by the enemy," they told her. But only this week had the Army admitted what they knew for at least a year: Pat was shot dead by the very Iraqi troops he was training. The revelation made national news; just the previous day, Nadia, accompanied by Senator Barbara Boxer, had been briefed by a general.

So there on the Delta lawn I expected her to condemn government lying, and she did; I expected her to call for an end to the U.S. military occupation of Iraq, and she did that too. Then she introduced her companions.

"This boy is my grandson, and this young man was a fellow soldier and close friend of Patrick. He has come home whole and sound, thank God. But at least 17,000 of our young men and women in Iraq have come home wounded, without arms or legs, or shattered in their hearts and minds by the terrible things they have seen, and the things they were ordered to do.

"These young people are our responsibility. They will be living with us for the rest of their lives, as the troubled veterans of Vietnam still are among us. The government gives them poor care or none at all. So we must care for them. I ask you to join with me in forming an organization to care for the veterans of the Iraq war. They are all our sons and daughters." Nadia McCaffrey's website is www.patrickspirit.org.

Army Lieutenant Ehren Watada, 27, is confined in the stockade at Fort Lewis, Washington. He has refused orders to lead his men to Iraq, calling the war illegal and immoral. He faces possible court

martial, and years in prison.

At our peace vigil in Annunciation Catholic Cathedral on June 27, we read an open letter from his mother, Carolyn Ho:

"I am the mother of Lt. Ehren Watada, a Resister of Illegal War. He is part of a Stryker brigade unit that deployed today to Iraq. Despite an unflinching commitment to his men and to democratic ideals, he chose not to accompany his men. His decision came through much soul-searching and through research and consultation with experts across disciplines, inside and outside of the military and the government.

"After weighing the evidence, he came to the conclusion that he could no longer be silent while atrocities were committed in the name of democracy. He could no longer be a tool of an administration that used deception and lies to make the case for pre-emptive war.

"As a mother, I have evolved from fearing for his safety and for his future to the realization that there is a higher purpose to all that has transpired. My son no longer stands at the crossroads. He has chosen "the road less traveled."

For updates on news and actions regarding Lt. Watada, please check out: www.thankyoult.org or www.couragetoresist.org. My deepest thanks, Carolyn Ho, Ehren's Mom.

At the cathedral vigil, a middle-aged Latina in black spoke up softly.

"My son is a soldier in Iraq. He's been there two years, and he has two more to go. When he was 18 he signed up.

"I was afraid for him, I don't like the war, and I asked him not to go. But he told me, Mom, this something I have to do.

"I decided there was no use fighting with him, he was gonna do it anyway. So I gave him my blessing when he went.

"So far he's okay. I pray for him every day. Will you please pray for him too?"

The Delta lawn vigil/demonstrations are just north of Yokuts along Pacific Avenue, every fourth Thursday, 5-6:30 PM. The Cathedral vigils are at Lincoln/Rose Streets, every fourth Tuesday at 7 PM sharp. July 25, August 22 etc. All are welcome.

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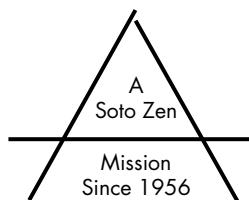
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Pombo threatened by the uppity grassroots

Democrat Jerry McNerney, who defeated establishment candidate Steve Filson in the June 6 primary, in late June won the Grassroots All-Star competition, a nationwide internet poll by Democracy for America (DFA) as the progressive candidate most important to elect this November. DFA, headed by Governor Howard Dean's brother James, has raised almost a million dollars this year to help promote progressive candidates; they will

now contact half a million voters around the country, and urge them to support McNerney financially.

He will need the dough. Pombo has a huge war chest—literally "war", because he has supported the Iraq invasion and occupation consistently. Pombo has consistently voted against plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and he's taken hundreds of thousands of dollars in contributions from oil and gas

companies. According to Pombo, "There is no evidence of man-made global warming."

McNerney is a professional windpower consultant and entrepreneur and a peace advocate. He is endorsed by the Latina Democrats of San Joaquin County, the California Teamsters, the Service Employees International Union and many other groups. He holds a narrow lead over Pombo in a recent poll, 46% to 42%.

Join the popular resistance against nuclear weapons

On August 6 and 9 people are joining together to stop nuclear weapons and war and support indigenous rights. In California a broad coalition will be meeting at the Livermore nuclear weapons lab—just 50 miles from San Francisco, it is a leading hub in the creation of nuclear weapons. On August 9 people will gather at Bechtel Headquarters in San Francisco—a leading war profiteer and violator of indigenous rights.

August 6 and 9 mark the 61st anniversary of the horrific atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. August 9 is the United Nation's International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

On August 6, to remember all the victims of nuclear weapons—from mining to designing to use, there will be a rally and ritual at the Livermore nuclear weapons lab. The Livermore nuclear weapons lab acts as the brain of the US nuclear weapons complex, creating new bombs.

Livermore Lab plans to double its plutonium limit to 3,080 pounds—enough for 300 modern day nuclear bombs. Livermore Lab is on earthquake faults and has already released over one million curies of airborne radiation into the Bay Area.

Tri-Valley CAREs' petition campaign to stop the Dept. of Energy from trucking more plutonium to Livermore Lab is in high gear. You can help—from

your home or by "hitting the streets" with us. Help us stop the plutonium by taking action: <http://www.trivalleycares.org/action.asp>. We are pleased to announce that the petition campaign has collected well over 5,000 signatures so far—we need your help to meet our goal of 10,000.

In addition, we invite you to Livermore nuclear weapons lab for the "No Nukes! No Wars!" ritual and action on Sunday, August 6 at 8 AM, march at 9 AM. There will be an August 5th Peace Camp at nearby Del Valle Regional Park. Contact butterfly@lacy.com to camp.

On August 9, the United Nation's International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples and the anniversary of the bombing of Nagasaki we will gather at Bechtel Headquarters at 10 am in San Francisco (50 Beale St., near Embarcadero BART). Bechtel is one of the top profiteers of the war in Iraq, violator of indigenous rights, and nuclear weapons profiteer. Speakers and ceremonial leaders will include Western Shone spiritual leader Corbin Harney.

Mark the United Nation's International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples and the anniversaries of the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by demanding an end to nuclear weapons and war. At Bechtel and Livermore nuclear weapons lab we will support

the sovereignty and dignity of indigenous people around the world and call for an end to nuclear weapons and the war in Iraq.

As the anti-war movement grows, to end the war in Iraq and stop a war on Iran, we must target local institutions like Livermore Lab and Bechtel Corporation who profit from war and nuclear weapons. The global change begins with each of us—in our local communities!

Give peace a ride! Drivers needed. For ridesharing go to: www.spaceshare.com/livermore For more information contact Tara: Tri-Valley CAREs (925) 443-7148 (www.trivalleycares.org)



Clean Water Fund

Got clean water? register people to vote

Shami Sharma/Brett Richer

On June 22, 1969, a young girl 2000 miles away from the San Joaquin Valley watches from a distance as the Cuyahoga River is glowing: not from a sunset, but because it caught fire with the amount of pollution repeatedly dumped in the river. This event raised the consciousness not only of the young girl, but of the entire American public.

Throughout her lifetime, she will see the passage of the historic Clean Water Act, the creation of state and national Environmental Protection Agency, the Superfund program to address toxic sites and countless other programs to help people in the communities that they live. The same river that burned decades before is named one of 14 Heritage Rivers in 1998.

Today, this effort to protect the health and quality of life of this now full-grown woman alongside her own daughter continues in the face of special interest pressure to undo these essential laws. The Clean Water Fund has been working alongside local people all these years to continue these efforts. We are now engaged in a non-partisan grassroots campaign, "Proyecto de Las Voces del Valle," to register voters in the Latino community in San Joaquin County. They are the fastest growing population in California and one of the most affected by poor drinking water and bad air quality. And they have successfully mobilized millions of people at marches across the state and undoubtedly play a big role in deciding which politicians represent them at a local and national level in the years to come.

The year is 2006 and it's a sunny and cool 97 degrees in downtown Stockton. There is an incredibly long line outside a local restaurant with people waiting to buy cups of ice water. Three people appear carrying clipboards, approaching everyone in line and announcing their desire to register voters.

It is a fact that a voter who registers with someone in person is much more likely to cast a vote on Election Day.

Many say, "No thanks." Some say they are already registered and still others turn their faces away. Undaunted, the determined clipboard carriers continue their registration offensive.

At first, it appears they are selling something or requesting signatures for a petition, but that is untrue. Almost immediately one notices something different about these overly spirited and determined clipboard folks. They rejoice as though they have just won the lottery every time someone registers to vote. This is not solely because someone has said yes, but because a personal face to face connection has been established. It is a fact that a voter who registered with someone in person is much more likely to cast a vote on Election Day.

An adorable Mexican American girl appears—probably not older than eight years old—wearing a pink dress with matching pink ribbons in her hair, walks up to the clipboard carrying outreach soldier and expresses that her father wishes to speak to him. The voter soldier immediately follows the little girl over to her father. She brightly says, "My father does not speak English, but he just became a citizen and would like to register to vote...and I can help you, if you don't speak Spanish." A huge smile appears across the outreach organizer's face. In less than a minute a father has not only chosen to participate in our democratic process, but also educated his daughter about why it is important to do so. When she becomes 18, she will almost definitely register to vote.

According the U.S. Census:

Latinos make up 37% of the San Joaquin population but the number that comes out and votes is only 10%. There is something wrong... we can turn things around if you would help.

ACTION: GET WATER! We are looking to transform the Central Valley into a location that politicians listen to. If you are bilingual and interested in paid voter registration work in our campaign, call Brett at 209-552-6769. Staff earn between \$240-\$440 per week. Full time and part time work is available. For volunteer opportunities, please call Shami at 209-623-7573.

On July 22, 2 pm, there will be a second meeting for a voter registration drive in San Joaquin County. Our initial meeting was great; there was much enthusiasm. The meeting will be at the Stockton SEIU-UHW offices, 306 E. Main Street, Suite 305, at the corner of San Joaquin and Main Streets. You are invited to participate and take part in an extraordinary effort in registering our citizens to vote and actually get out, and vote.

"I have the audacity to believe that people everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and dignity, quality, and freedom for their spirits. I believe that what self-centered men have torn down, other-centered men can build up."

—Martin Luther King, Jr.



