

connections

PRICELESS

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Immigration meltdown: how the Senate failed

Ruth Flower

The Senate has failed once again to craft immigration legislation. As a result all of us—and especially immigrants—will live with our broken immigration system for at least a few more years. Those waiting in the backlog of legal immigration applications will continue to wait. Families will continue to wait for years to be united. Raids and mass arrests in workplaces with a high percentage of Hispanic workers will continue. Detention and neglect of individuals picked up without legal papers will continue. And about 12 million people who are here illegally will continue to try to hide from detection, unable to regularize their status.

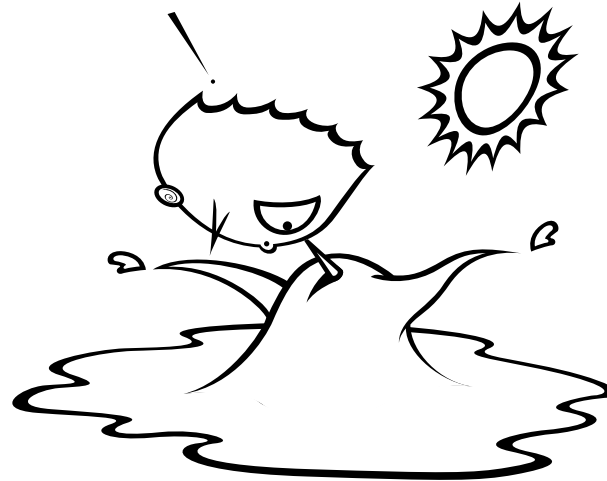
These were and are real problems that still need to be addressed. The Senate was unable to set aside political pandering and posturing to do the job of fixing our broken immigration system. After the end of the debate, Senator Bob Menendez (NJ) spoke of the many times in U.S. history when major political figures have railed against the current wave of immigrants—Germans, Irish, Italians, Asians, and now, primarily, Mexicans. Always in the past, the immigrants in the vilified groups have entered U.S. society and made it richer. He spoke of his distress at hearing assumptions about the motives and characteristics of "those people," leaving behind a cogent reminder

that nearly everyone in the country was at one time one of "those people."

House and Senate leaders are now predicting that comprehensive immigration reform will not be considered again in this (the 110th) Congress. It is possible, however, that portions of the bill, such as the "ag jobs" title or some of the enforcement provisions will be taken up separately.

What happened?

At noon on Thursday, June 28, the immigration reform debate came to an end. In a rancorous debate that spanned several weeks, senators had proposed some 400 separate amendments and listened to each other for hours. But in the end no agreement could be reached, even on procedural matters. A heated, contentious dispute, characterized by partisan accusations and political tricks, folded into silence when a key procedural motion



failed. No longer able to avoid filibusters, Senate Majority Leader Reid pulled the bill from consideration.

By the time the debate ended, the proposed immigration legislation was not a good bill, and the amendment process was making it worse. Yet, as long as the bill was still alive, we at FCNL saw some hope that some beneficial parts of the bill could be saved and that other parts could be made more workable. Now, the House will not be taking up immigration reform during this Congress; House leaders are unwilling to move ahead on this difficult issue without Senate agreement.

What the bill looked like when it died

How would the bill have handled the backlog of legal immigration applications?

(continued page 3)

Remember Hiroshima at the Lab

August 6, 7:30 am
Livermore Lab
Westgate & Vasco Road,
Livermore

Sixty-two years after the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we find ourselves still in the shadow of the bomb. Please join us on August 6 for a rally and direct action at Livermore Nuclear Weapons Laboratory, to commemorate the victims of nuclear bombs, from Hiroshima to the present, for the victimization continues as all aspects of the nuclear cycle go on all over the world. We want to honor their suffering and speak up to demand that the U.S. acknowledge and apologize for what it has done. We demand that the U.S. keep its part of the bargain and implement its NPT nuclear disarmament obligations. We need you to speak up with us to make our message loud and clear.

Sponsors: Livermore Conversion Project, Tri-Valley CAREs, Western States Legal Foundation, American Friends Service Committee, First Congregational Church of Oakland

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Make history

Bruce Giudici

The world is closing in around us. Global issues are now local—the Delta we drain, the houses we build, the cars we drive, the products we buy, the crooks we elect, the bombs we buy, the videos we watch, the news we ignore, the choices we refuse to make—all impact our Earth. It's all coming home to roost.

Drought has come to the West; fire is our latest terrorist, code red. Neighbors now help those burned out in Angora; the community provides support.

Where I live, in Calaveras County, water is scarce; the community now conserves and we share the burden together.

Across the nation, the Iraq war has finally become a burden too

heavy to bear; the nation now speaks out and we will soon be changing course.

For the past couple of decades, a focus on the individual has crowded out the glaring needs of the many. Since the days of the great one, Ronald Reagan, the marketplace of self-serving greed has given riches to the wealthy, shelters to the poor and debt to the rest of us. Now, at long last, the pendulum is swinging back.

In the past year, there has been a change in the wind, with the tipping point for community involvement seeming to be a wooden presentation by a betrayed President-elect on the remote topic of global warming. As improbable as it is impressive, the nation's attention and desire to sacrifice for

the greater good has been aroused. Certainly, all the writing and talking, the demonstrations and petitions and actions, the work and time sacrificed by you helped. Taken in total, the coming few years will be the most promising for progressive change in over a decade. With crisis comes opportunity; now's our turn.

The Peace & Justice Network wants to provide critical support in the positive changes to come—and we want your input.

On August 4, from 10 to 4 at the Peace Center on 231 Bedford Road, we will begin a 5-year strategic plan. The mission: to seamlessly integrate *Connections*, radio, television, other outreach and the Center in providing a foundation for the local



Bruce Giudici, editor

progressive community. If you want to provide critical support to this important endeavor, please come.

This organization was created by, has been supported by and will respond to the local peace community and its evolving needs. We are at a crucial juncture in making a truly important local contribution. The action by thousands of groups such as ours across the country will make history. Join us and make history.

Waldo Holt: a giant man with a gentle soul

Dale Steele

I have special memories of Waldo towering over me as we were in deep conversation about some biological question or problem. There were always plenty of those but never enough time to discuss them.

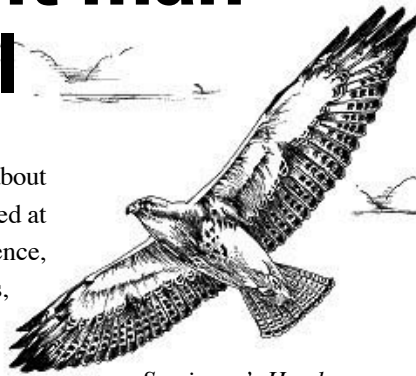


Swainson's Hawk
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/Paul Kerris

The first thing you noticed about Waldo was his size. I marveled at how he used his large presence, along with a quiet gentleness, to make his points without intimidating, without making enemies. He had a unique ability to communicate with people on all sides of an issue.

In many of those meetings Waldo stood alone, protecting local wildlife from developers and agencies. His firmness and persistence were effective. He was relentless in his defense of local wildlife and nature, and our community is the richer for it.

I picture Waldo as a tall strong old oak tree with roots firmly planted in loamy soil and his canopy providing shade and



Swainson's Hawk
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/
Paul Kerris

cover for those around him. Swainson's hawks continue to come back to nest here in San Joaquin County in no small part due to his hard work and foresight.

Like the rest of us, the hawks will miss Waldo. We all need to do a little more now that he is gone.

Thanks, Waldo, for standing tall.

Support for impeachment

Nearly half the US public wants President George W. Bush to face impeachment and a majority support impeachment of Vice President Dick Cheney.

According to a new poll by the American Research Group, 45% of the public wants the US House of Representatives to begin impeachment proceedings against Bush with 46% opposed, and 54-40% in favor of impeachment for Cheney.

The findings can be found on ARG's website at <http://www.americanresearchgroup.com/>.

The US Constitution allows presidents and vice presidents to be impeached—that is, formally charged by the House—for "treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors" by a simple majority vote.

Conviction by the Senate, which requires a two-thirds majority, means removal from office.

Dennis Kucinich introduced a resolution calling for Cheney's impeachment. To date, the measure has only 10 co-sponsors. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi has said impeachment is "off the table."

ACTION: Contact your congresspeople to insist impeachment be put back on the table.

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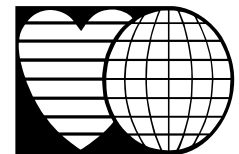
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Immigration (continued from page 1)

The family visa backlog would have been reduced under the Senate bill. Many family members who had applied for immigration before January 2007 would have been admitted. But many others—those who probably would not have received a visa within the next 20 years under current law—would have been left out. This group, which comprises about 732,000 family members, would not have been admitted under the Senate bill as amended.

A consensus bill on agricultural workers—agreed on by farmworkers, agricultural businesses, immigration advocates and others—was included in the bill. It would have provided 400,000 visas annually for temporary farmworkers, and permitted those who came here under the program to apply for permanent legal status, based on their work history.

In an attempt to respond more effectively to the needs of U.S. employers, the bill would have provided for 200,000 temporary worker visas. An odd calendar requirement was included, however. A temporary worker would have been allowed to stay in the U.S. for two years. After one year out of the U.S., the worker would have been allowed to return for two more years, and could then repeat that cycle one more time. Then, the worker would not have been permitted enter again. The temporary worker program also included elaborate, unworkable, and ultimately bizarre family restrictions.

Other workers would have had to apply for an employment-based visa under a point system that favors skilled and educated workers. The annual number of visas for highly skilled workers

(H-1B visas) would have almost doubled.

What would the bill have done to fix the legal immigration system, so that huge backlogs and illegal entry would be less likely?

The bill did little to address the operation of the legal immigration system. Additional funding of \$4.4 billion was promised for more enforcement mechanisms, including high-tech equipment and more personnel. But nothing was promised for clerks and other personnel who are needed to process legal applications, to reduce the waiting time for family members and qualified workers.

How would the bill have dealt with the 12 million people who entered the U.S. illegally and are now here?

The bill created a "Z-visa" program which would permit these individuals to stay here and work, legally. To obtain a Z-visa, an applicant would have had to show continuous employment, efforts to learn English, payment of back taxes, and payments of various fines and fees (totaling about \$9,000 for a family of four.) The Z-visa would have been renewable every 4 years for additional fees. The bill also required Z-visa applicants to leave the country and return as part of the application process for legal permanent residency (the "touchback"). An amendment accepted on the Senate floor took away a protection that would have allowed people to register for this program without automatically incurring deportation. With

this amendment, and with the touchback provision and the high cost of the visa, the program did not appear to be a serious and workable solution to the problem at hand.

What would the bill have done about illegal entry?

The bill provided for the construction of 300 miles of vehicle barriers, 370 miles of fence, 105 radar and high-tech camera towers, in addition to unmanned aerial vehicles, cameras, poles, sensors, satellites, radar coverage, and other vehicles and equipment. (Legislation passed last year authorized 700 miles of border fence and \$1.2 billion for border security.) The bill mandated the hiring of 14,000 new border patrol agents (in addition to the 18,000 now authorized); amendments accepted to the bill also would have increased the number of investigators and border enforcement personnel in the interior of the country.

How would the bill have responded to the practice of hiring people who entered or stayed illegally?

The bill mandated the creation of a tamper-proof identification card to be presented by all workers (immigrant and non-immigrant alike). The card was to include a bar code that could be read by a machine linked to Social Security records, to verify that the holder of the card was authorized to work in the United States. Fines and penalties for failures by employers to comply would have been increased.

Source: FCNL release 7/3/07, 245 Second St NE, Washington, DC 20002 800-630-1330 <http://www.fcnl.org>

Those waiting in the backlog of legal immigration applications will continue to wait. Families will continue to wait for years to be united. Raids and mass arrests in workplaces with a high percentage of Hispanic workers will continue. Detention and neglect of individuals picked up without legal papers will continue.



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Restore the Delta

Peripheral canal not the answer

Restore the Delta, a local broad-based coalition including Delta farmers, environmentalists, everyday citizens, fishermen, business leaders, and local youth, brought together a diverse body of Delta residents to attend the House of Resources Subcommittee hearing on "Extinction is not a Sustainable Water Policy: The Bay-Delta crisis and the implications for California water management." At that July 2 Vallejo hearing, representatives from Restore the Delta told a number of state and federal water agency heads that Delta residents oppose the construction of a peripheral canal because:

1) Water quality will deteriorate even further, leading to the death of the Delta's ecosystem - the largest estuary on the Pacific Coast of both North and South America.

2) The local water supply will become so saline that Delta agriculture can no longer be sustained, thereby undoing our region's economy, culture, history, and way of life.

3) Delta water quality will never meet Clean Water Act standards.

4) The Delta recreation industry will cease to exist as we know it. Sports fishing will be a thing of the past, and other water sporting activities will cease to be pleasurable in such polluted waters.

5) There will be no incentive to fix Delta levees or to create a flood management plan that will protect Delta people, Delta property, and Delta infrastructure, such as railways and gaslines. In the event of a natural disaster, the Delta will be written off in the same way that New Orleans was abandoned after Hurricane Katrina.

As Restore the Delta President and Delta area resident Bill Loyko notes, "There is a thirty-year history of state and federal water agencies failing to fulfill promises regarding the management of water exports. To date, not one water agency has answered our question: "How much fresh water flow is needed to pass through the Delta via historical current flows in order for the Delta to remain

healthy? Why should we trust these regulatory agencies now, especially with the near extinction of the Delta smelt?"

A Healthy Delta Communities Plan

After several months of work with members of the Delta community, Campaign Director Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla has brought together a core group of citizens who are working to shape a Healthy Delta Communities Plan. The plan centers around the following principles set by Restore the Delta members:

1) Freshwater is essential for the health and vitality of the Delta community, economy and ecosystem. Both immediate actions and long-term solutions must be founded on protecting the Delta as a public trust resource. Therefore:

- Exports of water from the Delta must immediately be reduced to a level compatible with protecting Delta values.

- All proposals for long-term Delta management must be based on a firm understanding of Delta freshwater needs and must include strong protection for sufficient flows of water necessary for healthy Delta communities, including Delta agriculture. Strong assurances must be made for such protections, with appropriate and sustainable water export reductions before any proposals for alternative export conveyance or diversion methods are considered.

