



ENDING NUCLEAR EVIL



DESMOND TUTU

Eliminating nuclear weapons is the democratic wish of the world's people. Yet no nuclear-armed country currently appears to be preparing for a future without these terrifying devices. In fact, all are squandering billions of dollars on modernization of their nuclear forces, making a mockery of United Nations disarmament pledges. If we allow this madness to continue, the eventual use of these instruments of terror seems all but inevitable.

The nuclear power crisis at Japan's Fukushima power plant has served as a dreadful reminder that events thought unlikely can and do happen. It has taken a tragedy of great proportions to prompt some leaders to act to avoid similar calamities at nuclear reactors elsewhere in the world. But it must not take another Hiroshima or Nagasaki—or an even greater disaster—before they finally wake up and recognize the urgent necessity of nuclear disarmament.

This month, the foreign ministers of five nuclear-armed countries—the United States, Russia, Britain, France, and China—will meet in Paris to discuss progress in implementing the nuclear-disarmament commitments that they made at last year's Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) review conference. It will become a test of their resolve to transform the vision of a future free of nuclear arms into reality.

If they are serious about preventing the spread of these monstrous weapons, and averting their use, they will work energetically and expeditiously to eliminate them completely. One standard must apply to all countries: zero. Nuclear arms are wicked, regardless of who possesses them. The unspeakable human suffering that they inflict is the same whatever flag they may bear. So long as these weapons exist, the threat of their use—either by accident or through an act of sheer madness—will remain.

ZERO TOLERANCE

We must not tolerate a system of nuclear apartheid, in which it is considered legitimate for some states to possess nuclear arms but patently unacceptable for others to seek to acquire them. Such a double standard is no basis for peace and security in the world. The NPT is not a license for the five original nuclear powers to cling to these weapons indefinitely. The International Court of Justice has affirmed that they are legally obliged to negotiate in good faith for the complete elimination of their nuclear forces.

The New START agreement between the US and Russia, while a step in the right direction, will only skim the surface off the former Cold War

foes' bloated nuclear arsenals—which account for 95% of the global total. Furthermore, these and other countries' modernization activities cannot be reconciled with their professed support for a world free of nuclear weapons.

It is deeply troubling that the US has allocated \$185 billion to augment its nuclear stockpile over the next decade, on top of the ordinary annual nuclear-weapons budget of more than \$50 billion. Just as unsettling is the Pentagon's push for the development of nuclear-armed drones - H-bombs deliverable by remote control.

Russia, too, has unveiled a massive nuclear-weapons

August 6th Rally and August 9th Action at Livermore Lab- From Hiroshima to Fukushima to Livermore

Join Tri-Valley CAREs will address the recent and other Bay Area peace groups for our annual gathering near Livermore nuclear weapons lab to remember those lost in the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan on August 6th 1945 and Nagasaki, Japan on August 9th 1945.

This year we will have two events. On August 6th, we will gather for a commemoration and rally at Bill Payne Park, across the street from Livermore nuclear weapons laboratory. The rally will focus on confronting the "two-headed dragon" of nuclear weapons and nuclear power. Speakers

Source: Tri-Valley CAREs website <http://www.trivalleycares.org/>

modernization plan, which includes the deployment of various new delivery systems. British politicians, meanwhile, are seeking to renew their navy's aging fleet of Trident submarines—at an estimated cost of £76 billion (\$121 billion). In doing so, they are passing up an historic opportunity to take the lead on nuclear disarmament.

Every dollar invested in bolstering a country's nuclear arsenal is a diversion of resources from its schools, hospitals, and other social services, and a theft from the millions around the globe who go hungry or are denied access to basic medicines. Instead of investing in weapons of mass annihilation, governments must allocate resources towards meeting human needs.

The only obstacle we face in abolishing nuclear weapons is a lack of political will, which can—and must—be overcome. Two-thirds of UN member states have called for a nuclear-weapons convention similar to existing treaties banning other categories of particularly inhumane and indiscriminate weapons, from biological and chemical arms to anti-personnel land mines and cluster munitions. Such a treaty is feasible and must be urgently pursued.

It is true that nuclear weapons cannot be uninvented, but

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SAVE THE DATES

AUG 6

Hiroshima remembrance **P1**
Connections Anniversary **P20**

AUG 9

Nagasaki remembrance **P1**

Summer time assignment - read!

BRUCE GIUDICI

The foxes and the henhouse—what has long been understood is becoming more clear. Now, the most current scandal is that Scotland Yard has suppressed 4 years worth of Murdoch phone hacking evidence. There have always been two sets of rules governing the ruling elite and the rest of us. With increased information available from the internet, the evidence gathers. It is up to us to act upon it.