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A real teachers strike in Oaxaca

Lois Meyer

The following is a very condensed version of letters from Oaxaca during the recent teacher strike. The Oaxacan teachers' struggle to construct and defend a truly democratic movement based on educational justice, community voice, and pedagogical reform should be a lesson and an inspiration to us all.

6/14/06

Early this morning, the situation of the massive teacher strike and encampment in the center of Oaxaca took a violent turn. The teachers have been encamped for 23 days in the historic center of the city of Oaxaca, covering between 40-70 city blocks (depending on the report) with their sit-in. They are demanding increased educational supports (student breakfasts, increased salaries) and attention to quality education for Oaxaca's indigenous and highly impoverished students and communities. They are also calling the government to account for increased and violent repressions. The governor had given no response to their demands, their blockades, or their encampments—until early this morning.

What a teachers' strike looks like

It is calculated that some 70,000 Oaxacan teachers are part of this strike. I joined the teachers last night to support and learn more deeply from them about their commitments and organized actions. These are teachers I have collaborated with closely for 6 years. About midnight there was an intense rumor that the federal and state police were intending to clear out the encampment by force. About five this morning, the report came that police were gathering on the fringes of the massive encampment; it was clear that a massive police action was now expected. We began to move out of the Zocalo. Since all of these streets were part of the encampment, it was difficult going, with many tents and hundreds of people moving, trying not to panic.

Suddenly we saw a huge wooden door open to one of the

buildings along our path (the School of Law, for those who know Oaxaca). About 500 of us went into the Law School for safety. Whoever ordered that door to open to us certainly saved many of us from brutal attack and perhaps from death.

We hid inside the Law School for 5 hours, 500 frightened people, including many mothers and several children. Police were forcing those teachers who had taken refuge in San Felipe Neri church out with teargas. Rumors raged wildly. Thank God for cell phones because the teachers were getting the word out for help and trying to coordinate plans.

At 10 a.m. the word came that there were marches of teachers coming to liberate us. Water was passed around so that we could each wet some rag or piece of cloth to cover our faces to deter the gases. The doors to the street were opened and, holding each other tightly, we began to move out of the building. We had no idea what we would encounter.

The faces that met us were teachers, armed only with bats and poles, but assuring us that they had forced the police back and that we could proceed out of the encampment safely. We passed another march of rural parents coming in support of the teachers. It looks as though the pueblo of Oaxaca has taken up arms against this repressive governor and government.

There has been amazing solidarity by people in the streets. A teacher came out to us and invited us into her home, to use her bathroom, and offered us food and drink. There have been some teachers detained and some people wounded and at least one death. Whatever you read or hear, please know that the teachers were unarmed. But please know, they are NOT defeated!

The government responds 6/16/06

The government has completely banned any honest reporting about



the wounded and dead from the police actions. All hospitals and news media have been instructed to report that there were no dead and no seriously wounded, and of course, no political prisoners. According to reports, however, there were as many as 12 killed, including two children. The brutal police action against unarmed teachers, and the reported deaths, especially of children, have incensed the public.

Throughout the teachers' 23 days of encampment, there were two radio stations broadcasting in solidarity from the encampment, Radio Plantón and Radio Capucha. Capucha left with their equipment before the police moved in, Radio Plantón continued to broadcast into the morning and their equipment was completely destroyed and four personnel were taken prisoner. The University radio station has picked up the task of reporting on behalf of the teachers and has further mobilized the students into active support. The official media are entirely reporting from the perspective of the government and claims that the government is doing all it can to dialogue with the teachers, to respond to their demands, and to restrain any brutality in the police actions that are taken. This is NOT what the teachers know or experience.

The community responds

The citizens of the city are deeply stressed, they have been affected, mainly negatively, by the 23 days of teacher strikes and have

many issues with this strategy of the teachers for pressuring the government. At the same time, they were appalled and affected by the police action yesterday. The historic center of the city is filled with tourist hotels, restaurants and shops. Most of these have been shuttered, greatly affecting Oaxaca's tourist-based economy. Many small businesses are in danger of going under. There is great concern that both the presidential election in early July and the Guelaguetza celebration in late July will be affected by this situation of tension and violence.

So far the best measure of public sentiment has been the megamarches, the number of marchers exceeded 400,000.

Results?

One of the results of the massive expansion of civic groups in this struggle is that a Popular Assembly has now been selected to make decisions for what will happen next. Since the retaking of the Zocalo, the government has agreed to negotiate with the teachers, and now those negotiations will include the expanded social movement. In order to have direction and consultation with "the bases", a People's Assembly has been selected. As I write this, the Assembly is convening for the first time, in the patio of the same Law School that gave us refuge last Wednesday morning. I assume that tomorrow there will be word of at least some decisions

concerning what is to happen next in Oaxaca's popular resistance.

The government agreed to initiate formal dialogue with the teachers' union, however the negotiations had broken down. The demand of the teachers and of the expanded popular resistance movement has been that the PRI governor, Ulises Ruiz Ortiz (URO), must go.

Teachers had been on strike and occupying the Zócalo for 30 days, an entire month. This means sleeping on cardboard or straw mats under plastic awnings or tarps or in pup tents, frequently in torrential rains. They must pay to use public showers and bathrooms, and until this recent public support sparked by the failed police action, they were paying for their own food. The government cut their last paycheck, accusing them of "abandoning their jobs". During the entire strike there has been fear of police repression, a fear that continues even now.

Teachers are very concerned about their students who have been a month without classes, and who run the risk of losing credit for the entire school year if this dispute is not resolved soon.

Parents in their communities are deeply concerned; some pressure the teachers to resume classes, others adamantly support the strike, but ALL are concerned about the consequences for their children.

Educational demands must be central to this struggle, since they are the ones who have risked so much for so many weeks in order to have their demands heard and answered.

Resources:

www.mexico.indymedia.org/oaxaca (Spanish language).

www.corrugate.org

Newspapers: *Noticias*, from Oaxaca, is giving the teachers a voice and also publishes many photos. *El Imparcial* is known to be the voice of the government. *La Jornada* from Mexico City is also giving excellent coverage.

Lois Meyer is a professor from the University of New Mexico who has been working with indigenous teachers in the area for several years.

Bush pushes anti-enviro/pro-torture court nominee...again

For more than two years now, the Bush administration has been seeking to place the Pentagon's top lawyer, William Haynes II, on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit (see BushGreenwatch, 12/18/03 and 3/16/04). Haynes' nomination stalled for various reasons, but the Bush team is nothing if not persistent.

With crucial congressional elections less than five months away, the administration is under increasing pressure from its right wing base to stack the federal bench with more of their kind of guy. As a key player in developing the Pentagon's military tribunal plan for suspected terrorists (which the Supreme Court firmly tossed out last month) Haynes definitely fits the bill. Hence his nomination is again before a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing this afternoon.

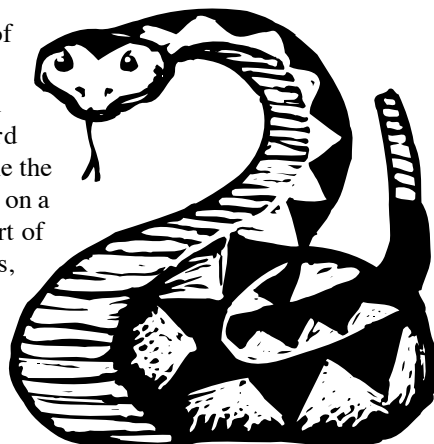
Also active in proposing ways the U.S. could circumvent international treaties banning torture, as well as supporting indefinite detentions of American citizens without benefit of legal counsel or meaningful judicial review, Haynes came to the attention of environmental advocates early in the Bush administration with what will surely stand as one of the strangest

arguments in the history of environmental law.

Seeking an exemption from the Migratory Bird Treaty Act in order to enable the military to resume bombing on a remote Pacific island as part of live-fire training exercises, Haynes prepared a legal brief arguing that even though the island is an important nesting site for such migratory birds as great frigate birds, red-footed boobies and Pacific golden plovers, bird lovers should have no problem with the bombing.

Indeed, argued the Haynes brief, conservationists would actually benefit from the destruction of such birds, because it makes the birds rarer—and "bird watchers get more enjoyment spotting a rare bird than they do spotting a common one." Moreover, Haynes noted, the bombing is good for the birds, too - because it keeps the island free of other "human intrusion."

Somehow the Haynes logic did not fare well. A federal judge ruled against the military in 2002. The judge's decision included one particularly memorable line: "The Court hopes that the federal government will refrain from making such frivolous arguments in the future."



If the Senate Judiciary Committee approves Haynes' nomination, his name could come up for a vote in the full Senate as soon as this summer.

Postscript: Although Haynes' argument lost in Federal court, the Bush administration promptly moved its allies in Congress to exempt the Pentagon from compliance with the law anyway. And on his Senate questionnaire back in 2003, Haynes described his bird-bombing effort as the second most significant case of his career.

ACTION: Contact Senators Feinstein and Boxer.

Source: BushGreenwatch release 7/11/06 www.bushgreenwatch.org, BushGreenwatch, 1717 Massachusetts Ave NW #600, Washington, DC 20036 (202) 783-7400 a project of Friends of the Earth

Winery fires all UFW workers

Napa Valley vineyard workers at Charles Krug winery--operated for generations by the Peter Mondavi family--need your help. On Friday, all 36 workers were fired just after the state Agricultural Labor Relations Board told the winery it was filing a formal complaint against the winery. The ALRB complaint will allege Krug-Mondavi has no right to refuse to bargain with its vineyard workers over renewing their UFW contract and has no right to fire the workers.

Thirty-three-year company veteran worker Jorge De Haro describes the situation: Our

contract between the United Farm Workers and Charles Krug-Mondavi expired and the company has refused to return to the bargaining table to renegotiate an agreement. On July 7, the company fired me and all of my co-workers...This occurred despite the fact the company had been notified by the Agricultural Labor Relations Board that are investigating the companies' decision to replace us with a land management company. This was after the state of California said it would issue its complaint alleging Krug-Mondavi broke the law. Krug-Mondavi does not

care about its workers nor do they seem to be worried about what the law says.