2) A comprehensive flood plan and an emergency readiness plan must be immediately prepared to protect the people, property, and infrastructure and provide for a healthy ecosystem of the Delta. A comprehensive plan to improve essential project and non-project levees must be immediately prepared and fully funded in consultation with local Delta experts.

3) To restore the health of the California Delta while maintaining a reliable water supply for our neighbors throughout California, state and regional water agencies

must aggressively implement regional water self-sufficiency measures, such as water conservation, reclamation, and water recycling.

4) All Delta planning must be designed to minimize the regional impacts of climate change. Specifically, plans must address increased flood risks, sea level rise, and peak river inflows that are likely to result from climate change. These plans must also allow for incremental responses to ecosystem changes resulting from climate change.

5) All land use decisions, including potential island reconfiguration must be guided by local Delta expertise. Delta landowners and residents must have an active role in development and implementation of all plans affecting their community.

6) To help preserve the unique cultural and environmental resources of the California Delta, the state should immediately establish a California Delta Conservancy, as well as assist with obtaining a federal and/or state level protected status for the Delta region (i.e. park, monument, or recreational area). Such programs should be developed in consultation with local Delta landowners and stakeholders, and should help to protect Delta agricultural interests.

Ms. Barrigan-Parrilla adds that a permanent reduction in water exports from the Delta, a comprehensive flood management plan, and enforcement of Clean Water Act standards are the three legs of the stool that need to be significantly strengthened in order for real Delta restoration to begin. "Without first taking action in these three areas, no future plans for the Delta will result in any real improvements for the ecosystem. In fact, the Delta ecosystem, as we know and treasure it, will cease to exist."

ACTION: To become involved with helping the Delta, contact Restore the Delta and Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla at 209-479-2053.

Source: Restore the Delta release 7/2/07 www.restorethedelta.org

The Rx from Sicko: more choice

Dean Baker

The pundits are working overtime trying to defuse the message from "SICKO," Michael Moore's new film. They are trying to convince the public that the United States could not possibly do what every other rich country (and even some not so rich countries) have managed to do: guarantee their people decent health care.

The centerpiece of the pundits' whine is that universal health care could not work here. They claim the systems which work in other countries require a larger role for government in health care than Americans want. While this claim is contradicted by poll after poll on the topic, we don't have to argue with the pundits, a rather pointless task in any case.

We can just give people a choice and let them vote with their feet. Suppose the government were to establish a Medicare-type program and open it up to all individuals and employers in the country. Those who already have insurance can switch to the government-run plan. Similarly, employers can switch to it as well. Individuals who do not already have insurance would have the option of buying in to the expanded Medicare plan as would employers who do not currently provide insurance for their workers. We can also have a system of expanded subsidies for health care for low and moderate income households, which will make health care insurance more affordable for those families.

This is more or less what both John Edwards and Barack Obama have proposed in their presidential campaigns. To get to universal coverage, there are important issues like mandating that individuals have health care insurance, and also questions about the revenue source for subsidies, but the key

point is to establish a national Medicare-type insurance system that can get costs under control and eliminate the enormous waste in the private insurance system.

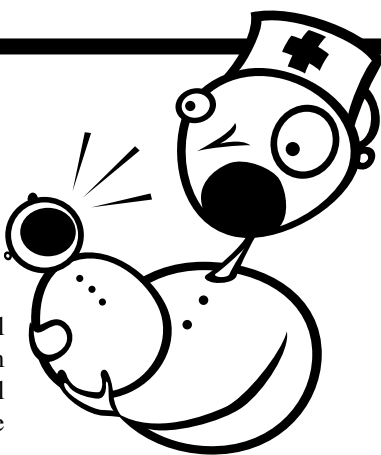
Medicare's administrative expenses are a small fraction of the administrative expenses of private insurers. Medicare uses just 2 percent of the money that flows through the system to cover administrative costs. By contrast, private insurers spend between 10 to 20 percent of their premiums to cover administrative costs. They use this money for marketing, high CEO salaries and dividends to shareholders; all expenses that Medicare does not have.

This is the reason Medicare always wipes the floor when it competes against private insurers on a level playing field. That is exactly what happened in the late 90s when the "Medicare Plus Choice" program was restructured to remove most of the subsidy for the private insurers that participated in the program. The vast majority of the HMO's that had entered the Medicare system went running for shelter, whining that they could not make a profit if they were only compensated as much per patient as the traditional Medicare program.

This is why when the Republican Congress wanted to expand the role of private insurers in Medicare with the 2003 Medicare Modernization Act: They put in a system of subsidies that the Medicare Payment Advisory Board estimates at 12 percent per beneficiary. The insurers again claim they could not possibly make a profit if they got the same per patient fees as the traditional Medicare program.

Dollars & cents

This experience is important. We cannot afford universal health



care if we don't bring the costs of the US system more in line with the rest of the world. We currently pay more than twice as much per person, with no obvious benefit in terms of outcome. The key to creating a more efficient system is to have a government-run system comparable to the traditional Medicare system.

But, we don't have to pontificate about American values and the role of government—leave the silly pseudo-philosophical debates out of it. This is a straight dollars-and-cents question that can be determined by the market. Give people a choice and let them decide whether they want to be insured through the government-run system or want to stick with private health care providers.

The pundits have managed to flip reality on its head. It is the health insurance industry and their partners-in-crime, the pharmaceutical industry, that are scared of the market and competition.

If we just allow a government-run plan to compete on a level playing field with private insurers, we can soon get a system of universal health care. The question for the insurance-industry-loving pundits is: "What's wrong with giving people a choice?"

Dean Baker (cepr@cepr.net) is the co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR). He is the author of *The Conservative Nanny State: How the Wealthy Use the Government to Stay Rich and Get Richer* (www.conservativenannystate.org).

Source: [truthout.org](http://www.truthout.org) 7/2/07 <http://www.truthout.org>



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

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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>

But, we don't have to pontificate about American values
and the role of government—leave the silly
pseudo-philosophical debates out of it.
This is a straight dollars-and-cents question.

War at the remote

Norman Solomon

Three years have passed since most Americans came to the conclusion that the Iraq war was a "mistake." Reporting the results of a Gallup poll in June 2004, USA Today declared: "It is the first time since Vietnam that a majority of Americans has called a major deployment of US forces a mistake." And public opinion continued to move in an antiwar direction. But such trends easily coexist with a war effort becoming even more horrific.

In Washington, over the past 25 years, top masters of war have preened themselves in the glow of victory after military triumphs in Grenada, Panama, the 1991 Gulf War, Yugoslavia and Afghanistan. During that time, with the exception of the current war in Iraq, the Pentagon's major aggressive ventures have been cast in a light of virtue rewarded - in sync with the implicit belief that American might makes right.

"The problem after a war is with the victor," longtime peace activist A.J. Muste observed several decades ago. "He thinks he has just proved that war and violence pay."

The present situation has a different twist along the same lines. The Iraq war drags on, the United States is certainly not the victor—and the US president, a fervent believer in war and violence, still has a lot to prove.

Faith that American might makes right is apt to be especially devout among those who command the world's most powerful military—and have the option of trying to overcome wartime obstacles by unleashing even more lethal violence.

These days, there's a lot of talk about seeking a political solution in Iraq - but the Bush administration and the military leaders who answer to the commander in chief are fundamentally engaged in a very different sort of project. Looking ahead, from the White House, the key goal is to seem to be winding down the U.S. war effort while actually reconfiguring massive violence to make it more effective.

Two sets of figures have paramount importance in mainline

US media and politics—the number of U.S. troops stationed in Iraq and the number of them dying there. Often taking cues from news media and many lawmakers on Capitol Hill, antiwar groups have tended to buy into the formula, emphasizing those numbers and denouncing them as intolerably high.

Human consequences of war

Meanwhile, the Iraqis killed by Americans don't become much of an issue in the realms of US media and politics. News coverage provides the latest tallies of Iraqis who die from "sectarian violence" and "terrorist attacks," but the reportage rarely discusses how the US occupation has been an ascending catalyst for that carnage. It's even more rare for the coverage to focus on the magnitude of Iraqi deaths that are direct results of American firepower.

In the United States, many advocates of US withdrawal from Iraq have focused on what the war has been doing to Americans. This approach may seem like political pragmatism and tactical wisdom, but in the long run it's likely to play into the hands of White House strategists who will try to regain domestic political ground by reducing American losses while boosting the use of high-tech weaponry against Iraqi people.

Every night, I receive an email bulletin that's called "US Air Force Print News." It's one of countless ways the Pentagon does continual outreach to journalists with messages that encourage favorable coverage of what the military is doing. Those messages are filled with stories about the bravery, compassion and towering stature of—in the words of retired Gen. Colin Powell a decade ago—"those wonderful men and women who do such a great job."

But journalists receive just a trickle of limited information about the bombing runs undertaken by the US military in Afghanistan and Iraq. The official sources have very little to say about what happens to people at the other end of the bombs. And, overall, US media outlets don't add much information about the human consequences.

In late May, an important

challenge to those media patterns appeared on the website TomDispatch.com (and, in shorter form, in The Nation magazine). The in-depth article—titled "Did the US Lie about Cluster Bomb Use in Iraq?"—went beyond probing the Pentagon's extensive use of barbaric cluster bombs in Iraq since the spring of 2003. The piece, by journalist Nick Turse, also shined a bright light on fundamental aspects of a US air war that has seldom seen any light of day in big American media outlets.

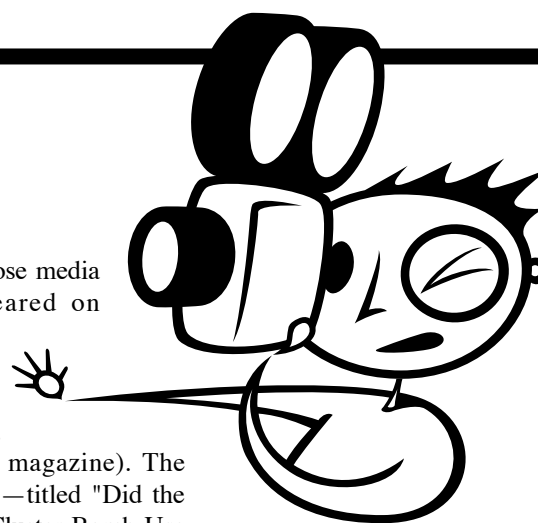
"Unfortunately, thanks to an utter lack of coverage by the mainstream media, what we don't know about the air war in Iraq so far outweighs what we do know, that anything but the most minimal picture of the nature of destruction from the air in that country simply can't be painted," Turse writes.

The article raises a key question: "Does the US military keep the numbers of rockets and cannon rounds fired from its planes and helicopters secret because more Iraqi civilians have died due to their use than any other type of weaponry?"

Turse, an associate editor and research director of TomDispatch.com, has written for daily newspapers, including the Los Angeles Times and the San Francisco Chronicle. His article pulls no punches about the press as he assesses huge gaps in media coverage of the Iraq air war funded by US taxpayers.

Sadly, he observes, "media reports on the air war are so sparse, with reporting confined largely to reprinting US military handouts and announcements of air strikes, that much of the air war in Iraq remains unknown—although the very fact of an occupying power regularly conducting air strikes in and near population centers should have raised a question or two."

The available evidence is strong that the US air war is escalating - with a surge of resulting casualties among Iraqi civilians. Their suffering and their deaths get very little coverage in the US news media. "Since the Bush administration's invasion, the



The Trouble With Our State

The trouble with our state was not civil disobedience which in any case was hesitant and rare.

Civil disobedience was rare as kidney stone

No, rarer; it was disappearing like immigrant's disease.

You've heard of a war on cancer?

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There is no war like routine

There is no war like 3 square meals

There is no war like a prevailing wind.

It flows softly; whispers don't rock the boat!

The sails obey, the ship of state rolls on.

The trouble with our state

...we learned only afterward when the dead resembled the living who resembled the dead and civil virtue shone like paint on tin

and tin citizens and tin soldiers marched to the common whip

...our trouble

the trouble with our state

with our state of soul

our state of siege...

was

Civil

Obedience.

— Daniel Berrigan

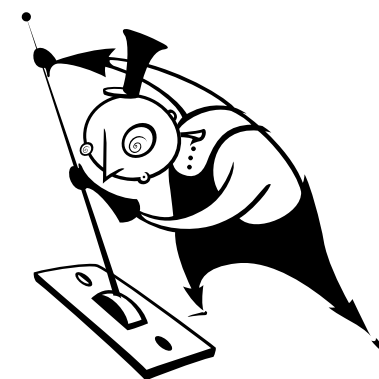
American air war has been given remarkably short shrift in the media," Turse writes. And he cites "indications that the air war has taken an especially grievous toll on Iraqi children."

The combination of deceptive officials in the US government and an evasive US press has been a disaster for the flow of information to the American public. "With the military unwilling to tell the truth—or say anything at all, in most cases—and unable to provide the stability necessary for [non-governmental organizations] to operate, it falls to the mainstream media, even at this late stage of the conflict, to begin ferreting out substantive information on the air war," Turse points out. "It seems, however, that until reporters begin bypassing official US military pronouncements and locating Iraqi sources, we will remain largely in the dark with little knowledge of what can only be described as the secret US air war in Iraq."

As the summer of 2007 gets underway, the demand to "bring the troops home" is necessary, but insufficient. The numbers of Americans fighting and dying in Iraq are not a reliable measure of US culpability in the continuing slaughter.

The new documentary film, "War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death," based on Norman Solomon's book of the same title, is being released directly to DVD in mid-June. For information about the full-length movie, produced by the Media Education Foundation and narrated by Sean Penn, go to: http://www.normansolomon.com/norman_solomon/war_made_easy/index.html.

Source: *truthout* Guest Contributor 6/19/07, www.truthout.org



Pelosi: Iraq pullout vote set for July

Jennifer Yachnin

House Democratic leaders plan to force another vote on war policy in July, when lawmakers will take up a proposal that would end military involvement in Iraq by the spring of 2008, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) announced Friday. "Again, we will put everyone on record. We are encouraged by the public demand for this. Hopefully it will be heard by the president and the Republicans in Congress," Pelosi said at a Friday press conference.