Corporations now legally spend unlimited funds on politicians who, in turn, appropriate mega-funds to those same corporations. This process, while ever-present, has only recently



The f word

Editor,
Benito Mussolini coined the phrase “Fascism” in 1919. His facile definition of the word was “Corporate owned Government.” Historically, Fascists come to power after a far reaching disaster, most prominently - economic collapse. Fascists promise to “restore” the economy and re-instill “national pride.” Today, a fear of Communism has been supplanted by a fear of Terrorism. Minorities, then and now, are singled out for targeted attacks of hateful rhetoric and occasional violence. “Illegal immigrants” are the current prey du jour. Fascists use virulent right-wing propaganda to promote their ideology and to create an environment of “nationalistic fervor.” Fascist regimes allow no opposition to their policies. Are present-day Republicans willing to negotiate on anything, other than lowering taxes for the “investor class?” Armed forces are given a “priority status” in terms of spending. Fascist governments permit, even encourage, “private enterprise.” Labor unions are outlawed and replaced with organizations instinctively called “corporations.”

If any of this sounds familiar it should. This IS what is happening in our country. The Supreme Court’s Citizens V. United decision has opened the floodgates to the pernicious influence of unconstrained money into our already

debauched political system. Politicians of BOTH parties need prodigious sums of cash to attempt to attain “public service.” Corporate owned government? I suggest that ALL members of both state legislatures and the U.S. Congress have adorned to their respective accouterments, patches, emblems, logos and insignias signifying every corporation to whom each member is beholden in terms of “contributions.” Furthermore, this should be broadcast on ALL American news channels for at least sixty minutes per day, visually linking elected officials with their respective donors. We can aptly title our sneak peak...”The Donor Hour.”

Dave Waldon

Bachmann’s fuzzy ‘facts’

Editor,
During the recent Republican candidates debate Michelle Bachmann claimed, “The Congressional Budget Office has said that Obamacare will kill 800,000 jobs. What could the president be thinking by passing a bill like this, knowing full well that it will kill 800,000 jobs?” The Congressional Budget Office said no such thing. This particular falsehood has been circulating since late last year among Republicans who never read the CBO

report. But the story has been debunked widely since then, too.

In January this year, I wrote a correction about this fabrication in the Tracy Press. I pointed out that the CBO estimated that under Obama’s proposal the number of workers might decline by about a half a percent (about 770,000). Contrary to Bachmann’s statement, the decline will mostly occur because fewer people will seek jobs, not because there will be fewer jobs. For example, employees in their 70s and 80s who are working so they can afford to pay health insurance premiums may opt to retire like their friends. Isn’t that a good thing? That’s not “job-killing.”

The president’s proposal will add 32 million people to health care rolls. That could provide new jobs roughly equal to the employment in Canada’s health care industry where the population is, coincidentally, 32 million. Hopefully, Bachmann’s statement above is a case of carelessness and sloppiness with facts, and not flat out mendacity.

Mickey McGuire

blossomed into its latest monstrous form. Biding its time after the Watergate scandal, money was patient. Corporations live forever; if there were temporary populist bumps in the road, they waited –continually working to maximize profits. For a corporation, there is no alternative. The problem is when government’s function—to minimize the negative “externalities” that the profit-maximizing function generates (pollution, sub-standard wages, unemployment) -is corrupted. When government becomes an corporate subsidiary, we the people suffer the consequences.

One saving grace in all of this is that we have more information on these activities than ever before. Subscribe to truthout.org, readersupportednews.org and commondreams.org and see what is happening. Sadly, the chasm between that



news and what is generally consumed remains huge. For our part, Connections attempts to connect this larger world to you, and to provide a glimpse to what information is out there. Needless to day, we need to do more.

So, please: check out the alternative media on page 4 - and subscribe to a few of the listings. Regrettably, you’ll find that the situation is pretty dire, fueled by unrepentant greed. As Somalians starve, the US Congress debates retaining tax cuts on billionaires. So it goes. As a citizen in the most powerful country on earth, you have a say in how this ends. Go for it.