ACTION: Please send messages to Krug-Mondavi telling the company you support the vineyard workers' boycott of all Krug-Mondavi products until the company rescinds its decision to fire union workers and instead engages in good faith bargaining. To send a message, go to: <http://www.ufwaction.org/campaign/krug71006/e5bddn4v7w83be?>

Source: UFWaction release 7/10/06, United Farm Workers, 29700 Woodford-Tehachapi Rd., P.O. Box 62, Keene, CA, 93531 www.ufw.org

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Propositions for November and what they will do

Proposition 1A **Changes way highway taxes are earmarked**

This measure would authorize a suspension, in whole or in part, of the transfer of sales taxes on motor vehicle fuel to the TIF for a fiscal year if (1) the Governor issues a proclamation that the suspension is necessary due to a severe state fiscal hardship, (2) a statute containing no other unrelated provision is enacted by a 2/3 vote of each house of the Legislature suspending the transfer, and (3) a statute is enacted to repay, with interest, the TIF within 3 years for the amount of any revenues that were not transferred as a result of the suspension. This measure would also prohibit a suspension of transfer of these revenues from occurring more than twice during any period of 10 consecutive fiscal years.

Proposition 1B **\$20 billion road bond measure**

This bill would authorize \$19.925 billion of state general obligation bonds for specified purposes, including high-priority transportation corridor improvements, State Route 99 corridor enhancements, trade infrastructure and port security projects, schoolbus retrofit and replacement purposes, state transportation improvement program augmentation, transit and passenger rail improvements, state-local partnership transportation projects, transit security projects, local bridge seismic retrofit projects, highway-railroad grade separation and crossing improvement projects, state highway safety and rehabilitation projects, and local street and road improvement, congestion relief, and traffic safety.

Proposition 1C **\$3 billion housing bond**

This bill would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$2,850,000,000. Proceeds from the sale of these bonds would be used to finance various existing housing programs, capital outlay related to infill development, brownfield cleanup that promotes infill development, and housing-related parks.

Proposition 1D **\$10 billion school bond**

This bill would authorize \$10,416,000,000 of state general obligation bonds to provide aid to school districts, county superintendents of schools, county boards of education, the California Community Colleges, the University of California, the Hastings College of the Law, and the California State University to construct and modernize education facilities.

Proposition 1E **\$4 billion levee bond**

This bill would authorize the issuance and sale of bonds in the amount of \$4,090,000,000 for the purposes of financing disaster preparedness and flood prevention projects.

Proposition 83 **Severely punishing sex offenders. Initiative Statute.**

Increases penalties for violent and habitual sex offenders and child molesters. Prohibits registered sex offenders from residing within 2,000 feet of any school or park, and requires lifetime Global Positioning System monitoring of felony registered sex offenders. Expands the definition of a sexually violent predator, and changes the current two-year involuntary civil commitment for a sexually violent predator to an indeterminate commitment, subject to annual review by the Director of Mental Health and petition by the sexually violent predator for conditional release or unconditional discharge.

Proposition 84 **\$5 billion water bond. Initiative Statute.**

Authorizes \$5,388,000,000 in general obligation bonds, payable from the state's General Fund, to fund projects relating to safe drinking water, water quality and supply, flood control, waterway and natural resource protection, water pollution and contamination control, state and local park improvements, public access to natural resources, and conservation efforts. Provides funding for emergency drinking

water, and exempts such expenditures from public contract and procurement requirements to ensure immediate action for public safety.

Proposition 85 **Anti-choice parental notification Constitutional Amendment.**

Amends California Constitution to prohibit abortion for unemancipated minor until 48 hours after physician notifies minor's parent or legal guardian, except in medical emergency or with parental waiver. Permits minor to obtain court order waiving notice based on clear and convincing evidence of minor's maturity or best interests. Mandates various reporting requirements, including reports from physicians regarding abortions performed on minors. Authorizes monetary damages against physicians for violation. Requires minor's consent to abortion, with certain exceptions. Permits judicial relief if minor's consent coerced.

Proposition 86 **Cigarette tax increase for health care. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.**

Imposes additional 13 cent tax on each cigarette distributed (\$2.60 per pack), and indirectly increases tax on other tobacco products. Provides funding to qualified hospitals for emergency services, nursing education and health insurance to eligible children. Revenue also allocated to specified purposes including tobacco use prevention programs, enforcement of tobacco-related laws, and research, prevention and treatment of various conditions including cancers (breast, cervical, prostate and colorectal), heart disease, stroke, asthma and obesity. Exempts recipient hospitals from antitrust laws in certain circumstances. Revenue excluded from appropriation limits and Proposition 98 calculations.

Proposition 87 **\$4 billion alternative energy program. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.**

Establishes \$4 billion program to reduce oil and gasoline usage by 25%, with research and production incentives for alternative energy, alternative energy vehicles, energy efficient technologies, and for education and training. Funded by tax of 1.5% to 6%, depending on oil price per barrel, on producers of oil extracted in California. Prohibits producers from passing tax on to consumers. Program administered by California Energy Alternatives Program Authority. Prohibits changing tax while indebtedness remains. Revenues excluded from Proposition 98 calculations and appropriation limits.

Proposition 88 **Small property tax increase for schools. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.**

Provides additional public school funding for kindergarten through grade 12 by imposing a \$50 tax on each real property parcel; exempts certain elderly and disabled homeowners. Funds must be used for class size reduction, textbooks, school safety, Academic Success facility grants, and a data system to evaluate educational program effectiveness. Provides for reimbursement to government entities to offset anticipated decrease in other tax revenue. Prohibits fund use for school administrative overhead. Requires school district audits and penalties for fund misuse. Excludes funds from Proposition 98 calculations.

Proposition 89 **Public campaign financing with contribution and expenditure limits. Initiative Statute.**

Provides that candidates for state elective office meeting certain eligibility requirements, including collection of a specified number of \$5.00 contributions from voters, may voluntarily receive public campaign funding from the Fair Political Practices Commission, in amounts varying by elective office and type of election. Increases income tax rate on corporations and financial institutions by 0.2 percent to fund program. Imposes new limits on campaign contributions to state-office candidates and campaign committees, and new restrictions on contributions and expenditures by lobbyists and corporations.

Proposition 90 **Stops government taking private property for other private purpose. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.**

Bars state and local governments from condemning or damaging private property to promote other private projects, uses. Limits government's authority to adopt certain land use, housing, consumer, environmental and workplace laws and regulations, except when necessary to preserve public health or safety. Voids unpublished eminent domain court decisions. Defines "just compensation." Government must occupy condemned property or lease property for public use. Condemned private property must be offered for resale to prior owner or owner's heir at current fair market value if government abandons condemnation's objective. Exempts certain governmental actions.



How the Doolittles get rich

Austin Evers

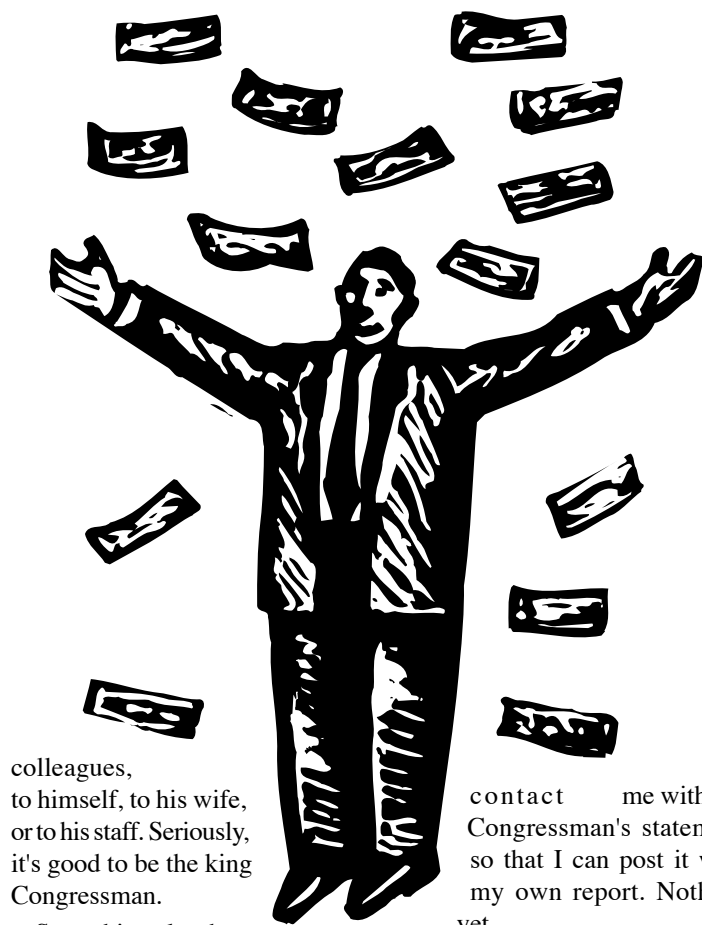
I've spent my day calling Congressman Doolittle's office (202-225-2511) to get some answers.

Last night I called attention (<http://www.baltimoregroupblog.com/2006/07/11/doolittle-embezzlealot/>) to the Washington Post report that Congressman John Doolittle of California was getting heat for some of the payments made by his Leadership PAC*, the Superior California Fed Leadership Fund. At issue were payments of over \$160,000 to Doolittle's wife since 2001 and a number of lodging, gift, and airfare items, including gifts from Best Buy, Tiffany & Co., and Saks Fifth Avenue given to donors and campaign staff. Doolittle's wife fundraises for the Leadership PAC and receives a 15% commission on every dollar raised. Her company, Sierra Dominion Financial Solutions, Inc., is based out of the Congressman's home.

After combing through Doolittle's FEC filings, I didn't find anything illegal. What I did find, however, was a glaring example of the incestuous Republican machine that has turned representation into a lucrative, self-preserving business.

35 percent of Doolittle's personal fundraising money comes from PACs. That is on par with other House members, including Democratic Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and neighboring CA Democrat, Mike Thompson. However, more than a third of Doolittle's PAC money comes from Leadership PACs (\$112,000) compared with a whopping \$5,000 for Thompson and \$100 for Pelosi. That is to say, Doolittle relies on 1,000 times as much funding from his GOP colleagues to keep his seat as Pelosi does. Doolittle's PAC has handed out \$165,000 to almost 50 of his Republican colleagues this election cycle, alone.

It's a stunning example of how the GOP exists solely to maintain itself. Doolittle collects thousands of dollars from his colleagues to be spent on his own campaigns (in which he is barely challenged). He spends his time raising money for his PAC, which he gives to his



colleagues, to himself, to his wife, or to his staff. Seriously, it's good to be the king Congressman.