According to the Speaker, the measure will instruct the Defense secretary to begin the redeployment of military personnel from Iraq within 120 days of the bill's passage and would require that withdrawal to be completed by April 1, 2008. The legislation, similar to a measure vetoed by President Bush in May, would include exceptions for troops assigned to protect the U.S. Embassy and other specific missions.

According to Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Chairman Chris Van Hollen (Md.), House leaders have not eliminated other potential measures—such as a motion to deauthorize the Iraq War that

had been expected to reach the House floor in July—but the redeployment bill will become the focus of those efforts.

"The main initiative is a stand-alone bill the Speaker outlined," Van Hollen said following the press conference. "We're hoping the Republicans will join us in wanting change direction in Iraq."

Citing recent defections among Senate Republicans, including Sen. Dick Lugar (Ind.), from support of the war, Van Hollen said House Democrats hope to see similar movement in their own chamber. But Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) demurred when asked at the press conference whether his chamber would be able to produce the 60 votes needed to move similar legislation.

"We're going to keep pushing because it's the right thing to do," Reid said.

House Republican leaders are expected to push back hard against Pelosi's latest Iraq plan.

"It's almost laughable that a party who says it is strong

on national security is openly advocating retreat in the fight against al Qaeda and the Global War on Terror," Brian Kennedy, spokesman for House Minority Leader John Boehner (R-Ohio), wrote in an e-mail Friday.

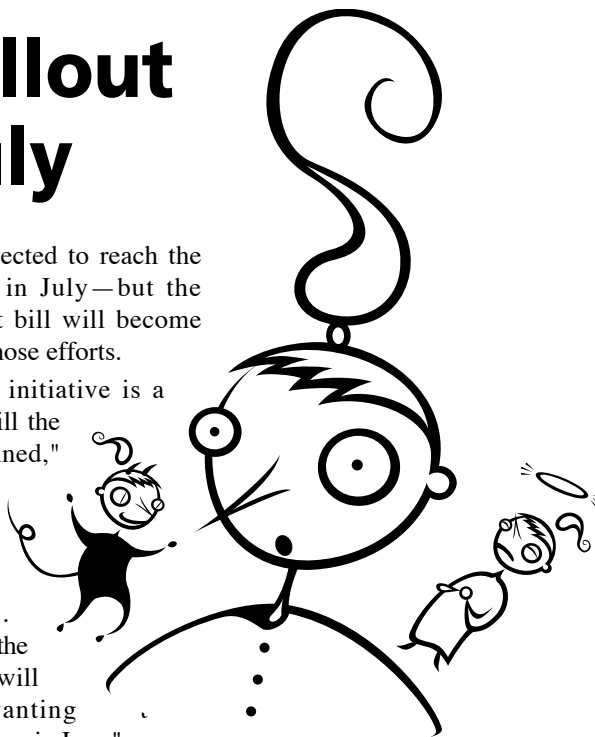
"Leader Boehner continues to believe that decisions regarding the War on Terror and the safety and security of the American people should be guided by the experts in those fields, not by politicians using crystal balls. General Petraeus has just received the full reinforcements he was promised, and condemning his plan to failure before it has a chance to succeed is unwise and irresponsible."

In the meantime, House lawmakers also will pursue changes in Iraq policy in the fiscal 2008 Defense spending bill, which Appropriations Committee members have suggested will contain provisions mandating troops receive specific levels of rest and training between deployments, among other restrictions. The House also is slated to vote again on whether to withdraw from Iraq in September, as mandated by the supplemental spending bill signed into law in May.

"This does not rule out what we're doing with Appropriations," Pelosi said of the redeployment vote. "We have many arrows in our quiver and we are sharpening them."

ACTION: Contact your representative and Senators now.

Source: <http://www.rollcall.com> 7/2/07



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Doolittle breaks with White House on war

Rep. John Doolittle, a conservative California congressman, today joined others in his party rapidly deserting the president on the Iraq war. At a town hall meeting in Rocklin, and then in a meeting with the editorial board of the *Sacramento Bee*, he questioned whether the conflict was worth the loss of more American lives. He said U.S. troops should be pulled back from the front lines "as soon as possible" and the fighting turned over to Iraqi forces.

A longtime supporter of the war, Doolittle called the situation in Iraq a "quagmire" on Thursday. "We've got to get off the front lines as soon as possible," Doolittle said at Rocklin City Hall, the *Bee* reported. "And in my mind that means something like the end of the year. We just can't continue to tolerate these kinds of losses."

Source: <http://www.editorandpublisher.com> 7/5/07

I am a compulsive overeater and sugar addict

I am a compulsive overeater and sugar addict. I just can't stop eating. I love food. I love the flavors, the textures, the colors, and the aromas. I love chewing, crunching, chomping, and savoring the food in my mouth. At buffets, I load up my plate. I go back for more. I get all I can. When there are unlimited supplies, I want unlimited amounts.

I love the activity of eating because it gives me time off from working. In fact, even if I eat while I'm working, the eating itself feels fun, a nice distraction from work or a nice pleasure added to work.

I especially love sugar: cookies, candy, ice cream and all sorts of baked goods. I can never get enough. One? One is definitely not enough. I take two or three, or, hey, six wouldn't be bad, or, might as well even it up and take

the last bit, too.

My stop button is broken. I can't stop. I can't stop eating. Evenings are the worst. Actually, I do stop eating breakfast because I have to go to work. I do stop eating lunch because I have to get back to my projects. But the evenings? I am so tired of working. I know I should do those chores that are waiting. So, as long as I am eating, I can procrastinate and delay doing the work. In the evenings I eat, hunt around for something else to eat, and keep eating, until I am numbed out, as if drugged, in a stupor, too full to move.

The shame I feel is intense. The humiliation. Mostly I eat alone. When I eat with others, and they see how much I eat, whether they say anything or not, I see the judgment and criticism in their eyes, and I feel desperately

ashamed. I just can't stop. I'm an addict.

I've been this way all my life. I've tried diets. I've paid lots of money to weight loss programs. They worked. I lost weight. For a time. And then my addiction took over again. I've prayed. I've paid spiritual healers to pray for me. I've exercised. I joined a gym and worked out regularly. I danced regularly. I've tried so many things. Despair and hopelessness were breaking my heart.

And then in 2004 I got sick, really sick, with a stomach problem. The healers prayed. The doctors examined. No one could figure it out. The experts couldn't identify it and couldn't cure it. I was afraid I would die. Worst of all, it would be my own fault, for all the harm I had done all my life to my poor, innocent stomach. I promised God, as the dying so often do, that if I got better, I would take myself to Overeaters Anonymous to get the best help available and do whatever they told me, anything, everything, in order to live, not die. With the help of the spiritual healer and God, after one month I was better.

When I walked into the Overeaters Anonymous meeting at 7:00 a.m. on Sunday morning, I was so impressed. There was a circle of chairs with eight slim women, nicely dressed, smiling, serene, and warmly welcoming. They were slim! Wow! As they shared their stories, I heard that they had lost 60 pounds, 80 pounds, 120 pounds, 160 pounds, and they had maintained their weight loss for 2 years, 8 years, and 10 years. I had never maintained any weight loss for a year. Not ever. I was so grateful to have found them that I almost cried. They had the tools that I needed, effective tools for a permanent recovery.

That was over three years ago. In the first six months at OA, I lost 65 pounds, and I have maintained my new weight since December 2004. People who meet me now cannot believe that I was ever a size 22, XXL. I still go to Overeaters Anonymous meetings every week. It means everything to me. Because I am an addict, I will never be cured. But I can be abstinent one day at a time with the tools of the program. I am

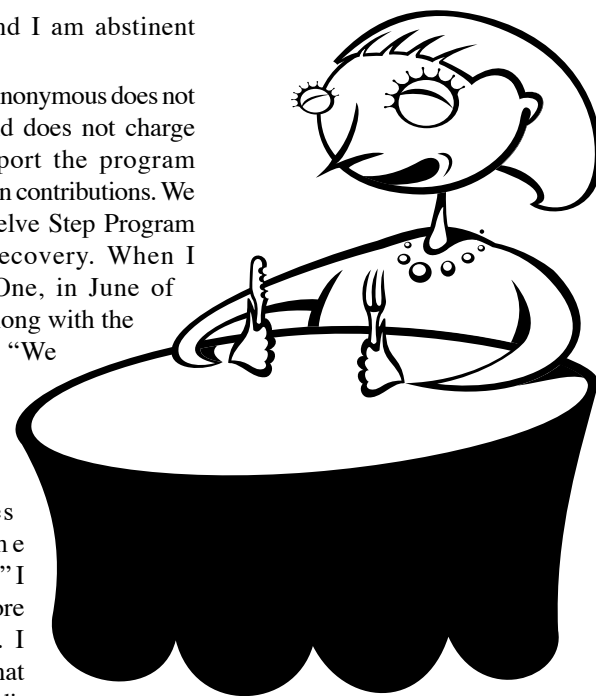
recovering, and I am abstinent today.

Overeaters Anonymous does not take names and does not charge fees. We support the program through our own contributions. We follow the Twelve Step Program of spiritual recovery. When I started Step One, in June of 2004, I said, along with the other people, "We admitted we were powerless over food, that our lives had become unmanageable." I had never before admitted this. I had avoided that thought, pretending I could manage by using willpower and self-discipline. Admitting my addiction in the OA meeting felt so good, so honest. I was coming clean at last, telling the truth about the hell I had been living in all my life. And everyone in the group accepted me, understood me, and shared one or more characteristics of feelings and behaviors with me. I had come home.

I follow the OA-HOW food plan (one of many approved food plans): no sugar, no flour, and three weighed and measured meals a day with no snacks. I eat large amounts of delicious food: almost every protein, a wide variety of grains, vegetables, and fruits, and measured amounts of fats, sometimes oil or butter but more often raw almonds, walnuts, pecans, and avocado. The amazing truth is that I eat better than anyone else I know. Not only do I have huge, filling, fabulous feasts three times a day, but the variety is light years beyond the boring fast food and take-out food I used to be satisfied with. I no longer feel deprived. The starving emptiness inside me all those years is being replaced with abundance, contentment, gratitude, and serenity.

Since losing all that weight, I have more energy. My knees don't hurt. My feet don't hurt. I feel young again. I ride my bike, hike, and swim. I am happy. I love my life.

Every morning at our agreed



upon time I phone my sponsor and read aloud what I am going to eat for the day, every item and amount. And then I keep my promise. It's that simple. And other people phone me, and I am their sponsor.

In OA we are all in this dilemma together. We all have the addiction, and we admit it, and then we follow the rest of the Twelve Steps. At meetings together and in our homes alone we read the program literature, we write our personal history and read it aloud to our sponsor, answering one question at a time, and we make outreach phone calls to others in the program during the week. It is amazing to me to be able to admit my flaws, my weaknesses, my anger and resentments, my hurts and sorrows, and to have so many fellow OA members who will patiently listen to me, give feedback if I ask for it, and still accept me and value me for who I am. In fact, these people are my closest friends. I can tell them anything, and they will keep it confidential and anonymous, and we trust each other, in our mutual support of each other. We tell the truth. Our recovery depends on it. My life depends on it.

"Don't quit before the miracle!" the OA people told me at my first meeting. To list all the miracles that I have had since starting OA would fill a book. I am writing one now.

—Kathellen, (510) 763-5838



Contact Your Reps

Pres. George W. Bush, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington DC 20500. 202-456-1414

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

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

Rep. Jerry McNerney, 11th District, 2222 Grand Canal Blvd #7, Stockton, CA 95207. 209-476-8552. Fax 209-476-8587. 312 Cannon House Office Bldg., Washington DC 20515; info@jerrymcnerney.org, 925-833-0643, http://www.JerryMcNerney.org

Rep. Dennis Cardoza (R-District 18) 137 E. Weber Ave, Stockton, CA 95203. 209-946-0361, 503 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515, 202-225-6131.

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

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

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

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

Assemblyperson Kathleen Galgiani (District 17), 31 E. Channel St., Rm. 306, Stockton CA 95202, 209-948-7479

Global human impact demands urgent change

Lee W. Miller

Thomas Malthus' Essay on the Principle of Population (1798) observed that, in nature, plants and animals produce far more offspring than can survive, and that humans are capable of overproducing if left unchecked—resulting in widespread famine and misery. We know that when checks falter, population outbreaks or explosions occur. Ecology textbooks are illustrated with outbreaks of deer, rabbits, lemmings and insects. Malthusian checks on population growth became the basis for Darwin's evolution by natural selection.

While accepting the fact of evolution, it is more difficult to relate to the misery and death inherent in "survival of the fit." Organisms tend to over-reproduce because some or many offspring become food for others. A surplus is needed to maintain a population in the face of predation and death. The fit are the wary, sneaky, sexy, and quick, who survive long enough to pass along their DNA.

High death rates are the gristmill of evolution that determines whose DNA survives. While a wondrous process, it is flat ugly if you think about it. Pre-humans and humans have been subject to this process for millions of years, but in recent times, our cleverness has outsmarted many of the checks to overpopulation: Caesarean sections substitute for insufficient birth canals, glasses for poor vision, antibiotics for insufficient immune systems, immunizations stave off disease, etc. I am not complaining, because my life and yours are better for it, but there are inconvenient consequences coming our way as a result of all these humanistic efforts.

In the last 500 years, there has been an explosion in our numbers. The conquering and settling of the New World, as per Jared Diamond's insightful book, *Guns, Germs and Steel*, was a release valve for an already overcrowded Europe that was near the Malthusian level of misery with wars, pestilence, and famines common in the Middle Ages. Secondly, public health measures and energy subsidies for

the industrialization of agriculture have both greatly reduced the death rate checks on population by giving humans a brief unsustainable increase in global carrying capacity. Unsustainable, because 9 or more calories of fossil fuel are consumed to produce one calorie of food (in the case of organic greens, the ratio is 56:1, per Michael Pollan's book, see below). Our food chain is a highly subsidized, artificial construct primed for collapse when fossil energy is depleted or becomes very costly.

Three waves of change

With hindsight we can see the destruction of the planet's ecosystem simplistically in three waves of change. The hunter-gatherer, our original ecological niche, resulted in extermination of many large mammals. We apparently were too good at hunting. Whether out of necessity or cleverness, we abandoned our niche and embarked on an agrarian life, the Neolithic, starting about 10,000 years ago.