Something else that I noticed was that none of Doolittle's financial disclosures list his wife's actual income. They comply with the requirement of listing her source of income if it's over \$1,000 (which we know it is) but it lists her income as "NA." What's so interesting is that he also files his PAC's expenditures with the FEC, which list the \$160,000 to his wife's one woman company. Funny, that's not "NA."

Doolittle doesn't want this stuff known, of course. It's legal but it's ugly. After the Post turned me on to the story, I started calling Doolittle's office. This morning I called and the phone was answered by Amy (didn't get her last name but she said she was a paid staffer). When I asked her if she or anyone else on staff could answer my questions about the article she referred me to Laura Blackann, the Communications Director. In the process of transferring me, my call was dropped. This happened three times before she either figured out the phone issue or decided that hanging up on me wasn't going to work. I left a message for Laura at 10 am and again at 1 pm expressing my concern over the report and encouraging her to

contact me with the Congressman's statement so that I can post it with my own report. Nothing yet.

To be clear, there's nothing really illegal at hand here. Whether it's ethical for Doolittle to have a PAC that funnels 15 percent of its money directly back into the Doolittle family is unethical, however, and it is a perfect example of the culture of corruption. Playing by the rules doesn't make the rules right.

I'll keep calling the office and I encourage anyone else to as well: 202-225-2511. Ask for Laura Blackann.

** Leadership PACs are Political Action Committees (i.e. bank accounts that write checks for political purposes) founded by elected officials. Boxer's PAC For A Chance is a Leadership PAC. They are subject to different FEC rules than campaign committees (which spend money on campaigns). PACs can give, I believe, \$5,000 to each federal campaign in each election cycle. Leadership PACs are used by safe office holders, like Doolittle or Boxer, to raise money that will be given in most cases to other candidates' campaign committees. Russ Feingold's Progressive Patriots Fund gives \$5,000 to candidates endorsed by people who vote in his online polls.*



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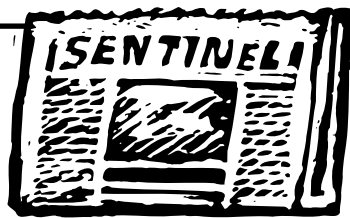
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Angry Arab News Service—<http://www.angryarab.blogspot.com/>

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>

Rosemarie Lane Community garden 2006 plans

Beth Luna

Pastor Bob Hailey would like to see more people involved: he feels that more students and young people need to get involved, to learn how to garden. He speaks of the garden as a place where people can make friends, to share and to live. He spoke of the two who met last year at the garden and are now married.

He spoke of his own congregation and how they love the garden. Most of them are in their upper years and, although physically unable to take part, they have taken up a collection at the church to help assist the garden.

There are special needs for the garden, such as rakes, hoes, shovels and most vital: a rototiller. The need is great.

He would like to see a portion of the land planted to crops that the poor could benefit from. The rest of the garden could be



Teacher Stephanie Olmste works in the garden with her class.

divided into small plots, where an individual would take full responsibility for his little garden and enjoy the produce.

Ray Ledesma gave a great deal of time last year in getting the garden started. This year will be different. He will have only Saturdays throughout the season available to help and guide. Education continues: Ray

helps teacher Stephanie with her class of students, continuing an active program carried over since last summer. Yet Ray is deeply concerned as to the need for leadership: Adrian Nichols acted as leader in '05, but now has a full time job and takes classes at UOP, so the search is on. If you are interested in working the land this year, please call PJN at 467-4455.



The community garden is a place where people can make friends, share, and learn. You are welcome to get involved.



Eating green in San Joaquin

Tory Sonstroem

Scenario one: "Vegetarian?" asked my no doubt well-meaning, but often gruff family doctor. "Now why did you want to go and do THAT?" "To bring down my cholesterol, as you instructed me to do," I answered. "And it worked—no drugs, no fuss, I feel good—what's the problem?"

Scenario two: "But where do you get your protein?" This question comes up over and over to anyone who ever announces that they choose not to eat meat, eggs, or dairy. To answer that for the umpteenth time, a balanced diet of whole grains, beans, nuts, fruits, and vegetables has plenty of protein for human nutrition

Scenario three: "Sorry to laugh, but the things you people eat!" This came from a pretty good friend. O.K. this one was a little tougher to answer. "I eat...FOOD...(!) Don't you?" (And who does she mean by "you people?")

Can you see my dilemma in attempting to eat well? Apparently, it's not socially acceptable to go "veg"—even in California, where we grow the stuff. Go figure.

So it was with delight and

gratitude that I recently discovered the San Joaquin Vegans, a loose network of healthful, conscientious eaters and eager cooks who gather one Sunday a month for a friendly potluck. Started in November 2004 by Bobbie Landau, it is regularly attended by a diverse collection of people. There are "newbies," lifelong vegetarians and vegans, people recovering from cancer, obesity, and heart surgery, animal rights enthusiasts, experimental chef-types, even curious carnivores.

Currently hosted at the new Peace and Justice Center, the potlucks meet every second Sunday at 5:30 pm. Each month has a menu theme, and beverages and tableware are provided. A donation of \$2 (or \$9 if you arrive hungry but empty handed) goes towards the Center's rental fee for the event.

Recently I interviewed Bobbie Landau about her background and why she started San Joaquin Vegans. Here is an excerpt:

I became vegetarian 35 years ago . . . I started because of health and felt much more energy, [my] skin was better, [I] stayed healthy, etc. Then I went to awareness

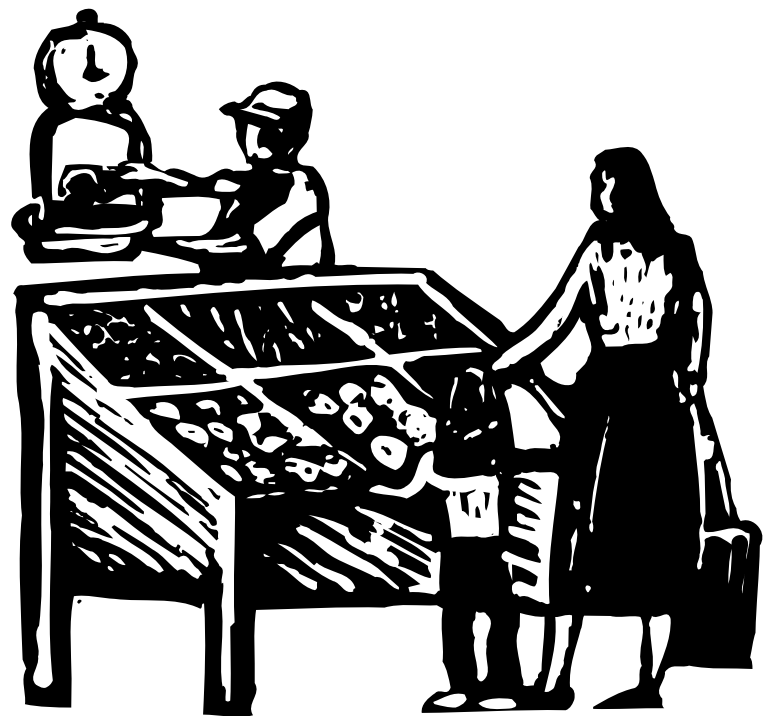
of the treatment of animals and saw that it was not ethical to kill anything living in order to eat.

About 17 years ago, I realized that...it didn't make sense: that dairy products meant for animals who would [grow to] over 400 pounds would have value for humans. Again it was a combination of health and ethics that determined that I would not eat dairy [as well as eggs.] As part of my vegan lifestyle, I don't use leather, wool, or honey.

Through reading the works of environmentalists such as John Robbins, author of "May All Be Fed, Diet for a New World," I discovered that it made sense—cents: saving \$\$ also—being a vegan.

Living in the Bay Area, I went to various vegan events. I have met people who had serious diseases and were told they would die soon unless they had major surgery. They changed to a vegan diet, often using fresh, organic fruits and vegetables. [They] lost weight, and their health improved without the surgery.

After moving to San Joaquin County, I thought it would be nice to have a vegan potluck



group here. In November 2004, we had our first San Joaquin Vegans Potluck. We had a great article with pictures and recipes in the *Stockton Record*. We have continued to get new people along with regulars.

Whenever I have gone to vegetarian groups, I have met a great cross section of people. They may have different political parties. . . different ethnic groups, or different backgrounds, but we get along great as we have

our common interest: Eating good, healthy food and enjoying great company. We often have non-vegetarians who enjoy our welcoming, friendly environment and of course our great food!

For more information, or to get on a contact list for future potluck announcements, please write to sjvegans@hotmail.com

Thank you to Bobbie Landau, Paul Lewis, and Eric Sonstroem for their contributions to this article.

Pilates is for everyone

Angela Leonardo

Joseph H. Pilates believed that if you were 35 and out of shape, you were old; and if you were 75, fit and flexible, you were young. Happiness came from gaining control over your body. Pilates identified eight components of his Contrology method; concentration, breathing, centering, control, precision, flowing movement, isolation and routine. Each component benefits your body and each builds upon each other. The first four are described below:

1. Concentration: The mind builds the body. This principle is defined as the ability to achieve greater results when concentration is focused on the body part performing the work. If thoughts are so powerful, it makes sense to try to harness your thinking to bring about changes in your body.

2. Breathing: Pilates emphasizes a full breathing technique with each movement.

3. Centering: All movement begins from the center, the Powerhouse. The Powerhouse consists of the abdominals, lower back and gluteals.

4. Control: Each movement has a purpose and a goal. Focusing on the movement and breath ensures that we control each aspect of the movement, thereby achieving results.

Everyone can benefit from Pilates, but especially"

1. People who want weight loss. This depends on calorie intake and output. An overeater will still lose weight with increased activity while an undereater has less success, as they do not see under eating as a problem. Pilates reshapes the body, giving the appearance of weight loss and, coupled with cardiovascular

training, real weight loss can be significant.

2. Tri-athletes, bikers and runners. These athletes are often overdeveloped in their quadriceps and often have weak hamstrings that are also tight and need to be stretched as well as strengthened. Also, many are hunched forward and the rhomboids and lower trapezius need to be strengthened to correct their posture.

3. Climbers: Climbers need lean, strong, flexible muscles with a great strength to weight ratio. When people fall, it is generally because their core gave out, forcing all the weight to be held by the forearms, hands and feet.

4. Body Builders: Most bodybuilders do not stretch, nor do they work the smaller muscles such as the stabilizers and synergists. Webster's Concise Dictionary defines synergism as the joint action of all [muscles, drugs etc.]



when used together, increase each other's effectiveness. By working the stabilizer and synergists, the body builder will be able to lift more weight, increase their results and decrease their risk of injury.

Pilates Method of Contrology has changed the lives of many who practice it daily or weekly.

The benefits experienced are long, lean, flexible muscles that have greater endurance and strength. In her book *Pilates for Every Body*, Denise Austin said, "Aging is 70 percent lifestyle. To stay young; eat right, exercise regularly, and keep a positive attitude."



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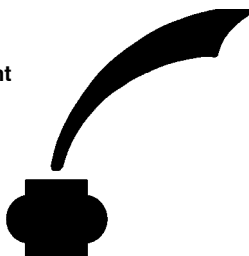
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Assemblyperson Barbara Matthews (D-District 17), 31 E Channel St, Room 306, Stockton, CA 95202. 209-948-7479; State Capitol Room 5135, Sacramento, CA 95814. 916-319-2017

Bush frauds: Florida 2000, Ohio 2004, now Mexico 2006

Greg Palast

And the winner in Mexico's presidential contest is—Senor Blank-o! The official count of the ruling party is: 36.38% for the ruling party and 35.34% for the challenger. Or, to put names and numbers to it: The Bush-o-philiac candidate, Felipe Calderon, collected 402,000 more votes than Bush-bashed Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador. But the big winner was Mr. Blank -- the 827,000 ballots without a mark for president.

I smell something rotten—*eau d'Ohio*, vintage 2004. In that state, as in Mexico this week, the presidential “winner,” George Bush, had victory margin smaller than the combined “undercount” (blank ballots) and rejected and mangled ballots.

Blank ballots are rarely random—in the USA, nearly 88% were cast in 2004, notably, in minority areas, the result of

bad voting machines. That is, Democrats' ballots “spoil” and “blank out” a heck of a lot more often than Republican ballots. What about in Mexico?

I intend to find out. As soon as I saw the “official” vote count, I booked a plane to Mexico City. I'll be there (July 8) to join our investigators on the ground—and to fill in the blanks.

And what about the “spoiled” vote—ballots rejected, lost, mangled? Well, some are sitting in dumpsters in Veracruz State which is controlled by the old ruling PRI. (There's a darn good chance that the PRI, hoping to stave off its extinction, played a bigger role than Calderon's PAN in shoplifting votes from challenger Lopez Obrador.)

In a prior missive, I noted that the Bush Administration, under the guise of a secret War on Terror contract, hired ChoicePoint Inc. to filch the voter and citizen

files of Mexico. These are the same characters (the Bushes and ChoicePoint) who helped purge Florida's voter rolls of African-Americans before the 2000 race. Were the Mexican rolls “scrubbed” with Dubya's help? And what exactly was the International Republican Institute, the imperial arm of the GOP, doing down there? Shouldn't someone ask? Shouldn't someone investigate?

Too many uncounted votes, too many blocked voters, too many statistics missing from the official tallies to jump to the automatic conclusion of US mainstream media, that this election was Mexico's first “clean” vote. It may look clean and neat from the Intercontinental Hotel in Mexico City where reporters shuttle from bar to press conference. But sniffing into the garbage piles and ballot piles of Veracruz, it smells more like Ohio con salsa.

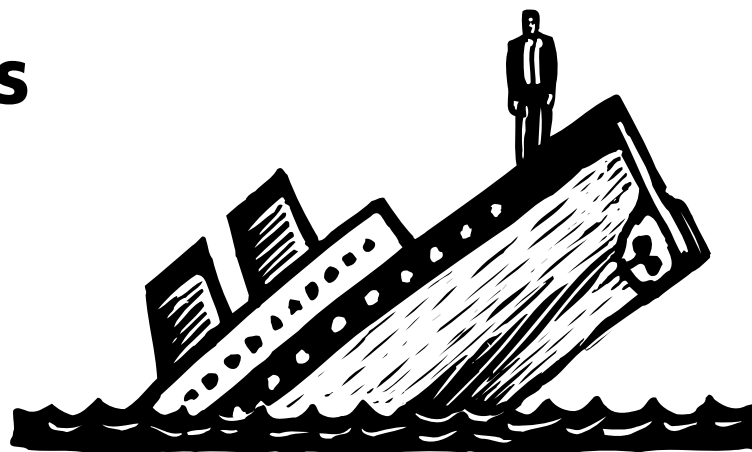
Book snips

John Morearty

Here are some potions and notions we used to charm away the summer heat.

My Invented Country, by Isabel Allende. A tour through her Chile in the mind, by the magical realist who composed her women's family history of Chile, the best-selling *House of the Spirits*, at two in the morning on the kitchen table. What a trip! Howling funny, too.

Armed Madhouse, by Greg Palast. America's genius investigative journalist gets the most amazing people to talk to him—not even suspecting they're being taped. Did you know Pat Robertson's father was a U.S. senator, and the mentor of George W. Bush's grandfather? Or how U.S. oil policy in Iraq might make Hugo Chavez the Sheikh Abdullah of South America? Read Palast for fireworks and hard facts. (He just went to Mexico City—he calls the recent election there Ohio con salsa.)



The Left Hand of God, by Michael Lerner, and *God's Politics*, by Jim Wallis. A rabbi and an Evangelical pastor team up with black Baptist Cornel West and Catholic nun Joan Chittister to form the Network of Spiritual Progressives. Check them out, you may find kindred spirits—and a movement.

Two massive pieces, heavy slogging, in case you like Big Thick Books:

Constantine's Sword, The Church and the Jews, by James Carroll. Long, massively informative and outrageous, with sparks of hope and illumination. Check out the

12th century period of convivencia in Spain.

The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb, and the Architecture of an American Myth, by Gar Alperovitz. Just in case you believed what they always told us, that the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombs saved lives.

Finally for pure delight, two other *Big Thick Books*, great love stories both, gorgeous novels with revisitations of the sixties:

Beach Music by Pat Conroy, and *Prince of Peace* by James Carroll.

Israel/Palestine: looking for solutions *(continued from page 3)*

guaranteeing a dramatic decrease in food for the area's already destitute million plus population. This act was yet another violation of international law that include the arrests of thousands by Israelis and the shooting of Qassams at population centers by Hamas.

In response, Hezbollah fighters who had occupied the land abandoned by Israel when Israel terminated its occupation of southern Lebanon in 2000, launched an attack on Israeli troops inside Israel in clear violation of the understandings that peace would be maintained on that border.

From the standpoint of some in the Arab world, the attack on Israeli troops in northern Israel was an act of Islamic solidarity in face of the huge escalation taken by Israel against the entire population of Gaza. They argue that what really needs to be explained is not why they acted, but why the rest of the world did not act to demand that Israel end its outrageous punishment of a million people for the acts of a few (when the U.N. tried to act, the right-wing government of the U.S. vetoed a resolution supported by the Security Council majority).

Yet from the standpoint of Israel, the attacks by Hezbollah were a blatant violation of the understanding that had kept Israel out of Lebanon for the past seven years. And in fact, it was also a violation of international law and human rights, subjecting a civilian population to random bombings aimed at terrorizing the population. Hezbollah had shown itself to be the vicious terrorist force that Israel always claimed it to be. People living in Haifa or Tsfat or dozens of other locations in Israel are at this very moment living in the same kind of fear that rekindles the fears of earlier experiences in their lives (some, remember, are Holocaust survivors, others the children of survivors, and many have lived through wars that were explicitly aimed at the annihilation of Israel). Those fears are unfortunately likely to be played on by right wing politicians in the coming years.

Nor should we underestimate the malevolence of Iran and Syria in attempting to stimulate unrest and destabilization. While there are some in both of these countries who genuinely feel outrage at Israeli behavior toward Muslim co-religionists, the record of

indifference to the plight of the Palestinians in their own countries and failure to provide material support for Palestine (to build up its own economic infrastructure when it was needed) suggests that their assistance to Hezbollah comes more from seeking political advantage and domination in the Middle East than from genuine moral solidarity with the Palestinian people. And the fear of Iran, a country whose president out and out denies that there ever was a Holocaust and who explicitly affirms the goal of destroying the State of Israel, gives Israelis real reason to worry when his proxies in Hezbollah or Hamas develop the capacity to shoot rockets into Israeli population centers.

What was Israel to do?

Well, had Ariel Sharon been in power, having learned his lesson in Lebanon, he likely would have done the exact same thing he did two years ago when an Israeli businessman was captured by "the enemy"—namely, a prisoner exchange in which hundreds of prisoners are released for a single Israeli. That exchange had been asked for by Hamas and pleaded for by the family of POW Gilad Shalit, but was been rejected by the Israeli government. (*Please read the analysis of this error, and other articles analyzing the current situation at the daily updates of "Current Thinking" at www.tikkun.org.*)

The consensus among Israeli peaceniks is that both Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and his Labor Party Defense Minister Amir Peretz feel the political need to show that they are "strong" and hence the invasion and attack on Lebanon. For the sake of their egos and their future political viability, they "must" proceed with the wild escalation of the struggle against the Lebanese people.

What could Israel still do?

It could redefine these issues as minor border irritants, exchange POWS, and unilaterally announce that it will no longer hold arrestees for more than 3 days without filing formal criminal charges against those who had acted with violence and releasing everyone else, giving speedy and public trials, and punishing any soldier or Shin Bet or Aman officer who engages in torture (or, as they call it, "moderate

pressure") on detainees. It could then immediately announce its intentions to strengthen the position of Palestinian Authority President Abbas by giving to him the tax monies withheld from Hamas, and opening "final status" negotiations within two months. Meanwhile, Israel could begin dismantling the Separation Wall, and promise to rebuild it only on the lines of an international border agreed to by both sides. And Israel could unilaterally censor anti-Palestinian incitement within government-controlled media and instead begin to build a culture of non-violence and educate Israelis about the need for reparations to Palestinian refugees.

What could Palestinians do?

President Abbas could announce that he is inviting Israel to form a joint Israeli/Palestinian border force to ensure that there are no more violent attacks on Israeli civilians, in exchange for the immediate opening of "final status" negotiations with Israel before any further West Bank withdrawals are created. There were joint patrols and security coordination until Sept. 2000 and they contributed to the low level of violence on both sides until Ariel Sharon made his famous provocative trip to the Temple Mount. Abbas could further announce that the Palestinian people who elected him are committed to a non-violent (not passive) struggle for ending the Occupation, but that anyone engaged in violence against Israel or against fellow Palestinians would be tried and, if convicted, would lose their Palestinian citizenship. Abbas could tour the West Bank and Gaza preaching non-violence, implement an immediate end to anti-Semitic and anti-Israel rhetoric in the Palestinian press and in their schools, and could announce that he is determined to build a culture of non-violence inside Palestine.