This phase nearly exterminated the indigenous hunter-gatherers and farmers of the New World, Australia and New Zealand. The European agrarians resettled these territories by about 1890. Agrarian dominance is now being followed by perhaps the last wave, the industrial/fossil fuel based agriculture/urbanization wave that is degrading and destroying much of the agrarian civilization and remnants of natural ecosystems that persisted through the agrarian wave.

This third wave dominates North America, parts of Asia and Europe and is progressing in the developing world, e.g., China, India, and hastening the depletion of fossil energy. The third wave has quadrupled our numbers from 1.5 billion to 6.5 billion since 1900. Two billion more are projected. That is impressive multiplying.

For 10,000 years or about 400 generations much of humanity has lived outside of our ecological niche as hunter-gatherer. How much longer will nature permit this? My guess is that we are about one generation away from a planetary disaster. How do

we have justice or peace in a system that has death as the driver of natural selection, especially now that we are way beyond sustainable carrying capacity?

I have recently read several informative realistic books about our future: *An Inconvenient Truth* by Al Gore (a call to control greenhouse gases), *One with Nineveh* by Paul and Anne Ehrlich (a general treatise on our ecological and political dilemma), *The Party is Over* by Richard Heinberg (an overview of our peak energy situation and possible outcomes), and finally the *Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan (an expose of our industrial food system which has taken us far from our ecological niche to an unsustainable future). These books all offer solutions, but only if we find the will.

Getting on the same team

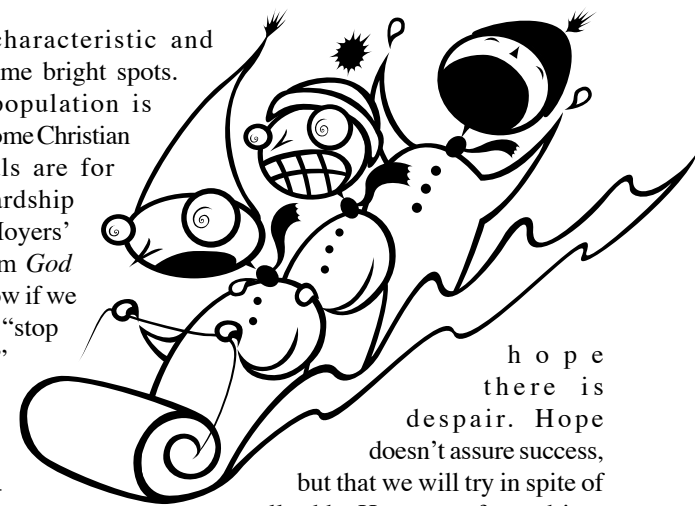
As I see it, we have mega-problems whose resolution requires that humanity get on the same team. Overpopulation, nuclear weapons, fossil energy depletion and global climate disruption are four big interconnected ones. A space ship's crew does not work at cross purposes to survive. However, on spaceship Earth, uninformed people, politicians and nations squabble and work against each other on issues far removed from these real problems. Too many are comfortable in denial or distracted by trivia.

We must change attitudes about life and death. To compensate for our well-intentioned death-rate reduction efforts, we need an equal or greater effort to curb births and stabilize populations around the globe. This is the only rational way out of the overpopulation dilemma and will require massive changes in priorities. Older generations need to accept that they need to make way for new generations and new generations need to be smaller despite what the captains of industry think are their needs for more workers to keep their faulty model of "Growth and Progress" working.

We are our own worst enemy and fleeting time is also our enemy. However, hope is also

a human characteristic and there are some bright spots.

Europe's population is shrinking. Some Christian Evangelicals are for earth stewardship as per Bill Moyers' PBS program *God is Green*. Now if we can buy into "stop multiplying" a long with "stop subduing" the earth—that would be truly hopeful. Without



hope there is despair. Hope doesn't assure success, but that we will try in spite of all odds. Hope transformed into action is all we have going for us.

Our food chain is a highly subsidized, artificial construct primed for collapse when fossil energy is depleted or becomes very costly.

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Poverty, homelessness, and youth

Sonny Valdez

Poverty and homelessness is a chronic and recurring problem in our community today. There is a high rate of homelessness within the adult population in our society. However, homelessness effects our youth on a much broader and more dangerous scale.

Homeless teens in today's society are forced to do harmful things that most adults could never imagine doing just to survive on streets they call "home," a place where violence is an everyday occurrence. Within three days of becoming homeless, forty-eight percent of teens turn to survival by prostitution. Drug sales is also a common means of earning any kind of income to survive while living on the streets. These acts are most commonly followed by theft, which allegedly seems to be the easiest way to eat on the streets according to interviews that were conducted by the Youth Matters community group. Forty percent of homeless teens in California have been living on the streets for

well over six months. Out of this group, 32 percent have attempted suicide, 23 percent are pregnant teen girls, and a devastating 93 percent are using drugs. We have found that 71 percent have been in foster care, group homes or youth institutions which have failed to prepare these youth to re-enter society. So how can we expect pregnant teens girls living on the streets to be receiving prenatal care or those who have attempted suicide to be seeking mental health? And without having someone to encourage and support them, how can we expect those teens using drugs to stop?

The truth of the matter is that we cannot expect these things from youth when we have not even provided them with the bare necessities needed to lead a safe and successful life. Abraham Maslow, a famed psychologist, known commonly for creating Maslow's hierarchy of needs, states what is needed for children at a basic level to be at peace with themselves. The first level of this pyramid is the most basic needs

to life, which are classified as the physiological needs, or body needs. This includes the very basic need for air, warmth, food, sleep, stimulation and activity. How many homeless youth do you know sleep with warmth and have access to food? Not many, and therefore, their basic needs to stay alive are not even being met. The next level is of security, which includes living in a safe area, away from harm. However, homeless children have no place to live, let alone living in a safe area. That sense of security is gone.

The point being made here is this: how can people who have these basic needs in their life or who are rich have the audacity to criticize and expect homeless teens to become productive members of society without being granted the basic needs to live? Most would say that these "homeless people" should "get a job," and that "society doesn't owe them anything because they are able-bodied people," but they are wrong. These are children. There are adults in today's society that are barely able to get by on working jobs that give them \$30,000 a year. How is a teen or a child supposed to make that kind of money working at some place like McDonald's, one of the few places that may hire a teen?

Through research, we found that in 2005 California, 13.3% lives below the poverty line. We have also found that poverty does not discriminate. This is one problem that is among all different racial and ethnic groups in California. Statistics show in 2005, 20.8% of blacks, 11.3% of Asians, 7.5% of whites, 20.0% of Hispanics, and 16% of Native Americans were living below the poverty line. There is an interesting correlation between the poverty rate and birth rate. Studies show that the higher the poverty rate is one year, the higher the birth rate is the following year.

When we looked into the local demographics of the poverty and homelessness in teens, we found that in the Stockton homeless shelter alone there were 1,326 teens served in 2005 and 2006. Why is teen homelessness on a rise? Well this is believed to be due to the fact that there is a lack of resources. So Youth Matters went on a site visit to find out



Youth Advocates (left to right). Top row: Jacob, Chris, John, Ruben, Xavier, Marquis, Bundy, and Sonny. Making a difference.

what services are available for our poor/homeless youth population.

Center for Positive Prevention Alternative's (CPPA)

Located at 729 North California Street, a center we visited was very helpful in opening our eyes to the real issues homeless teens face. Linda Mascarenas was the founder of the CPPA which started about 25 years ago. She personally has struggled throughout her life by growing up in foster care herself, but she managed to get through the trials and she founded this wonderful organization to potentially help other children in foster care.

This program offers multiple sources of help for these youth. They have free services including clothing, meals, help with laundry, counseling, and case management. There is a drop-in center for kids where they are provided shelter and are offered different educational classes. They hold parenting classes, workshops on decision making, and life skills groups which all evolve around the teachings of independent living. They also have domestic violence and anger management classes which are mandated by court.

On the property there is a Safe House, an all-female youth shelter for ages 12-17 with a maximum stay of 15 days. Their priorities are to keep the youth in school while residing at the safe house where transportation is not a problem. The average age for the safe house participants is 16 years old. The main goal of the Safe House is to reunite families that are struggling, with homeless and runaways. These are key elements to keep these homeless teens from

having to sell drugs or themselves on the streets, often ending up in jail. The Opportunity House Transitional Living Program is for youth aged 16-21 or maxed out foster kids who need to get entered into society as responsible young adults. They help these individuals to get a job and open a savings account where 75 percent of their income goes. The TLP programs main goal is to teach these youth to be independently living

St. Mary's

Another valuable community service for poor and homeless youth and families is the St. Mary's Interfaith Community Services located at 545 W. Sonora St in Stockton. St. Mary's Interfaith offers services for the whole family. St. Mary's serves over 1,000 clients a year with services such as but not limited to: clothing, barber shop, showers, hygiene packets, hot breakfast, lunch and dinner, counseling and parenting support. They also operate the Transitional Learning Center (TLC) K-8 school for homeless children.

These are only 2 of agencies with dedicated volunteers that are making a huge difference in our community, one poor and homeless young person and family at a time.

If you'd like to make a difference, both centers are always in need of donations, volunteers and clothing, furniture, and basically everything you need before you leave your home. Please get involved. For more information, call Youth Matter at (209) 644-8617.

In Community Spirit, YOUTH MATTER: Photography by John Huerta; Research by Marquis Hampton & Katie Ann Hill.

Free dental care

Beth Luna

Did you know that free dental care care is now available in Stockton? It is at a clinic called San Raphael Dental Clinic, located on the campus behind St. Mary's Interfaith Dining Hall at 545 W. Sonora St. in the down town area of Stockton.

If you prefer to call first, the phone number is 467-0703. The clinic is staffed with qualified dentists 5 days a week. You are welcome to call first for more information.

You can thank Dr. John Holler DDS, (also a dental surgeon) for helping to implement. He and others saw the need, and being a person who cares, he discussed this need with others in the dental profession. The idea of a clinic was presented to the local dental association for discussion and approval.

At present, there are 60 participating dentists. There are several rooms, complete, in which dentists can work. All is immaculate.

There is an office where records are kept for each one needing dental care, and a large waiting room.

At this time, the dental clinic has time to help more people who are in need of help but have no way to pay.

As one person confided: He had never heard of the clinic until a friend told him. None of his teeth were in a position to chew food. This was affecting his health. He was in his senior years, with enough to live on, but none for dental care. One of the volunteer dentists said, "The community has been good to me. I want to give some back."

The War on Drugs is still a War on Blacks

Earl Ofari Hutchinson

The recent survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on the sex and drug habits of Americans is the latest to toss an ugly glare on the naked race-tainted war on drugs. The survey found that whites are much more likely to use drugs than blacks.

Other studies have found roughly equal rates of drug usage by blacks and whites. But what makes the survey more eye-catching is that it didn't solely measure generic drug use, but singled out the use of cocaine and street drugs.

The findings fly in the face of the conventional drug war wisdom that blacks use and deal street drugs while whites use trendy, recreational designer drugs, and that these presumably include powder cocaine. That again calls into question the gaping disparity in drug sentencing between whites and blacks.

More than 70 percent of those prosecuted in federal courts for drug possession and sale (mostly small amounts of crack cocaine) and given stiff mandatory sentences are blacks. Federal prosecutors and lawmakers justify the disparity with the retort that crack cocaine is dangerous and threatening, and leads to waves of gang shoot-outs, turf battles, and thousands of terrorized residents in poor black communities. In some instances, that's true, and police and prosecutors are right to hit back hard at the violence.

But the majority of those who deal and use crack cocaine aren't violent prone gang members, but poor, and increasingly female, young blacks. They clearly need help, not jailing.

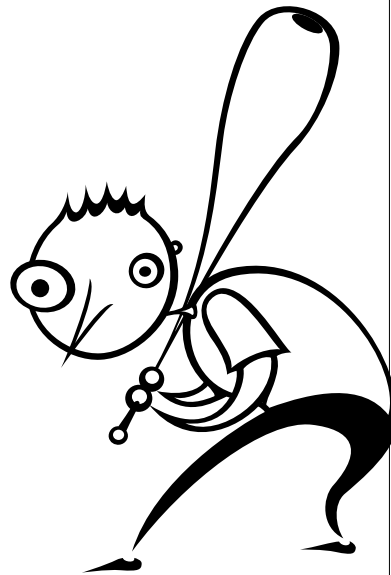
But it's a myth that powder cocaine is benign and has no criminal and violent taint to it. In a comprehensive survey in 2002, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the White House's low profile task force to combat drug use, attributed shoplifting, burglary, theft, larceny, money laundering and even the transport of undocumented workers in

some cities to powdered cocaine use. It also found that powder cocaine users were more likely to commit domestic violence crimes. The report also fingered powder cocaine users as prime dealers of other drugs that included heroin, meth and crack cocaine.

Even more revealing, they sold crack cocaine and heroin in inner city neighborhoods. The top-heavy drug use by young whites—and the crime and violence that go with it—has stirred no public outcry for mass arrests, prosecutions, and tough prison sentences for white drug dealers, many of whom deal drugs that are directly linked to serious crime and violence. Whites unlucky enough to get popped for drug possession are treated with compassion, prayer sessions, expensive psychiatric counseling, treatment and rehab programs, and drug diversion programs. And they should be. But so should those blacks and other non-whites victimized by discriminatory drug laws.

Voters and legislators in California, New York, Michigan and other states now recognize that bankrupting state budgets to lock up nonviolent drug offenders won't win the war on drugs. They have opted for drug diversion, treatment and counseling programs rather than jail as the far more effective, humane, and cost effective way to deal with drug users. This has brought some measure of sanity back to drug enforcement policy. But that doesn't sit well with the drug warriors; they have and will continue to resist any effort to get Congress to modify or scrap the blatant and deliberate racial disparity in drug sentencing laws.

In an odd way, they have to take their hard stand. The public scapegoating of blacks for America's drug problem during the past two decades has been relentless. A frank admission that the laws are biased and unfair, and have not done much to combat the drug plague, would be an admission of failure. It could ignite a real soul searching over



whether all the billions of dollars that have been squandered in the failed and flawed drug war—the lives ruined by it, and the families torn apart by the rigid and unequal enforcement of the laws—has really accomplished anything.