What could the U.S. and other Western states do?

They could immediately establish an international conference representing all the nations of the world who were willing to accept the right of Israel to exist within the 1967 boundaries and the right of Palestine to exist within Gaza and the West Bank, and let those countries impose on both sides a settlement that is fair to both sides

and enforce such a settlement, guaranteeing peace and security to both sides. Each participant country in this international conference would be allowed in after it had given to a neutral international bank a deposit equal to .01% of its GDP for the purpose of creating the beginning of an international fund for reparations as described below.

As the Tikkun Community has outlined in the past, the terms of that settlement should include:

1. Permanent boundaries for both states that roughly resemble the pre-67 borders, with some border adjustments mutually agreed to along lines developed in the Geneva Accord (Israel incorporating some of the border settlements into Israel, in exchange for Israel giving equal amounts and quality of land to the Palestinian State).

2. Sharing of Jerusalem and its holy sites, with each side entitled to establish their national capital in Jerusalem, Israel to have control over the Jewish and Armenian quarters plus the Wall and adjacent territory, and Palestine to have control over the Temple Mount with its mosques.

3. All states participating in the International Conference would dedicate at least 0.1% of their GDP toward an international fund for reparations for Palestinians who lost property, employment or homes in the period 1947-1967, and to Jews who fled from Arab states in the same period.

4. A joint Israel/Palestine/International Community police force will be set up to enforce border security for both sides. The U.S. and Nato will enter into a mutual security pact for both parties guaranteeing that each side will be protected from any assault by the other or by any assault from any other country in the world.

5. Creation of an Atonement and Reconciliation Commission which will unveil all records of both sides, bring to light all violations of human rights on both sides, bring formal charges against those who do not confess their involvement in those violations and testify to the details, and supervise a newly created peace curriculum for all schools and universities aimed at teaching reconciliation and non-violence in action and communication. The explicit goal of this Commission will be to foster the conditions for a reconciliation of the heart and a

new understanding on the part of both peoples that each side has been cruel and insensitive, and need to repent, and that both sides have a legitimate narrative that needs to be understood and accepted as a legitimate viewpoint by the other side.

Who are Israel's friends and the friends of the Jewish people?

Those who support this path toward peace and reconciliation. Who are its enemies? Those who encourage it to persist in the fantasy that it can "win" militarily or politically. The friends of the Jewish people are those who are doing everything possible to restrain it from cheerleading for Israel's militarist adventures and refusal to treat the Palestinians as equally entitled to freedom and self-determination as the Jewish people.

Who are Palestine's friends?

Those who encourage a path of non-violence and abandoning the fantasy that armed struggle combined with political isolation of Israel will lead to a good outcome for Palestinians. Who are its enemies? Those who preach ideas like "one state solution" or global economic boycott without offering the Jewish people a secure state in Palestine—paths that will never produce anything positive but continued resistance by Israel and world Jewry.

As for us in the Tikkun Community who are friends of both sides, our orientation is clear. Our goal is to speak truth to both the powerful in Israel and the powerless in Palestine, to tell them that their goals cannot be achieved without a radical reversal in the strategic directions they have been following. This truth will eventually be heard—the only question is whether it will be heard without another generation of Arabs and Israelis losing their lives.

Rabbi Michael Lerner is author of many books. He is the editor of Tikkun Magazine in Berkeley (510-644 1200) and rabbi of Beyt Tikkun synagogue which meets in both San Francisco and Berkeley.

Source: Abridged. Tikkun 7/16/06 http://www.tikkun.org/rabbi_lerner/news_item.2006-07-16.3522046449

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If you submit your ad after this date, please allow one month before seeing your ad in Connections. Send camera-ready copy to: bgjudici@caltel.com or PJN, P.O. Box 4123, Stockton, CA 95204

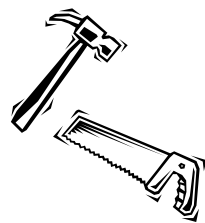
Lawn signs, peace pins, mugs, and T-shirts



Beautiful PJN mugs!

"War is NOT the answer" lawn signs come from the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). We are requesting a \$5 donation to cover costs (sorry, we can't ship lawn signs).

We also have elegant pins made of pewter in the shape of the peace symbol for \$10. Also, handsome PJN T-shirts in many colors, and more. Come by the P&J Center to see these items, plus buttons and bumperstickers galore, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton CA 95204. Call 467-4455.



Sawznhammers

"Saw": a tool for analysis, taking things apart; a proverb, often trite
"Hammer": a tool for synthesis, putting things together; to pound away

Cathedral audience opens eyes and cheers

John Morearty

A few hundred of us came to Annunciation Cathedral gym on a hot summer Friday evening for dessert and "Murder under the Big Top;" we found the married deacon who on Sundays preaches so elegantly, dressed up as a clown with rainbow hair, grunting one-word replies.

The youth group director, so gracious and correct in church, played the histrionic ringmaster, "Ladees and gentlemen, boys and girls!" He also spent a year writing the script.

The school principal dyed her hair red like her north Italian ancestors, and bossed everyone around.

The cast begged her to curse in Italian, she would have been operatic, but she demurred: "I know the words, but too many people in this audience speak Italian!"

The gruff burly choirmaster ran the circus with an iron baton.

Several teachers from the Catholic grade school played a fortune teller, a smart-alecky girl, and a Record reporter who in the denouement peeled off dull trench coat to reveal a cute strutting cop in very tight pants, Macing miscreants.

The Catholic audience loved it, clowns and snake-charmer, strong man and fat lady, but most of all they loved the queers. They howled and stamped their feet for Sigmund and Freud, campy

tiger tamers in red silk bathrobes, charming and gay as the flowers in spring. And they goggled and giggled as Victor/Victoria poked her head out in left profile, dangled her long tresses and told us in a squeaky falsetto that she was "hairy as a Russian ballerina's armpit"-then emerged from the other side of the backdrop in right profile as a short-haired guy with five o'clock shadow wearing a tux, who then turned and displayed her other side to the audience in a red velvet dress, waving a pink glove.

"You have no idea how difficult it is to wear half a bra," trilled the falsetto. She spun back to the tux and rumbled in his bass, "then they operated on me, and left me with half a"

S/he went on and on as the crowd cracked up and cheered.

The villain turned out to be the clean-cut young white guy, there was a glorious chorus line finale, and then we all milled about while the cast made nervous jokes about ex-communication arriving by papal bull on Monday morning.

It could happen, God knows: the present pope, Benedict XVI, has responded to widespread revelations of priests sexually abusing children by a bizarre measure cracking down on-of all people-gays, so I suppose it's just as well he wasn't there.

But dear jolly Pope John XXIII would have loved it. Where is Papa Giovanni when we need him?



Or where was John Henry Cardinal Newman? That nineteenth century English convert to Rome said, "The pope infallible? inschmallible!" Or words to that effect.

"If you want to know what the church really deeply believes," said Newman, "consult the faithful. What do they believe?" If Newman had been in the cathedral gym, he'd have discovered the faithful believe that gay and bisexual people are funny and goofy and sweet, like the rest of us.

Peace and Justice Network



of San Joaquin County

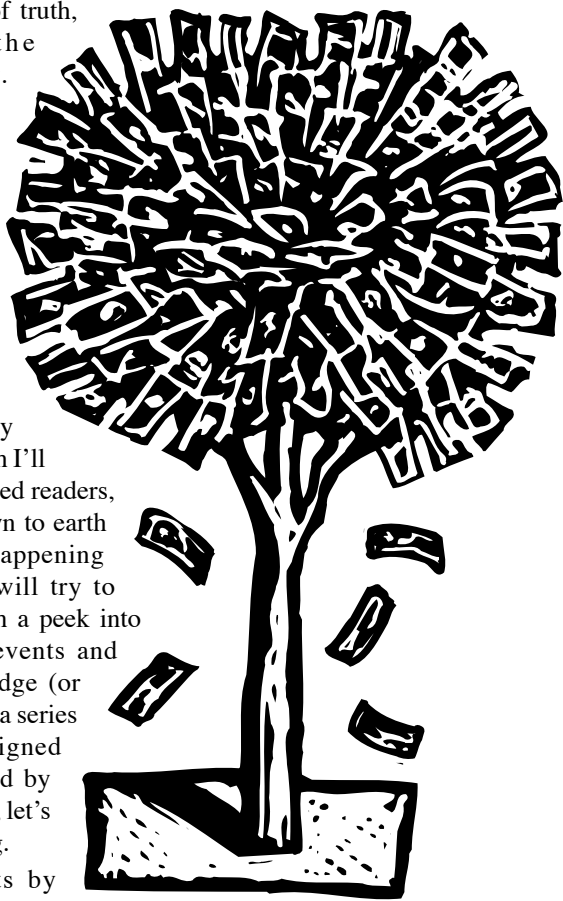
Joe Palooka, checking in

Dave Waldon

Hello readers of truth, justice and the American way. No, this isn't Superman. He's currently battling the evildoers at a downtown Cineplex near you. This is the one, the only, Joe Palooka, just an average guy trying to get by in a crazy world. Each month I'll give you, our valued readers, a blue-collar, down to earth look at what's happening in our world. I will try to entertain you with a peek into possible future events and test your knowledge (or lack thereof) with a series of specially designed questions prepared by Joe himself. Okay, let's get the ball rolling.

Recent reports by the San Joaquin County Grand Jury have concluded that Stockton's Civic leaders goofed up a bit in their "oversight" in the construction of the Stockton Events Center. Ya think? City Manager Mark "Rabid Dog" Lewis was last seen driving East, his car stereo blasting Steve Miller's immortal hit, "Take the Money and Run." Remember sports fan, previous reports by the Grand Jury reported that \$12 million was unaccounted for. Sounds kind of fishy to Joe. What do you think? In the meantime, we're also told thanks to our "friends" at the Stockton Record, that City Council members gave Lewis a blank check and a handful of pens in order that he might cure downtown Stockton's ills. \$125 million dollars later, downtown Stockton is still ill, albeit now it at least has a pulse. Hooray for Lewis, hooray at last, hooray for Lewis, he's a horse's Oh, does Joe love a good joke.

Anyway, can anyone explain to Joe why former Mayor Podesto, current Mayor Chavez, all City Council members, city staffers and related development and construction personnel and of course, Rabid Dog Lewis, are not being grilled about "losing" \$12 million. When I was a little Joe,



my sister and I, along with the folks, went to the County Fair. Dad had a couple of beers and was playing the ponies. Mom took me and the kid sis on the rides. It was hot, and we were ready to go home. "Nah," Dad said, "I'm on a winning streak." So he plunks down a \$20 and says, "Beat it." Mom says, "Stay close." So me and sis get a couple of dogs, two lemonades and cotton candy. Figuring Pop will be pooped by the time we go, I proceed to "forget" the old man's \$12 in change. Oops. Next morning the old man finds the money in my secret hiding spot. I then get twelve reminders about why you should never forget about someone else's dough. Too bad city leaders couldn't have met my Dad.

Flash! Someone just slid this across Joe's desk. Michael Fitzgerald, that intrepid and fearless columnist from the Stockton Record, has inked a promotional agreement with the commission that oversees the Battleship USS Iowa. Fitzgerald, a fierce advocate of bringing the World War II era dreadnought to town as a floating museum, will subject himself to a grueling test of courage and hopefully

arouse public sentiment in favor of the Iowa. In a stunt allegedly designed and coordinated by Evil Kneivel himself, "Cannonball Mike" will be shot from one of the Iowa's mighty 16-inch guns.

Details are sketchy about Mike's prospective landing spot, but insiders have speculated it may be the corner barstool at Garlic Brothers Bar and Grill.

JOEQuiz

Okay, now it's time for Joe's readers to put on their thinking caps. Start playing that Jeopardy music in your little heads. Here we go ...

1. The Cat at the Clinton Whitehouse was named:

- a) Stogie
- b) Cuban Pete
- c) Socks
- d) Puffer

2. The first major market television station in the U.S. to advertise condoms was KRON in San Francisco. What year was it?

- a) 1969
- b) 1972
- c) 1979
- d) 1987

*Joespeak: Seen any condom ads on Fox News lately? Didn't think so.

3. Intended to cut off Chinese immigration, the Chinese Exclusion Act was enacted by Congress in what year:

- a) 1868
- b) 1882
- c) 1901
- d) 1930

*Joespeak: How long before we see the Mexican Exclusion Act? Members of Congress ought to go pick fruits and vegetables down towards Bakersfield in the summer. The exclusion act mentality would disappear faster than Congressmen do after voting themselves a pay raise.

4. To maintain a youthful appearance while President, Ronald Reagan reportedly got

regular doses of this:

- a) Commie Cream
- b) Hair dye
- c) Astrology reports
- d) Gipper Up

5. Red Skelton was well known as a what?

- a) Chinese communist
- b) Coppertone suntan lotion spokesperson
- c) Russian chiropractor
- d) Famous comedian and actor

(Answers shown below.)

Joe sounds off

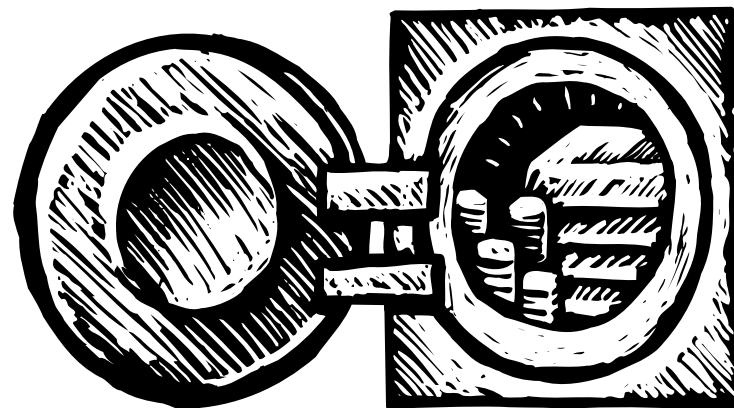
Joe cringed at the rantings of columnist Cal Thomas in the June 15th Stockton record. Thomas, a proud bearer of his professed Christian faith, nonchalantly suggested that Israel should "obliterate" neighborhoods where terrorists hide out. To hell with innocent men, women and children. Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead. Sheesh! Joe's like to pop that guy in the snoot.

Hey folks, remember the Newt Gingrich-led Congressional Republicans of the 1990s and their "Contract with America"? You know, Newt, the guy who dumped his wife of 28 years as she lay on her deathbed, dying of cancer. Nice fella. Back then, the GOP said it was going to clean up the corruption in D.C. brought on by too many years of bad ol' Democrats. Well, you don't need a crystal ball to tell you a new batch of baddies are running the show that make the old ones look like a bunch of slightly

naughty Elmer Fudd's. Influence peddling on K Street is selling faster than Chinese toasters at K-Mart. So with Jack Abramoff safely headed to the slammer, our stalwart House Repubs now look to pull another rabbit out of the hat. Get ready folks, it's the new, improved, better than ever "American Values Agenda." Flag burning—a national crisis! Gay marriage—how distasteful! Mexican immigrants—Adios, wetbacks! War in Iraq—Cut and run? Why that's downright un-American, Suh! Geez. You know what? Joe's got a better idea. How about the new values agenda beginning with, "Thou shall not steal" or "Thou shall not kill." These dudes are always yapping how they want the Ten Commandments hung up everywhere. Maybe their own "House" is a good place to start.

Well kiddies, Joe's gotta go, but before I do, Joe admits the Democrats have got some problems. Fortunately, old Joe has a solution. How about some real Democrats instead of the fractured fraternity now encompassing the party? How's about reconnecting with the guy in the streets. Maybe somebody with callouses on their hands instead of their butts. Anybody ever drained a couple of brewskis with Joe Lieberman? Joe don't think so. Anyway, until next time, if you're drinking a cold one, think of Joe and remember to treat all the other Palookas in this world, both big and small, with the same kindness you'd like to be treated yourself.

Answers to JOEQuiz: 1.(c); 2.(d), 3.(b), 4.(b), 5.(d)



Mexican Film Series at the P&J Center

September 12 6:30

The Art of Mexico: Vol. 1: Ancient and Modern Traditions Vol. 1

The Mexican population—in spite of its boundless diversity—finds unity in pride of identity and cultural heritage—of which Indian ancestry plays a large part. The influence of the past is strongly felt in Mexican art, almost all of which bears some mark of its indigenous predecessors. This program traces the foundations of Mexican art from its roots in such Indian masterworks as the colossal stone heads of the Olmecs, the stunning jewelry of the Mixtecs, and the famous ritual and sacred objects of the Mayan and Aztec civilizations, through the influence of the Conquest and Christianity on indigenous art forms. This is an indispensable guide to the understanding of Mexican art — both of the past and present.

September 19 6:30

The Art of Mexico: Vol. 2: The Painters

Imbued with traces of ancient mysticism and combining both pagan and Christian beliefs, Mexican paintings are both visual and narrative in nature—and as colorful and complex as the Mexican people themselves. From the early Christian-themed art of the colonial period through the neoclassical, romantic art of the nineteenth century, to the art of the twentieth century, so deeply rooted in European Modernism, Mexican painting has always had an exciting and diverse style. This program surveys the rich history of Mexican painting, illuminating seminal works by such illustrious artists as colonial painter Baltasar de Echave Orio, 19th century painter Jose Maria Estrada, muralist Diego Rivera, and surrealist Frida Kahlo, among others.

September 26 6:30

Mojadas—Through the Night

Director Tommy Davis tags along with four migrants from a small village in Mexico as they leave their families and embark on a 120 mile trek across the deserts of Texas, attempting to evade the U.S. Border Patrol. They must overcome dehydration, hypothermia and come face to face with death.

October 3 6:30

Streets of Mexico City

The stories of nine diverse characters intertwine to weave a complex tale of humanity on the streets of Mexico City, the world's largest and most populous urban center. The protagonists that drive the drama (including Jaime Camil, Martha Higuera and Lumi Cavazos) represent a mix of ages, social classes and attitudes, but they do have one thing in common: a passion to survive their trying circumstances.

Artistas Del Valle present

“Paso Del Norte” Art Exhibit & Show

September 16–October 14, 2006

Reception: Saturday, September 16th 6:00–9:00 pm
Mexican Independence Day !
Music ~ Food ~ Celebration

Symposium: Friday, September 29th 7:00 ~ 9:00 pm
Meet The Artists • Music • Poetry • Speakers

Mexican Film Series: Tuesdays – 6:30 pm

September 12: The Art Of Mexico: Vol. 1: Ancient And Modern Traditions Vol. 1

September 19: The Art Of Mexico: Vol. 2: The Painters

September 26: Mojadas - Through The Night

October 3: Streets Of Mexico City

All at Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Road, Stockton
209-467-4455

French film series—can't miss

Richard Patocchi

Growing up in the Bay Area during the late 50's and 60's, I remember watching foreign films at night, after my parents had gone to bed. By chance I discovered that late at night, KRON-TV (Ch. 4) in San Francisco aired films from around the world: Britain, France, Germany, Italy, India, and Japan, among others. I was fascinated by what I saw, by the foreign languages, by the different cultures, and transfixed by the seemingly alien dramas. Though I didn't always understand everything I saw, I didn't care. I liked them for what they were and I was hooked, a foreign film buff in the making. Though I didn't see either one of the following films until years later, both of the final two scheduled offerings in the P&J Center's "July French Film Series" would have been perfect choices for such late-night viewing.

To be viewed on July 25, "Un Homme et Une Femme" (A Man and A Woman), was directed by Claude Lelouch and released in 1966. Cinematically elegant, it's an excellent example of late "new wave" film: realistic look, improvised dialogue, and then innovative cutting coupled with documentary and newsreel footage, among other techniques.

Interestingly, the film is shot in color and black and white, for dramatic effect. Without giving too much away, the plot focuses on a man (Jean-Louis Trintignant) and a woman (Anouk Aimée) who are both widowed, and meet by chance through their children and, in the course of their tentative steps toward romance, reveal the history of their individual losses. Jean-Louis Trintignant is the engaging and delightfully charming, yet surprisingly thoughtful race car driver (now there's a combo). Anouk Aimée is likewise engaging and charming as the initially reserved, but equally thoughtful script girl and Jackie Kennedy look-alike. Grand Prize winner at the Cannes Film Festival and Academy Award winner for Best Foreign Language Film in 1966. The film is 103 minutes long, with English subtitles.