This might call into question why people use and abuse drugs in the first place—and if it is really the government's business to turn the legal screws on some drug users while turning a blind eye to others?

The greatest fallout from our failed drug policy is that it further embeds the widespread notion that the drug problem is exclusively a black problem. This makes it easy for on-the-make politicians to grab votes, garner press attention, and bloat state prison budgets to jail more black offenders, while continuing to feed the illusion that we are winning the drug war.

The CDC survey is smoking gun proof of one thing: As long as state and federal officials ruthlessly hunt for drug culprits in poor black communities, that illusion will continue to wreck lives, mostly black lives.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson <<http://earlofarihutchinson.blogspot.com/>> is an author and political analyst. His new book *The Latino Challenge to Black America: Towards a Conversation between African-Americans and Hispanics* (Middle Passage Press and Hispanic Economics New York) in English and Spanish will be out in October.

Source: *New America Media* 6/27/07
<http://www.newamericamedia.org>
via <http://www.alternet.org>



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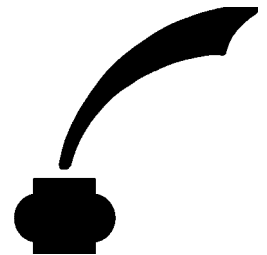
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—Deborah Meier, author of *The Power of Their Ideas*

Use gas receipts to demand fuel efficient vehicle choices

The Senate recently took a historic step toward curbing our dependence on oil and curbing global warming pollution from automobiles - they substantially increased the fuel economy requirements for America's cars and trucks to an average of 35 miles-per-gallon. Now the fate of fuel efficiency lies with the House of Representatives, where the Energy Bill could include fuel economy standards even stronger than those in the Senate.

Let's turn Congress' sensitivity to pump prices into a message for even stronger standards. Automakers already have cost-effective technologies that could provide consumers with more fuel-efficient choices in cars, pickups, minivans, and SUVs. So help declare independence from oil by sending or faxing your representative a personalized gas receipt, and get all your friends to do it, too!

ACTION: * Get a gas receipt and circle the total you paid at the pump.

* Attach a short note calling for more fuel-efficient options for all American drivers. See below for suggestions.

* Pop it in an envelope with your return address, and send (or fax it) to your representative's offices.

* Tell your friends to do it too.

* Don't have a car? You can still weigh in on fuel economy with a personal letter using the information below.

Sample sentences for the note to attach to your receipt:

* General: "I can't afford these gas prices! We need 35 mpg fuel economy standards with no loopholes!"

* General: "A 35 mpg standard by 2020 is like cutting \$3/gallon gas

prices by \$1 a gallon! We need 35 mpg fuel economy standards with no loopholes!"

* SUV, sedan, minivan, pickup owner getting fairly low MPG: "I own a [YOUR VEHICLE MODEL] that only gets XX miles to the gallon, and look what I'm paying for gas! Support 35 mpg fuel economy standards with no loopholes so I can get the efficient vehicle I need!"

* Hybrid or other fuel efficient vehicle owner: "I own a [YOUR VEHICLE MODEL], but no one would have to suffer these gas prices if automakers were giving everyone more fuel efficient choices. Support 35 mpg fuel economy standards with no loopholes so everyone can get the efficient vehicle they need!"

Source: *Union of Concerned Scientists alert*, 6/27/07 <http://lucsaction.org/>

W's global warming "plan"

Jim Hightower

Big news! In an apparent effort to get his job approval rating higher than 30 percent, George W has conceded that global warming does exist, and he has proposed his very own plan for coping with it.

Well... not a plan exactly. His idea is that the nations causing the most climate change (led by the U.S. and China) should meet and set goals for fixing the problem. In other words, his plan is to seek a plan. Still, in the wonderland of BushWorld, that's progress.

Yet, having taken a tentative step forward, Bush quickly took two steps backwards. Just one week after George touted his plan to make a plan, it was revealed that he is drastically cutting back on the scientific effort to collect climate data needed to devise a plan.

Starting next year, six research

satellites were to be put into orbits to provide precise measurements of shrinking ice sheets, glaciers, levels of seas and lakes, surface radiation, atmospheric carbon dioxide, and other environmental changes that can only be detected by satellites. However, most of the satellite sensors needed to collect such precise data are being eliminated by the Bushites, and the launch date is being postponed to sometime between 2013 and 2026.

Why? Bush's bean counters say that the \$12 billion cost of this research program is too much. Hello... they dump \$12 billion into the hellhole of Iraq every two months! These are the people who airlifted \$12 billion in cash to Iraq in 2003 - and it simply disappeared. But now that it's money for something that



America and the world actually need, they've suddenly turned into penny-pinchers, putting the overall climate program in serious jeopardy.

Ironically, Bush's excuse for taking no action to reduce the pollution that's causing climate change has been that he's committed to researching the problem. Now we see that that's just another Bush lie.

Source: *Jim Hightower Lowdown* 6/25/07 <http://www.hightowerlowdown.org/>

Fight climate change: small steps

edited by Sally Galiste

Organic batteries in your electric car?

When is an engineered virus a good thing? When it lives inside a lightweight, inexpensive battery that stores enough electricity to be practical for use in an all-electric vehicle. A materials scientist and bioengineer at MIT is creating an entirely new kind of battery, not by building it but by growing it. Angela Belcher has engineered a virus, known as M13 bacteriophage, that latches onto and coats itself with bits of inorganic materials, including gold and cobalt oxide.

That turns each long, tubular virus into what amounts to a minuscule length of wire. Coax these nanowires to line up, and you have the components of a battery that is far more compact and powerful than anything now available. If the battery works as a commercially viable product, that alone could qualify Belcher as a climate change hero, but her vision is green in other ways as well.

Conventional batteries generate a lot of waste during manufacture, and they become a disposal nightmare. In contrast, a viral battery essentially grows itself, with water as a solvent, so there's practically no waste generated. As much of its small bulk is organic, the battery becomes partly biodegradable when expended. (Source: *Time*, 4/9/07)

Lukewarm endorsement of G-8 global warming deal

The Group of Eight meeting held in Germany this spring produced a mixed bag of results. German Chancellor Angela Merkel said that the climate-change agreement represented "very great progress and an excellent result." G-8 leaders were committed to "substantial cuts" by 2050 of greenhouse gas emissions, but critics note that the deal has no binding caps, and only a pledge to "consider seriously" a 50% cut by mid-century.

Greenpeace USA clearly wasn't impressed, pointing out the agreement "fails to provide clear targets for how we deal with

the threat" of global warming. Bush did present his suggestion, rallied by fellow G-8 leaders, of holding a conference of the fifteen countries that produce the most greenhouse gases, which would include China and India. These countries would develop their own climate-change plans as well as a "global framework" at the end of 2008. A broader deal would emerge one year later, after Bush leaves office.

G-8 members also supported endorsement of the United Nations framework for climate-change talks, which begins with a December 2007 meeting of environmental ministers. The U.N. framework is a successor to the Kyoto Protocol, the international environmental treaty that expires in 2012. The US has yet to ratify the Kyoto Protocol, in part because it was not applied to China and India (source: www.stopglobalwarming.org).

Cut the plastic bottle habit

Plain water is the fastest growing market in plastic bottled beverages. Plastic bottles for water are the least recycled and they pile up quickly in our landfills, litter our roadways and beaches, and take hundreds of years to break down. Not only do all these bottles create huge waste problems, they gobble up petroleum and energy in their production.

Add to that the transportation costs involved in distributing those millions of bottles from factory to store, all just for the convenience of single serving availability of H₂O. To reduce the bottle habit, alternatives include utilizing large water jugs and simply refilling empty small water bottle containers (reusing them) each time they are needed. After repeatedly reusing bottles, recycle responsibly (source: boxer.senate.gov/takeastep/bottles).

Unlikely "green power" king

At the top of EPA's (Environmental Protection Agency) quarterly list, released in May 2007, of the 25 greenest energy users in America, soft drink/snack food giant PepsiCo has been

chosen as #1. The company plans on purchasing one billion kilowatt-hours of renewable energy credits over the next year, for a cost of about \$2 million. The credits subsidize renewable electricity like wind power. By offsetting 100% of its electricity use with renewable, PepsiCo matches, on a bigger scale, a move organic grocer Whole Foods made in 2006.

Deals like this "will create a new market pull for renewable energy," comments Blair Swezey, principal policy advisor at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. Even the Sierra Club likes it. "This is extremely rare and comes at a time when we're looking for a leader," says Dave Hamilton, Sierra Club Director of Global Warming. (source: www.stopglobalwarming.org)

Choose Eco Options brand

Home Depot has recently unveiled an "environmental friendly" brand of products under its Eco Options label. Products such as natural insect killers and fluorescent light bulbs join a host of other goods that promote energy conservation, sustainable forestry and clean water.

Spokesman Ron Jarvis said Home Depot found that "given the option of a product that performs just as well, we are seeing the consumer would rather buy something that has less of an impact on the environment," adding, "We are just making that easier."

Suppliers that qualify for the Eco Options label will be rewarded with prominent shelf space and aggressive marketing through weekly advertising, and will qualify based on federal/industry standards such as Energy Star rating or Forest Stewardship Council certification, or through validation by an outside company (Scientific Certification Systems). "There is a buzz in the country right now," says Lawrence Selzer, president of the Conservation Fund. "The buying public is ready, willing and able." Mr. Jarvis agrees. "We see educating the consumer as being the highest impact of this process." (source: www.stopglobalwarming.org)

The ethanol dilemma

Sally Galiste

The Bush administration has been pushing ethanol as a renewable, homegrown, alternative to gasoline. Despite this support from Bush and major American car companies, E85 (a blend of 85% ethanol and 15% gasoline) will likely only provide a small percentage of U.S. energy needs in the foreseeable future. E85 may emit fewer smog-causing pollutants than gasoline, but it provides fewer miles per gallon, costs more, and is difficult, if not impossible to find outside the midwest states. Fuel economy drops about 25% with the E85 blend, since ethanol has a lower energy content than gasoline. Flexible-fuel vehicles (FFVs), which are designed to run on either regular gasoline or E85, are inefficient because of this flexibility.

Engine redesign exclusively for E85 fuel would better optimize the vehicle's fuel efficiency, but this has been slowed due to the lack of stations supplying the specialty fuel. Only Minnesota and Illinois have more than 100 E85 stations in their respective states and only three states (South Dakota, Iowa, and Missouri) have between 40 and 100 stations. Thirteen states have 0 locations for an E85 fill-up, and California

has less than 6 in the entire state (2006 statistics). The most FFV manufactured have been of large SUVs, pickups, and sedans that already get relatively poor gas mileage, and they usually must be special-ordered from a dealer.

Producing ethanol from corn, the current United States standard, comes with a whole spectrum of problems primarily associated with crop cultivation practices and food price competition. A more promising long-term production source would be cellulosic ethanol, made from corn leaves and stalks, rye straw, wood pulp, and possibly switchgrass. In Brazil, ethanol is made from sugarcane. Yet even with the most optimistic estimates, however, ethanol on its own would not be able to provide Americans with energy independence. Ethanol should be just one in a portfolio of alternative fuel choices that include biodiesel, diesel, electric, hydrogen, natural-gas, blended fuels plus manufacture of super-efficient gasoline powered vehicles—all helping to alleviate our country's dependence upon foreign oil and toward reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

Source: *Consumer Reports Oct 2006*



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Stop cluster bombs

The Senate Appropriations Committee has approved legislation that would effectively ban the U.S. from exporting cluster bombs, a weapon with a particularly deadly record of killing and maiming civilians both during and after an attack.

The legislation bars the U.S. from agreeing to the sale or transfer of cluster bombs, unless:

- The cluster bombs have a failure rate of 1 percent or less

- The sale or transfer agreement specifies that the cluster bombs will be used only against clearly defined military targets and not where civilians are known to be present.

In effect, this amendment would bar the export of essentially all U.S. cluster bombs.

What is a cluster munition?

A cluster bomb consists of a canister designed to open in mid-air

and disperse smaller submunitions, often referred to as bomblets. Cluster bombs are designed to kill every living creature within a specific area that is often as large as four football fields. Cluster bomblets are deadly both during and after conflict. Residents of cluster-affected regions often live in fear and must move with caution along paths between villages and must take care to not disturb trees which often hide bomblets.

The U.S. has exported cluster munitions to at least 27 countries. Often these transfers are made with U.S. tax dollars and at taxpayers' expense.

Next: full Senate approval

The Senate panel's support is a clear victory for those urging the U.S. to ban these hideous weapons. However, much work remains. Numerous hurdles stand between the provision on cluster munitions and final passage by

Congress and the bill's signing by the president. Advocates should encourage their senators to block any such efforts.

Even if the bill is eventually signed by the president, the provisions are only in effect for FY08 and should be considered an incremental step toward further controls. Further work needs to be done to encourage the United States to ban these weapons. The passage of export restrictions is the first step. Next, restrictions need to be put on the use of cluster bombs by the U.S. Armed Forces. The Cluster Munitions Civilian Protection Act of 2007 (S. 549) will do just that.

ACTION: Please encourage Senator Boxer to cosponsor this life-saving legislation.

Source: Friends Committee on National Legislation alert 7/2/07, FCNL, 245 Second St NE, Washington, DC 20002 800-630-1330 <http://www.fcnl.org/>

U.S. nuclear buildup: Return to MAD?

The language sounds like something out of Dr. Strangelove: Complex 2030, 'Reliable' Replacement Warhead, upgrading the nuclear arsenal, dramatically expanding the U.S. ability to build new nuclear weapons, and tearing up disarmament treaties.

The Cold War ended more than 16 years ago, but the administration appears bent on a new arms race similar to the one the U.S. had with the old Soviet Union. How else to explain the apparent unwillingness of the Bush administration to begin negotiations on renewing the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty—an agreement with Russia that limits the deployment of nuclear weapons?

The administration today is literally pushing Russia into a new nuclear arms race. The United States still has more than 10,000 nuclear warheads and has not faced a serious threat from another nuclear weapons state for more than a decade. Yet this year the U.S. took the first steps toward a \$150 billion project to rebuild the nation's nuclear arsenal.