To be shown on August 1, "La Belle et La Bête" (Beauty and the Beast) was directed by Jean Cocteau and released in 1946. Begun in late 1945 under dreadful post-war conditions of privation and shortages of every type (except for artistic genius and dedication) this is doubtless Cocteau's greatest cinematic achievement. Luckily for us, he kept a journal while making the film, which makes one marvel

that the film was made at all, given the hurdles and catastrophes that plagued cast, crew and production alike. Brought to his attention by Jean Marais, Cocteau adapted the 18th century moral tale by Mme Leprince de Beaumont to his own ends. Beware, this is not the Disney version. The result was one of the greatest films ever made in France, a truly magical story of enchantment, obsessive desire and death where love really does conquer all in the end. The great Jean Marais appears, even then, to be at the pinnacle of his artistic powers in the triple roles of Avenant, the Beast and Prince Ardent, while Josette Day plays Beauty with an honest and graceful simplicity. The rest of the cast is equally able: Mila Parély and Nane Germon viciously portray the envious, greedy sisters; Michel Auclair is the good-for-nothing, wastrel brother; and Marcel André steps straight out of Molière and the Comédie Française to play the tolerant but hapless merchant-cum-father. Winner of the Prix Louis Delluc at the 1946 Cannes Film Festival, the film runs for 93 minutes in truly stunning black and white, with English subtitles. To be followed by the short 1995 color documentary, "Screening at the Majestic."

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AUG / SEPT CALENDAR

[Editor's note: if your event isn't listed, let us know. Send all copy to: bgiudici@caltel.com by the 7th of every month.]

July 3- Aug 5

Colleen Platt gourds and Cate Culter painter. M-F 10-5, Sat 11-3 Tidewater Gallery, 223 E. Weber Av. 463-4033

July 28-Aug 6

Caberet, a musical set in pre-Third Reich Berlin. Tillie Lewis Theatre, Delta, 5151 Pacific Ave. 954-5110.

Sat, July 22

Voter registration drive meets, Stockton SEIU-UHW offices, 306 E Main St, Ste 305, Stockton. 2 pm. (see p. 7) Info: 552-6769

Tue, July 25

Candlelight prayer vigil for peace, Annunciation Catholic cathedral, Lincoln/Rose, 7 pm. Bring a candle, bring a friend. All welcome! Sponsored by Pax Christi. 462-3340, 464-3326.

French film series, A Man and a Woman. PJ Center (see p. 18).

Wed, July 26

No Peace on Earth in Bethlehem: A report back from the West Bank. Jewish-Christian activist Wendy Kaufmyn reports her work with the International Women's Peace Service in Palestine. 7-9 pm, P&J Center, 231 Bedford Rd. 467-4455. Donations.

Free Concert in the Park featuring Art Bregante, 6-8 pm, Victory Park.

Thur, July 27

Peace demonstration, Delta College lawn, off Yokuts. 5-6:30. Sponsored by Freedom from War and Peace & Justice Network. Jim Walsh, 981-0544. Fourth Thursdays.

Sat, July 29

Better Health for San Joaquin info/education faire, 10 am-2 pm, Weber Point Waterfront. Sponsored by the San Joaquin Health Care Coalition (see p. 1) 951-0499 or 472-6108.

Summer Ragtime Festival, 2-4 pm. Scott Joplin music by local musicians. 605 N. El Dorado, outside Ola's Coffee Shop. Free.

Wed, Aug 2

Free Concert in the Park featuring Waterloo. 6-8 pm, Victory Park.

Sun Aug 6

Hiroshima commemoration and interfaith prayer vigil for peace (see p. 1). 6 pm, Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Ave, across from UOP. Jim Walsh, 981-0544; John Morearty, 464-3326.

Hiroshima non-violent action at Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab, 9 am, Vasco Rd and Patterson Pass Rd, Livermore CA. (925) 443-7148

Wed, Aug 9

Nagasaki anniversary & UN International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples non-violent action at Bechtel Corporate headquarters, 50 Beale St, San Francisco. 10 am. Half block from Embarcadero BART (see p. 6) . (925) 443-7148.

Free Concert in the Park featuring Steve Trucco, 6 - 8 pm, Victory Park, Pershing & Argonne.

Thur, Aug 10

Health Care for All San Joaquin group meeting, 6-8 pm. 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. Second Thursdays.

Sat, Aug 12

Summer Ragtime Festival, 2-4 pm. Scott Joplin music by local musicians. 605 N. El Dorado. Free.

Sun, Aug 13

San Joaquin Vegans monthly potluck, 5:30, P&J Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. \$2 with food, \$9 without. Please bring your own table service and food for 8. All are welcome. RSVP to vsonstroem@deltacollege.edu. For more info on SJ Vegans or email announcements about other events, contact Bobbie at sjvegans@aol.com. Second Sundays. (see p. 13).

Wed, Aug 16

Free Concert in the Park featuring the Valley Concert Band, 6 - 8 pm, Victory Park, Pershing & Argonne.

Thur, Aug 17

Anti-war working group meeting, P&J Center, 231 Bedford Rd. 7-9 pm. For info, sign up on the e-mail listserv by sending an e-mail to: antiwarsjc@lists.riseup.net and put "subscribe" in the subject line. Third Thursdays.

Tue, Aug 22

Candlelight prayer vigil for peace, Annunciation Catholic Cathedral, Lincoln/Rose, 7 pm. Sponsored by Pax Christi. 462-3340, 464-3326.

Wed, Aug 23

Free Concert in the Park featuring the Bob Edson Jazz Co, 6 - 8 pm, Victory Park, Pershing & Argonne.

Thur, Aug 24

Peace demonstration, Delta College lawn by Pacific Avenue, at Yokuts. 5-6:30. Info: Jim Walsh, 981-0544.

Sat, Aug 26

Summer Ragtime Festival, 2-4 pm. Scott Joplin music by local musicians. 605 N. El Dorado. Free.

Thur, Sept 7

Peace & Justice Center meeting, P&J Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. 6 pm. All welcome. 467-4455

Peace & Justice Network board meeting, P&J Center, 231 Bedford Rd. 7 pm. All welcome. 467-4455

Sat, Sept 9

CELEBRATION: 20 years of Connections! Oak Park at California and Alpine, Stockton. 1-5 pm. All invited (see p. 1). 467-4455

Sun, Sept 10

San Joaquin Vegans monthly potluck, 5:30, Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. sjvegans@aol.com. Second Sundays. See p. 13.

Tue, Sept 12

Mexican film series begins, 6:30 pm, PJ Center (see p. 18). 467-4455

Thur, Sept 14

Health Care for All San Joaquin group meeting, 6-8 pm. 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. Second Thursdays.

Sat, Sept 16

Paso del Norte art exhibit reception. Music, food, celebration. 6-9 pm PJ Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. 467-4455. (see p. 18.)

Fri, Sept 29

Paso del Norte art exhibit symposium. Meet the artists—music, poetry and speakers. 7-9 pm. PJ Center, 231 Bedford Rd. 467-4455. (see p. 18.)

Third Mondays

Hispanics for Political Action (HEPA) meets 6 pm at Archie's Café, 334 S. Hwy. 99. (near Arch Rd). 464-9205.

UOP Summer 2006 Film Schedule

Wed, July 26 Dave Chapelle's Block Party
Sat, July 29 What Ever Happened to Baby Jane
Wed, Aug 9 & Sat, Aug 12

Chronicles of Narnia

Wed, Aug 16 Broken Flowers

Showtime: 7:00pm
Phone: 946-2025 for show recording

Pacific Theatre
University of the Pacific
3601 Pacific Ave.
Stockton, CA 95211

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\$15.00 per session
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Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Road

Please call Angela to sign-up
321-2050

Please bring your own mat. Pilate balls will be available for purchase.

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.

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Enjoy simple food prepared with love and enthusiasm
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We also offer Certified Organic beef and weekly produce bags
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Ask us about private engagements

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209-754-9986

It's All Happening At the P&J Center

Summer French Film Series

July 25: "Un Homme et Une Femme" (A Man and A Woman)

Directed by Claude Lelouch, 1966. Acclaimed romantic "new wave" hit about two wounded souls (John-Louis Trintignant and Anouk Aimée) who reluctantly put their losses behind them and fall in love. Grand Prize winner at the Cannes Film Festival and Academy Award winner for Best Foreign Language Film. 103 minutes, in color and black & white with English subtitles.

August 1: "La Belle et La Bête" (Beauty and The Beast)

Directed by Jean Cocteau, 1946. Cocteau's brilliant adaptation of the 18th century fairy tale by Mme Leprince de Beaumont. Jean Marais in the roles of Avenant, the Beast and Prince Ardent, with Josette Day as Beauty; superb supporting cast, too. One of the greatest films ever made, a magical tale of enchantment, desire and death wherein love eventually conquers all. 93 minutes, in truly stunning black & white with English subtitles. Followed by the brief 1995 color documentary "Screening at the Majestic."

Please help!

The Peace & Justice Center is a great asset to our community. You can help keep the Center going in a number of ways.

- Send a generous donation now.
- Be a monthly sustainer.
- Rent the Center for your meetings or other events.
- Bring friends and participate in Center activities.
- Share your skills and ideas to help the Center grow.

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Your future, our future

This is a request for money. Let us explain why it is so important to support this idea called the Peace and Justice Network.

The future of our world is full of possibilities.

Possibilities to make peace, to raise families, to

create habitats, to express ourselves - and to make the world a better place.

Not just for our children, but because it is the right thing to do. To create a better future will take a community of informed, motivated, caring people.

We are that community. In the heart of every Peace and Justice member is an informed and caring person. And, if you look around you, most people are the same way. We all cringe at overt selfishness, at cruelty, at the harm done to the helpless and the vulnerable. We are truly a good people. At times we react out of fear or anger - but we all want a better, peaceful world.

The Peace and Justice Network exists to help us create that better world. We have created this paper - to inform and entertain. We have created the Peace and Justice Center - to provide a space for action and education and fun. And we have created the possibility - for you to get involved and be part of this vision.

We invite you to be part of the Network. Our paper, our Center, and our community are yours. For those who have provided ideas, energy, and funds - thank you! For those of you who have yet to get involved, please look around. This world needs you - doing your individual thing - but also as part of a larger community that has a larger voice that can be heard.

We also need your financial support. Help sustain the Network as we take on new challenges and projects. Send a donation or consider making a monthly pledge.

Thank you.