The head of the National Nuclear Security Agency told Congress last

year that the administration wants to restore U.S. nuclear bomb making capabilities to Cold War levels. And while most of the nuclear warheads in the U.S. arsenal will last and be 'reliable' for at least 100 years, the administration has asked Congress this year for money to begin developing a new 'Reliable' Replacement Warhead.

Reading reports in U.S. newspapers of these developments, other countries would be rational in assuming that the Bush administration has no interest in adhering to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to work toward nuclear disarmament. The administration's stance has strengthened arguments in favor of developing nuclear weapons by leaders and politicians in places such as India and North Korea.

The Bush administration insists it is not fueling a nuclear arms race, and these other countries are mistaken. The U.S. needs to build new 'reliable' nuclear weapons, the administration says, in order to have the security to begin destroying more of its nuclear weapons, as called for by the NPT.

Mutually Assured Destruction

Under the Cold War-era doctrine of Mutually Assured Destruction—MAD for short, both the U.S. and the Soviet Union would have so many nuclear weapons that any use of nuclear weapons would result in the total destruction of both countries.

This approach made no sense during the Cold War and makes even less sense now. You don't have to be a Quaker to believe that nuclear weapons are no longer useful to defend the United States and that the doctrine of deterrence is outdated and dangerous. As former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and former Senator Sam Nunn wrote in *The Wall Street Journal*: "Reliance on nuclear weapons for [deterrence] is becoming increasingly hazardous and decreasingly effective... We endorse setting the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons and working energetically on the actions required to achieve that goal..." We agree.

Source: FCNL release 5/18/07, FCNL, 245 Second St NE, Washington, DC 20002 800-630-1330

Walking to Omega, Tales of a Peacenik Carpenter

review by Mike Rhodes

The Central Valley is a harsh political environment for progressive political activists to thrive in. That is why it is so interesting to read a story about a man who has spent a great deal of his life here working for peace, social, and economic justice. What motivates him? What sustains him? What insights into life does John Morearty, who lives in Stockton, have to share with us?

John came to Stockton in the late 60's to teach at Callison College, which was a part of the University of the Pacific (UOP). Callison was an experimental/alternative educational school where a well educated and progressive graduate from the University of Chicago would fit right in. John doesn't make this argument, but it might have been to his advantage that he did not grow up in the Central Valley. Coming from Chicago and having spent time in India gave him the opportunity to look at life here through a different set of eyes.

John did not become a political activist while teaching at Callison, but he did speak out against the war in Vietnam. He spoke at one demonstration on the UOP campus where 1,200 students and faculty turned out. The campus only had 3,000 students at the time. After the rally he recalled that "one evening came a knock on our front door. There stood a man my own age with wild red hair and beard. . . "Hey, man, are you the one who gave the speech against the war that was in the paper?" He said he was, and the guy said "well, I agree with you a hundred percent. Those pigs are killing us. We gotta do some really radical stuff to stop this American imperialism crap. Whadya say you and I get together and get down?!" Morearty wisely said "no thanks." This person pops up later in the book—his probable motivation revealed.

This story was interesting because something similar happened to me in Fresno. I too had a stranger knock on my door saying how he was "down

with the revolution" and he was "there for me" if I needed any help robbing banks or offing the pigs. I told him not to call me but if I needed his services I would call him. I did not ask for his phone number. There were many instances during the 70's and 80's when law enforcement would try to set us up.

Another lesson John learned while working at Callison was the value of treating each other with mutual respect, especially when working in a small peace community in a middle American city. He writes, "if a tight group is engaged in valuable work, then its members must treat each other with respect. No badmouthing, no grudges; that will tear the work apart. Learn to accept difference, and to apologize."

Total immersion in activism came after he had left his teaching position at Callison and realized, through an epiphany, that thermonuclear war could end his children's lives. At 40, he found the Stockton Peace Life Group, who were already engaged in this work. As John writes, "they were happy to get a new recruit." The new friends he found became his "community" and they supported and sustained each other. Reading about their adventures - organizing marches, leafleting at the post office on tax day, bringing speakers to town, showing films, was a lot like what people were doing in other valley towns.

John kept pushing and found himself more and more committed to organizing anti-nuclear actions. He was involved with the Nuclear Freeze, becoming a speaker at numerous events. He describes a scene at a rally in Marysville, the home of a nuclear bomber Air Force base. Speaking to the rally he said "and at a distance of 35 miles, a thermonuclear blast will set human hair on fire." He cut off a patch of his long red hair and held a burning match to it. He writes that he was not sure if he should have been proud or embarrassed by the action.

But, don't get the idea that this book is all about political



John Morearty

activism in the Central Valley. There is also a spiritual quest that weaves throughout the pages and includes insights into Catholicism, Buddhism, and other religions. It is instructive how family, woodworking (his new career), community, political action, and the near constant search for a mate combined to sustain John when times got hard, as they inevitably do.

In a vision he had while in the Santa Rita jail, after participating in a civil disobedience action to stop the Livermore nuclear program, he glimpses his future. The vision, which was far from clear at the time, leads him to combine his love for teaching and political activism into a show on public access TV. The show, Talking it Through, lasted for years educating and entertaining the community. The show reached out to an audience (television land) that would not have heard many of the ideas about peace, social, and economic justice without it. He was also deeply involved with the local alternative/independent Stockton *Connections* newspaper and still writes the Sawznhammers column.

I loved the story about the sit-in at congressman Norman Shumway's office in protest of U.S. intervention in Central America. After weeks of protesting outside his office and asking to meet with Shumway, they decided to wait inside until he agreed to talk with them about that immoral and shameful war. Unlike the sit-in we had in congressman Pashayan's office in Fresno, they didn't stop. After one group got arrested, they sent in a new crew the next day. This went on until they ran out of

volunteers and then people started going back and getting arrested a second and third time.

Many political activists will relate to the story about supporting a progressive candidate as a way to bring about social change. There are predictable details about how the electoral system is stacked against progressive candidates like a Gerrymandered district set up for a Republican victory that runs from Stockton to the Oregon border. This is a tale of betrayal (at the last minute) by the Democratic party and hope that a grassroots campaign that does not accept PAC money (even from progressive groups) could win. Unfortunately, they don't. But,

there are lessons to learn even in our defeats.

John is a man with a big heart, he listens to his intuition, is good at what he does, and has lived life well. There is always something valuable to be learned by reading about a life well lived. If you are a progressive political activist in the Central Valley, you are in for a special treat. I'm sure everyone will find nuggets of wisdom and insight when they read *Walking to Omega, Tales of a Peacenik Carpenter*.

Mike Rhodes is the editor of Fresno's Community Alliance newspaper <http://www.fresnoalliance.com>.

Human rights watch

Close Guantanamo today

Human Rights Watch reiterated its call to President George W. Bush in a letter late June to close immediately the detention center at Guantanamo Bay. Human Rights Watch said the continued detention of hundreds of men without charge has undermined US efforts to end terrorism.

"Guantanamo has hurt the United States far more than it has hurt its enemies," said Jennifer Daskal, senior counterterrorism counsel at Human Rights Watch. "Its closure would help restore the moral authority America needs to effectively fight terrorism and promote the rule of law."

An Associated Press story reported June 21 that the fate of Guantanamo's future was slated as a discussion topic at a high-level White House meeting. White House officials subsequently issued a statement reiterating their desire to close Guantanamo, but denied that any such meeting would take place. The White House also suggested that several steps needed to be taken before closure, including the

creation of military commissions in the United States and the repatriation of the detainees who have already been cleared for release or transfer.

Human Rights Watch said that neither is a legitimate reason for delaying the closure of Guantanamo. The federal courts in the United States have proven far better equipped to try terrorists than military commissions. In the past five-and-a half years, the federal courts have successfully convicted hundreds for terrorist offenses, including dozens for terrorist acts committed abroad. By comparison, the military commissions have secured just one conviction—by guilty plea. That was Australian David Hicks, who received a nine-month sentence that he is serving at home. Moreover, there is no reason why the detainees who have been cleared for release or transfer cannot be repatriated from the United States, rather than from Guantanamo.

Source: Human Rights Watch alert 6/22/07 <http://hrw.org/>

A presidential rogues gallery

Joe Palooka

Now we're gonna go back way back into time. When the only people who existed were cave men. Cave women. Neanderthals. Troglodytes. Oops sorry everybody, it's me—crazy Joe Palooka singin' one his favorite tunes. The Jimmy Castor Bunch had a big hit with that in 1971. I got to thinkin' about it cause we are gonna go back. And when we get there we're gonna take a look at some of the honorable and morally upright dudes who've been addressed as Mr. President. Hang on, once we get to 88 jigawatts it'll be happenin'. Let's go!

In a recent *Stockton Record* opinion, page editor Kevin Parrish bemoaned the lack of morals among our current crop of Presidential candidates. The inference was that good moral attributes are on the decline in recent years. Flip-flopping on key issues, past drug use, and particularly divorce are mentioned as undesirable character traits. I thought a look back at former Presidents might be interesting.

Thomas Jefferson, author of The Declaration of Independence and one of our nation's founding fathers, was a slave owner. Unlike his successor, James Madison, another slave owner, Jefferson was thoughtful enough to impregnate one of his slaves. Andrew Jackson, whose stoic gaze greets us on the twenty dollar bill, was a hero in the war of 1812. He also was a greedy, unscrupulous land speculator fond of patronage, nepotism and breaking treaties with Indian tribes. He and his successor, Martin Van Buren, established forked tongued U.S. policy for decades to come, sending thousands of Native Americans on forced marches west—leading to desolation, disease and death.

President Polk bought into the idea of Manifest Destiny so much that he instigated a war with Mexico that set the tone for policy that robbed generations of Hispanic citizen's of the right to their ancestral homes. Abe Lincoln freed the slaves but was his heart really in it? About the question of superiority between the black and white races, he said this in 1858: "I as much as any other man am in favor of having the

superior position assigned to the white race." Rutherford B. Hayes was our nineteenth Chief Exec. After losing the popular vote, he made a backroom deal to end reconstruction in the south. This of course led to nearly 90 years of Jim Crow oppression, but at least Hayes didn't drink and with the help of his wife, Lemonade Lucy, drunken revelry was toned down at the White House. Grant, a habitual whiskey drinker, was glad he was gone. When Grant left the White House, he took the 12 steps—no, not Alcoholics Anonymous. He went straight to his tomb.

Grover Cleveland was another right-on, far-out, stand-up type of guy. After fathering a child out of wedlock (how shameful!), he proceeded to have the mother committed to an insane asylum and then deftly avoided the boy who was a consequence of his act for the rest of his life. Evidently, the "Family Values" crusade had yet to reach the White House. President McKinley, guided by divine revelation, decided it was in the Philippines best interest, and ours too, if the US annexed the islands after the war with Spain. Promises of self-determination led to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of natives and no independence until 1947.

Perhaps we should recall Warren Harding who, besides having a mistress, seemed blissfully unaware of the Teapot Dome scandal. President Hoover had once led the way to feeding millions of starving people in Europe during WWI. As President during the Great Depression, however, he was found to be lacking the same moral fortitude. As thousands of sick and hungry veterans and their families camped near the White House demanding a pension previously promised to them, Mr. Hoover felt their pain by dispersing them with US troops led by George Patton. Using bullets, tear gas and clubs the dispersal was effective. Two vets died along with an eleven week old infant. Thousands were injured.

FDR led us through tough times but did virtually nothing to stop widespread violence against blacks because he was afraid of losing the votes of Southern whites. This and the decision to incarcerate loyal and innocent

Japanese-Americans during the early days of WWII takes the sheen off his armor a bit. Truman gave orders that killed more people quicker and faster than any other time in history. The effects of that decision are still felt today. LBJ lied to the American public about events in the Gulf of Tonkin. The needless war in Vietnam killed 58,000 Americans and wounded or maimed scores more.

Richard Nixon spied on political opponents, lied about it, and carpet bombed Cambodia for good measure. How many Southeast Asian children were bathed in U.S. napalm? Ronald Reagan, besides having the temerity to take a second wife, was caught red handed in the Iran-Contra scandal, while life in El Salvador and Nicaragua became hell for tens of thousands. Much to the dismay of our delicate sensibilities, Bill Clinton had a penchant for chubby interns and Cuban cigars, and our current occupant is former coke snorting frat boy turned crusader with neither the brains nor the vision to lead our diverse country. Oh well, at least he's not divorced.

Joe quiz

Any Trebeck-a-holics out there? I hope so because now it's time for the Joe Quiz!

1. In 1947, the H.U.A.C. began a serious effort to root out subversives (otherwise known as Communists) from the United States. What does H.U.A.C. stand for?

- a. Helping "U" Axe Communism
- b. House Un-American Activities Commission
- c. Have "U" Any Communists?
- d. Help U.S. Avoid Commies

2. In 1966, he/they had a big hit with "Ballad of the Green Beret." Name the artist or the group.

- a. Barry McGuire
- b. George Bush and the Frat Boys
- c. Iron Butterfly
- d. Sgt. Barry Sadler

3. Who starred in an exciting 1947 film entitled, "The Red House," directed by Delmer Daves?

- a. Joe McCarthy

- b. Charlie McCarthy
- c. Joe Stalin
- d. Joe Palooka
- e. Edward G. Robinson

4. Formed in 1905, this organization was sometimes referred to as "The Wobblies." What was their official name?

- a. Bartenders Union No. 806
- b. International Workers of the World
- c. The S.T.L.A.—or, Spinning Top Labor Association
- d. Peg-leg Pete's Bowery Gang

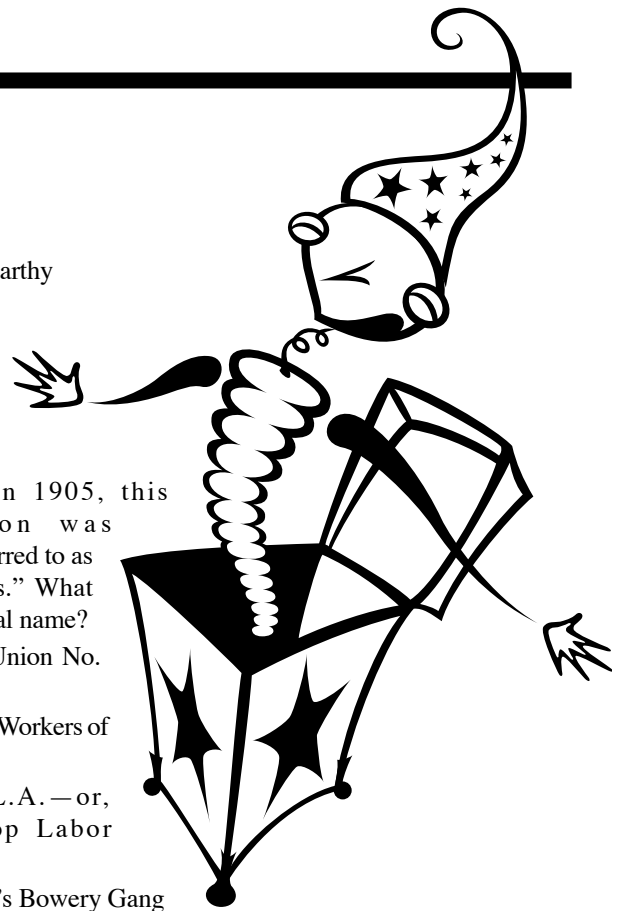
5. Which U.S. President said this? "Men acquainted with the battlefield will not be found among the numbers that glibly talk of another war."

- a. Dwight D. Eisenhower
- b. John F. Kennedy
- c. George Washington
- d. Zachary Taylor

(Answers to Joe Quiz: 1b; 2d; 3e; 4b; 5a)

Well, I don't know about you but I'm ready to call it a day. Joe's always entertained the idea of opening his own bar with the name of "Rogue's Gallery." Seems like a perfect name when thinking of a place "honoring" our nation's politicians. Inside would have walls lined with photos of some of our more, shall we say, indiscreet, individuals. Cocktail napkins would be emblazoned with political jokes. We might even have a TV monitor running with some amusing and infamous speeches. Some folks say you're not supposed to talk religion or politics while drinking. As to that, Joe says, "Phooey." Bruno the bouncer, a life-long Democrat by the way, will see to it there's a minimum of fisticuffs. Besides, Joe's always been a strong proponent of a good left hook. So until next month, save a cold one for Joe and say a prayer that the war in Iraq, against all odds, somehow comes to a conclusion.

This is Joe Palooka (a.k.a. Dave Waldon) signing off.



Ten thousand Iraqi mothers' eyes

Multi-colored and refracted, light from those pilgrim eyes is a thousand shards of glass, a rainbow.

Gathered at night at risk, decanted a hundred times, stored under pressure, that light is contraband carried undeclared through customs around our globe.

Trace it, trace it to its source: in a desert, in hospitals, in pediatric wards, on beds, burning in ten thousand Iraqi mothers' eyes.

—Kathy Kelly
December 2002

From David Smith-Ferri's book of poetry, *Battlefield Without Borders*. Haley's, P.O. Box 248, Athol Massachusetts 01331; 1-800-215-8805



Sawznhammers

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

Better to light one candle than curse the darkness

John Morearty

Candlebearers came through Stockton in May and June, shining light in dark places this fourth spring of The War. First, our Peace and Justice Network (PJN) invited Dan Onorato from Modesto. An ex-seminarian married to a Brazilian woman, Dan recently retired from the faculty of Modesto Junior College where he helped his students produce the inspiring "Wall of Hope" nonviolence exhibit which graced the college library there all winter and spring.

To a handful of people at the Peace and Justice Center, Dan showed the video Iron Wall. This quiet, grim documentary shows the twenty-foot high concrete wall which the Israelis recently built, slicing and dicing the West Bank Palestinian territories they occupy. Israeli settlements inside the Wall have multiplied in the past fifteen years; Israeli settlers occupy choice land, and get water supplies at a third the price of their Palestinian neighbors (who have water a few hours a day). Settlers zoom along on exclusive new roads while the Palestinians must halt at armed checkpoints every couple miles. The U.S. government supports Israel with billions in military aid every year. I came away from the video thinking, I knew vaguely about The Wall-but I had no idea.

Speaking to two dozen people at the Center came Kathy Kelly and David Smith-Ferri, from the little group Voices for Creative Nonviolence (VCNV). A Jesuit high school teacher and activist in the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker tradition, Kathy served nine months in federal prison for planting corn on a nuclear missile silo; sister prisoners dubbed her "Missiles." During the Bush One/Clinton Embargo of Iraq, she worked with the group Voices in the Wilderness and made 27 trips to that country bearing gifts of medicines and medical supplies for children; the U.S. government fined them \$20,000, which they

refuse to pay.

Lately, Kathy and VCNV (www.vcnv.org) have been traveling to Iraq and Jordan, helping support refugees from the U.S. war and occupation. She and her co-worker, David Smith-Ferri, told some of those cruel stories. David is a young poet from Ukiah, California, whose wife and teenage daughter have tremblingly watched him go off into a war zone; "Daddy, will you get killed?" his daughter asked.

In the last year or two, the VCNV group have also been giving witness at the offices of Senators and Congresspeople, reading or chanting the names of U.S. and Iraqi war dead. As Kathy and David described those actions I found myself wondering, Could I do the same thing right here in Stockton, at the offices of Congressman Dennis Cardoza? From the beginning, Cardoza has always voted billions for The War. A couple friends have said they would like to join me; is anyone else interested? (I'm at 464-3326.)

Amazingly, Kathy, David and their companion Barbara laughed a lot with Ria and me as we sat at our kitchen table, sipping wine and discussing war crimes. I suppose we felt that with fine friends and co-workers like these to face the human challenge together, we may as well be cheerful. I remember how Kathy's eyes sparkled with light as she talked about Iraqi families they love.

Two more light-bearers came to town in early June. Dr. Bob Bowman (Lt. Col. USAF retired) and his wife of 51 years, Maggie, rolled into Stockton on their U.S. Patriot Tour, parked their bus at our curb, let German shepherd Sadie out for a walk, and stayed a few days.

Bob commanded a nuclear-armed fighter squadron in Korea, got a Ph.D. from Cal Tech in aeronautics and nuclear engineering (learning French and Russian along the way), and

then signed up to fly fighters in Vietnam-101 combat missions, dropping Agent Orange among other things. I asked him what he learned from that war. "Flying those jets in combat was addictive. It was really exciting. I didn't want to come home."

He came home, became head of all Star Wars research under Ford and Carter, retired and took a job with General Dynamics. He believed in spy satellites, but when Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative came along he said, weapons in space are crazy, the path to global suicide. He began speaking out publicly. His bosses at General Dynamics said, Dr. Bob, you can say what you think, or you can work for us: choose.

Bowman quit his lucrative career in the early 1980s, became a peace activist and hasn't quit since. He was ordained a priest and then a bishop in the U.S. United Catholic Church; they ordain women, and their current presiding bishop is a woman. (In conversations with tough, brilliant Deacon Maggie over a few days, I began to get that picture.)

Bowman ran for president in 2000 in the Reform party primaries, on a platform of peace and social justice; he ran again as a Democrat for Congress in Florida's 15th district in 2006 and got 43% of the vote against a hawk, who painted him as a nut because Bowman called for a full and honest investigation of the truth of the September 11 attacks. "I know the fighter protocols," Bowman said, "and the official story just doesn't stand up."

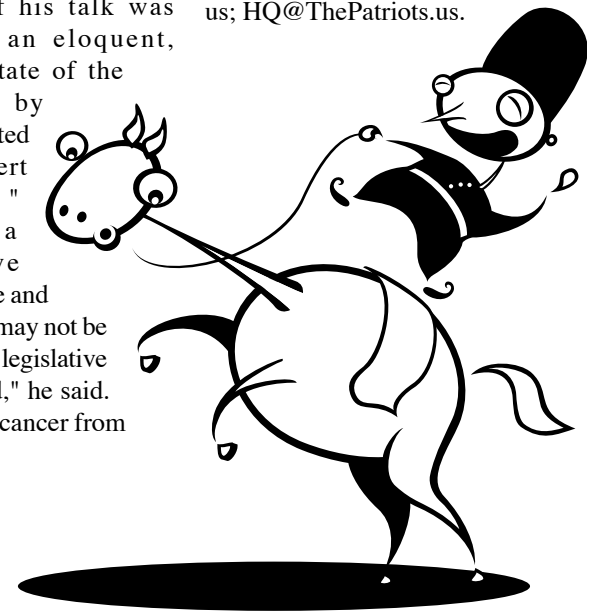
Bowman brought his four month, cross-country U.S. Patriot Tour to San Joaquin Delta College on June 7, co-sponsored by PJN. He began by urging an audience of about fifty to "Take Back America," and demand a government that

- * Follows the Constitution,
- * Honors the Truth, and
- * Serves the People.

"No more using our sons and

daughters to kill Arabs for the oil companies," he said. "We demand that Congress immediately impeach both Dick Cheney and George W. Bush for deceiving us into war, for abuse of power and for subverting the Constitution itself."

The body of his talk was presented as an eloquent, impassioned State of the Union address by the "newly elected President Robert Bowman," laying out a comprehensive program of peace and social justice. "I may not be around to see this legislative program enacted," he said. "I have terminal cancer from Agent Orange."



The long wait

Kathy Kelly

In my 14th visit to Iraq, I came to know a little boy.

Five-year-old Munthedar, whose name means "waiting for," suffered from leukemia and thalassemia, and had just had his spleen removed when I first met him in early December, 2001. He barely noticed me. On my second visit he was sitting up and smiling, and by my third his mother said he'd been asking after me every day. He greeted me with kisses and shyly whispered, "Is there a toy for me?" Fortunately, I had one last toy harmonica to give to him. There aren't words to describe his mother's eyes as Munthedar clutched his tiny piece of plastic and flashed the gentlest smile I've ever seen. When I returned for a fourth visit, little Munthedar's bed was empty. He died Saturday, January 5, 2002....

I think of Munthedar, denied the

Videotapes or DVD's of Bowman's electrifying Delta College talk are available from John Morearty. john@morearty.com, 209-464-3326.

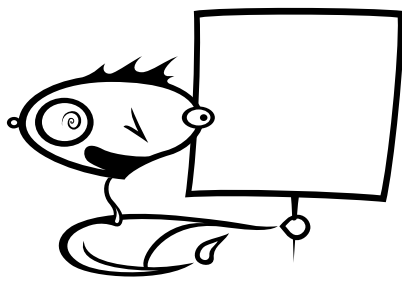
The Patriots are at 1494 Patriot Dr., Melbourne FL 32940. 321-752-5955; www.ThePatriots.us; HQ@ThePatriots.us.

therapy he needed, as he waited to die. What therapy could be prescribed for the U.N.?

We must resurrect the dream that created the U.N. out of the nightmare of WW II. We must show courage, wisdom, and love by acting now to confront a bullying, rogue superpower which refuses to allow the U.N. to act in accord with its own charter....

The alarm has been sounded. It blares agonizingly in our ears, beckoning conscientious action. Tiny Munthedar sounded that alarm with faint breaths into a plastic harmonica, as he waited to die for the crime of being born Iraqi.

From Kathy Kelly's book, *Other Lands Have Dreams: From Baghdad to Pekin Prison, Counterpunch and AK Press, 674A 23rd St., Oakland CA 94612-1163, www.akpress.org.*



Attention Seniors

Stockton Institute for Continued Learning (SICL) offers classes on the San Joaquin Delta College campus for motivated adults. "No quizzes and no grades" classes in brain health, theatre (comedy improv), speech, financial planning, sewing studio, music history, singing for fun, science, rejuvenating with mandalas, three art classes (printmaking, digital photo, and an all-media class), Bridge, and a book review class called The Book Worms—begin September 4.

Register Saturday, August 18, 10am-1pm in Locke Center Lounge or you may register in class. There is open registration throughout Fall Semester.

SICL also offers learning-oriented tours. This Fall we'll

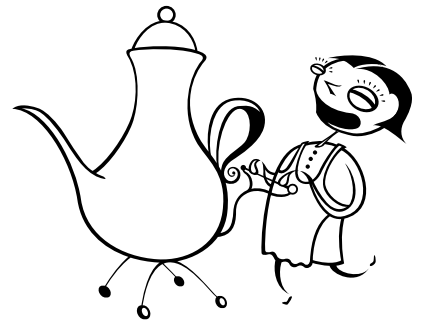
experience a duck tour on an amphibious landing craft in Francisco Bay, explore the American Indian Museum and Sutter's Fort in Sacramento, visit the Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University, make an historic ramble on the San Joaquin River, and enjoy a "White Christmas" in East Sonora.

Classes are usually about two hours in length and scheduled between 9am and 8pm. As a member, you may attend as many or as few classes as you wish on a first-come, first served basis. For more information, contact SICL Membership Chair, Merridee Holdsworth: (209) 478-7337 or sign onto the SICL web page: www.deltacollege.edu/dept/sicl.

Moonlight Sip & Stroll Hospice benefit

Hospice of San Joaquin Butterfly Auxiliary announces its 6th annual "Moonlight Sip and Stroll" to be held on Saturday, August 18th, 2006 on Heron Lakes Drive from 6pm—9pm. Capture the moonlight ambiance and enjoy a summer's evening stroll while wine and brew tasting and sampling a large assortment of fine food! Move and groove to live music!

Tickets are \$50 in advance (\$60 at the door—limited availability) and are available in person at Hospice of San Joaquin office, 3888 Pacific Avenue, Stockton or mail check, payable to Hospice of San Joaquin Butterfly Auxiliary, 4719 Quail Lakes Drive, #G168, Stockton, CA 95207. Tickets will be mailed to the address on check



unless otherwise noted.

All proceeds will benefit Hospice of San Joaquin's Hospice House, the first and only residential treatment facility serving terminally ill patients and their families. For more information on the Moonlight Sip and Stroll contact the Butterfly Auxiliary at 922-0380.

Get a paper route

We urgently need volunteers to distribute bundles of Connections. Routes are already laid out, and stores, offices, libraries etc. are eagerly waiting for you to walk in the door with the latest issue. Car required. Call John Morearty, 464-3326.

Become a PEACE PAL!

Please consider giving to PJN month by month. It will give us stable, predictable funding to continue providing our services. It's easy for you and cost-effective for us. Our website online donation is recommended for ease and convenience. Your monthly donation can be automatically withdrawn from your bank account.

Monthly Giving Enrollment Form

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Yes, I accept your invitation to become a charter member of Peace Pals.

Here is my monthly pledge contribution of:

\$10 \$15 \$20 \$25 \$(Other) _____

I prefer to donate by one of the following methods:

- U.S. mail; please send me envelopes
- Online donation through PJN website: www.pjnsjc.org (click on donation button)
- Automatic Bank Transfer
- I've enclosed a check for my first contribution. Arrangements will be made by me with my bank for future pledges.

Mail checks to: Peace and Justice Network, P.O. Box 4123, Stockton CA 95204

The Peace and Justice Network is a 501(c)3 non-profit educational corporation. Contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Thinking of placing an ad?

Business card size (3.75 x 2)	\$35
3.75 x 4.....	\$65
3.75 x 6.....	\$96
1/2 page.....	\$220
Full page.....	\$425

Discounts for longer terms and nonprofits available. Deadline: 7th of the month, for 20th of month publication. If you submit your ad after this date, please allow one month before seeing your ad in Connections. Send camera-ready copy to: bgiudici@caltel.com or PJN, P.O. Box 4123, Stockton, CA 95204

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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August 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 - Sept 1

Wish You Were Here: paintings from the road. Tu-Fri 10-5, Sat 10-5 Knowlton Gallery, 115 S School St #14, Lodi. 368-5123

July 2 - Aug 4

Don Hall sculpture & Beverly Hall Fritsch watercolor/oil. M-F 10-5, Sat 11-3 Tidewater Gallery, 223 E. Weber Ave, Stockton. 463-4033

July 26 - 29

Dear Edwina, Junior produced by Stockton Civic Theatre summer workshop for youth. 2312 Rose Marie Ln, Stockton \$10 all tickets. 473-2424.

July 27 - Aug 5

The Music Man, Fri/Sat/Sun, Atherton Auditorium @ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave. \$15-\$25 adult, \$13-\$23 student/senior. 954-5110.

Wed, July 18

Concert in the Park: The Swingaires 6-8 pm. Victory Park, Pershing & Argonne, Stockton. Free. 937-8099

Thu, July 19

Music in the Park: La Ventana 7-9 pm. Lincoln Park, East St & Eaton Ave, Tracy. Free. 831-4056

Fri, July 20

Drinking Liberally—Promoting Democracy One Pint at a Time. An informal inclusive progressive social group—bring democratic discourse to your local democratic space. Stockton Grand Hotel, 2323 Grand Canal Blvd, Stockton. Free to attend, support event host. 7 pm. 351-3397.

Sat, July 21

Women of Islam panel discussion presented by Bhawna Kamil & Christy Chase, 1:30 pm. Cesar Chavez Central Library, 605 N El Dorado St, Stockton. Free. 937-8221.

Sun, July 22

Bon Odori (Obon) Festival dance, 7 pm, Stockton Buddhist Church, 2820 Shimizu Dr. Free. 466-6701

Wed, July 25

Concert in the Park: Emmet O'Sullivan Sextet 6-8 pm. Victory Park, Pershing & Argonne. Free. 937-8099

Fri, July 27

Downtown Stockton Music in the Square featuring Tropical Nights 6-10 pm. DeCarli Waterfront Square, Weber & El Dorado. Free. 464-5246

Yosemite Sound Festival featuring Phillip Greenleaf sax, Tatsuya Nakatani percussion, 8 pm. Blackwater Cafe, 914 N Yosemite Ave, Stockton. \$5/\$10 all festival pass. 462-1767

Sat, July 28

Yosemite Sound Festival featuring V Neck Ross Hammond and Tom Monson Kioku world improv from NYC, 8 pm. Blackwater Cafe, 914 N Yosemite Ave, Stockton. \$5/\$10 all festival pass. 462-1767

Special kids show 11 am features local musicians & readers presenting children's stories & poems to music.

Sylvan Learning Center's 20th Year Anniversary in Stockton. Open House Party from 3:30-5:00. Instructors will show you around the Center, and refreshments will be served. Sylvan Learning Center, 6385 Pacific Avenue. All are welcome. Info: 477-7720.

Sun, July 29

Yosemite Sound Festival features Edgetone Records Night with Eddie the Rat & Bloom. 7:30 pm. Blackwater Cafe, 914 N Yosemite Ave, Stockton. \$5/\$10 all festival pass. 462-1767

Sat-Sun, July 28-29

Bon Odori (Obon) Cultural Festival, 11 am - 9 pm. Japanese drumming, martial arts, crafts, displays, & food. Stockton Buddhist Church, 2820 Shimizu Dr, Stockton. Free admission. 466-6701

Wed, Aug 1

Concert in the Park: Valley Concert Band 6-8 pm. Victory Park, Pershing & Argonne. Free. 937-8099

Fri, Aug 3

Vocal jazz concert presented by Delta College Fine Arts Division, 7:30 pm. Lewis Theatre, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$8 adult, \$5 student/senior. 954-5110

Sat, Aug 4

Peace & Justice Network board retreat. Come discuss where the network will be 5 years from now. Peace & Justice Center. 10 am - 4 pm. Morning refreshments provided, bring a bag lunch. All welcome. 467-4455 (see page 20)

How to throw a tiki party, with Hawaiian dancers, culinary tips and more. 2 pm. Cesar Chavez Central Library, 605 N El Dorado St, Stockton. 937-8221. Tacky the Penguin hosts the children's party.

Sun, Aug 5

San Joaquin Vegans monthly potluck, 5:30, Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. \$2 with food, \$9 without food. Menu theme: Appetizers and Desserts. Tableware and beverages provided. Please bring enough food for 8. All are welcome. RSVP to sjvegans@hotmail.com

Mon, Aug 6

Hiroshima Memorial, Reflection and Action, 7:30 am, Westgate and Vasco Road, Livermore. Sponsored by Tri-Valley CAREs, Ecumenical Peace Institute and others. For carpooling,

contact John Morearty or Ria deGroot, 464-3326, 462-3340 (see page 1)

Wed, Aug 8

Concert in the Park: Jazz City 6-8 pm. Victory Park, Pershing & Argonne, Stockton. Free. 937-8099

Thur, Aug 9

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

Fri, Aug 10

Downtown Stockton Art Walk, 5-8 pm. Free. Info 464-5246

Sat, Aug 11

Jon Guerzon animation art, 4-7 pm. Elsie May Goodwin Gallery, 1902 Pacific Ave. Free. 466-6604.

Wed, August 15

Concert in the Park: Tropical Nights 6-8 pm. Victory Park, Pershing & Argonne, Stockton. Free. 937-8099

Fri, Aug 17

Drinking Liberally—Promoting Democracy One Pint at a Time. An informal inclusive progressive social group—bring democratic discourse to your local democratic space. Stockton Grand Hotel, 2323 Grand Canal Blvd, Stockton. Free to attend, support event host. 7 pm. 351-3397.

Sat, Aug 18

Strut Your Mutt & Dog Day Afternoon annual pet fair and fundraiser for Stockton Animal Shelter Friends. Strut around Victory Park and swim with your pup in the Victory Park pool. Registration 9 am, strut 10 am, swim 10:30. Fair, raffle, entertainment through 4 pm. Free. Victory Park, Pershing & Argonne, <http://www.stocktonpets.org/> 937-7096.

Tue, Aug 28

Candlelight prayer vigil for peace—"let us become people of peace, so that war will end." Annunciation Catholic cathedral, Lincoln/Rose. 7 PM sharp. Bring a candle. All are welcome! Sponsored by Pax Christi. 462-3340, 464-3326.

Weekly

Tuesdays, Jun 26–Aug 7

French film festival, Peace & Justice Center, 467-4455 (see page 20)

Tuesdays, Aug 14–Sep 18

British film festival, Peace & Justice Center, 467-4455 (see page 20)

First Sundays

Vegan potluck, Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. 5:30 pm \$2 donation bringing food, \$9 without. sjvegans@hotmail.com.

First & Third Tuesdays

Stockton writers community workshop for writers with a work in progress, led by Robert J Reiharts. 6 pm. Chavez Central Library, 605 N El Dorado St, Stockton. 937-8221.

Second Thursdays

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

Third Thursdays

Hispanics for Political Action - HPA meets 6 pm at 2080 E 4th St, Stockton. Info, call Louis Gonzales 464-9205

PACIFIC THEATRE
University of the Pacific

Summer 2007 Film Schedule

	<p>Wed., May 23 The Pursuit of Happiness</p> <p>Wed., May 30 Infamous</p> <p>Wed., June 6 Come Early Morning</p> <p>Wed., June 13 The Painted Veil</p> <p>Wed., June 20 Little Children</p> <p>Wed., July 11 The Queen</p> <p>Wed., July 18 Apocalypto</p> <p>Wed., July 25 Notes on a Scandal</p> <p>Wed., Aug. 1 Pan's Labyrinth</p> <p>Wed., Aug. 8 Music & Lyrics</p> <p>Wed., Aug. 15 Letters from Iwo Jima</p>	     
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Pacific Students: FREE
Pacific Staff, Faculty, Alumni: \$3.00
General Admission: \$5.00

Summer Showtime: 7:00pm

ASuop Film Series

It's All Happening At the P&J Center

All welcome on August 4

PJN retreat to set 5-year Plan for Success

The Peace and Justice Network has been around for over 25 years—and we plan to stick around for a while longer, successfully. The opportunities are right in front of us: a political climate frustrated with conservative "values" looking for long-term answers, a local population that recently elected a McNerney over a Pombo, and an organization that has done a lot with a little for a long time (that would be us). We have a newspaper, two television shows, a centrally located venue for outreach, and a planning day set aside to fill in the gaps. This must be heaven. Come, help us develop the plan.

A group of us who recognize this great chance to change the future will meet at the PJN annual retreat, August 4, from 10 am to 4 pm, at the Peace Center, 231 Bedford Road in Stockton. Breakfast is on us, please bring a bag lunch. A five year strategic plan is on the agenda, as well as re-visiting the operational plans for the day-to-day things we are doing now. It will be an inspiring time; see you there.



British Film Festival in August

Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm

Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Road ; 467-4455

\$2.00 admission

August 14 "The Ruling Class" (1972)

Jack the Ripper, Jesus Christ and Peter O'Toole. What more could you want from this brutal satire of class warfare from Britain? This little seen satirical masterpiece is not to be missed! 154 minutes. Not suitable for children.

August 21 "The Magic Christian" (1970)

What would you be willing to do for money? Find out as Peter Sellers and his adopted son (played by Ringo Starr) plumb the depths of degradation to see what people will do as long as the price is right. 110 minutes.

August 28 "Naked" (1993)

Johnny is a homeless man that

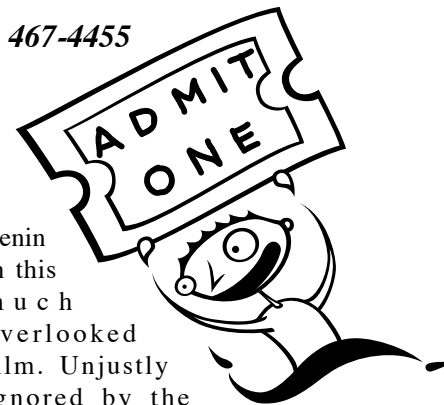
talks like a cross between The Book of Revelation and Hamlet. This stark social commentary on the darker side of London life is not for the faint of heart. Rated R for violence and sexual content.

September 4 "The Man Who Fell to Earth" (1976)

One year before the arrival of "Star Wars", this amazingly thoughtful science fiction film arrived with David Bowie as an alien trying to fit in with our odd species. More cerebral than "whiz-bang", it is a rare gem for people who like their films smart. 120 minutes.

September 11 "Nicholas and Alexandra" (1971)

This epic drama depicts the fall of Czarist Russia and the rise of



Lenin in this much overlooked film. Unjustly ignored by the Oscars, it boasts a stunning cast (including Laurence Olivier) as well as a rich tapestry of Russian history. 155 minutes.

September 18 "Sink the Bismarck!" (1960)

The Bismarck was the most powerful battleship ever built by the German navy. This true story of the relentless struggle for sea dominance between Britain and Germany in WWII is perhaps the greatest of all British war films. Black and white. 97 minutes.

French Film Series *ENCORE!*

Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm

Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Road ; 467-4455

\$2.00 admission

Richard Patocchi, SJDC Adjunct Professor

July 24: "Le Corbeau" (The Raven)

Directed by Henri-Georges Clouzot, 1943. Fear and loathing, as well as paranoia and provincial pettiness, engulf a small town when poison-pen letters arrive from a mysterious figure known only as Le Corbeau. Made at the height of the Nazi occupation, film noir art imitates real life in this veiled metaphor of wartime denunciation and collaboration. Attacked by critics of every political shade, both film and director were banned post-liberation, until Sartre and Cocteau (who got the anti-Gestapo message) helped rehab his reputation. 91 minutes of sociopolitical witch-hunt, in sinister black & white with English subtitles. Not rated.

July 31: "Bob Le Flambeur" (Bob the High Roller)

Screenplay, produced & directed by Jean-Pierre Melville, 1956; dialogue by Auguste Le Breton. Robert Montagné (Roger Duchesne), an aging gambler with an outdated sense of honor in post-war Paris, risks the serenity of his golden years for one last big score. More than a hard-boiled crime flick, this comedy of crime manners harkens back to an era when underworld denizens had integrity, violence was kept to a necessary minimum and the police were seen as fellow humans just doing their job. 102 minutes of stylish demi-monde drama, in atmospheric black & white with English subtitles. Not rated.

August 7: "Le Samourai" (The Samurai)

Screenplay & direction by Jean-Pierre Melville, 1967. Set in 60's Paris, incredibly cool Jef Costello (Alain Delon) is a contract hit man steeped in Japanese lone-warrior attitude. Costello agrees to dispatch a nightclub owner for a rival gang and then finds that the tables have been turned--the hunter becomes the hunted. A masterpiece of tone and style and one of Melville's greatest crime films. 105 near-perfect minutes of drame milieu, in suitably muted color with English subtitles. Not rated. Be there or be square!

connections

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

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