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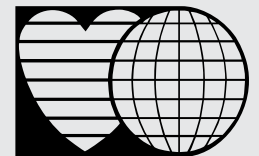
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Distribution Site: Green’s Nutrition, 1906 Pacific Ave, Stockton
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Community Calendar: Vacant
Deadline: 7th of each month (except Aug & Dec)
Circulation: 9,000

CONNECTIONS is a monthly publication of the Peace & Justice Network of San Joaquin County. The views expressed in CONNECTIONS are those of the authors and are not necessarily endorsed by the Network. News, articles, letters and calendar items should be sent to the Peace & Justice Network, P.O. Box 4123, Stockton, CA 95204. The editor reserves the right of final decision on copy. Call (209) 467-4455 for more information. PJN is on the internet: <http://www.pjnsjc.org>



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Fukushima much worse than you think

DAHR JAMAIL

“Fukushima is the biggest industrial catastrophe in the history of mankind,” Arnold Gundersen, a former nuclear industry senior vice president, told Al Jazeera.

Japan’s 9.0 earthquake on March 11 caused a massive tsunami that crippled the cooling systems at the Tokyo Electric Power Company’s (TEPCO) nuclear plant in Fukushima, Japan. It also led to hydrogen explosions and reactor meltdowns that forced evacuations of those living within a 20km radius of the plant.

Gundersen, a licensed reactor operator with 39 years of nuclear power engineering experience, managing and coordinating projects at 70 nuclear power plants around the US, says the Fukushima nuclear plant likely has more exposed reactor cores than commonly believed.

“Fukushima has three nuclear reactors exposed and four fuel cores exposed,” he said, “You probably have the equivalent of 20 nuclear reactor cores because of the fuel cores, and they are all in desperate need of being cooled, and there is no means to cool them effectively.”

TEPCO has been spraying water on several of the reactors and fuel cores, but this has led to even greater problems, such as radiation being emitted into the air in steam and evaporated sea water - as well as generating hundreds of thousands of tons of highly radioactive sea water that has to be disposed of.

“The problem is how to keep it cool,” says Gundersen. “They are pouring in water and the question is what are they going to do with the waste that comes out of that system, because it is going to contain plutonium and uranium. Where do you put the water?” Even though the plant is now shut down, fission products such as uranium continue to generate heat, and therefore require cooling.

“The fuels are now a molten blob at the bottom of the reactor,” Gundersen added. “TEPCO announced they had a melt through. A melt down is when the fuel collapses to the bottom of the reactor, and a melt through means it has melted through some layers. That blob is incredibly radioactive, and now you have water on top of it. The water picks up enormous amounts of radiation, so you add more water and you are generating hundreds of thousands of tons of highly radioactive water.”

Independent scientists have been monitoring the locations of radioactive “hot spots” around Japan, and their findings are disconcerting.

“We have 20 nuclear cores exposed, the fuel pools have several cores each, that is 20 times the potential to be released than Chernobyl,” said Gundersen. “The data I’m seeing shows that we are finding hot spots further away than we had from Chernobyl, and the amount of radiation in many of them was the amount that caused areas to be declared no-man’s-land for Chernobyl. We are seeing square kilometres being found 60 to 70 kilometres away from the reactor. You can’t clean all this up. We still have radioactive wild boar in Germany, 30 years after Chernobyl.”

RADIATION MONITORS FOR CHILDREN

Japan’s Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters finally admitted early June that reactors 1, 2, and 3 at the Fukushima plant experienced full meltdowns. TEPCO announced that the accident probably released more radioactive material into the environment than Chernobyl, making it the worst nuclear accident on record. Meanwhile, a nuclear waste advisor to the Japanese government reported that about 966 square kilometres near the power station - an area roughly 17 times the size of Manhattan - is now likely uninhabitable.

In the US, physician Janette Sherman MD and epidemiologist Joseph Mangano published an essay shedding light on a 35 per cent spike in infant mortality in northwest cities that occurred after the Fukushima meltdown, and may well be the result of fallout from the stricken nuclear plant.

The eight cities included in the report are San Jose, Berkeley, San Francisco, Sacramento, Santa Cruz, Portland, Seattle, and Boise, and the time frame of the report included the ten weeks immediately following the disaster.



“There is and should be concern about younger people being exposed, and the Japanese government will be giving out radiation monitors to children,” Dr MV Ramana, a physicist with the Programme on Science and Global Security at Princeton University who specialises in issues of nuclear safety, told Al Jazeera.

Dr Ramana explained that he believes the primary radiation threat continues to be mostly for residents living within 50km of the plant, but added: “There are going to be areas outside of the Japanese government’s 20km mandatory evacuation zone where radiation is higher. So that could mean evacuation zones in those areas as well.”

Gundersen points out that far more radiation has been released than has been reported. “They recalculated the amount of radiation released, but the news is really not talking about this,” he said. “The new calculations show that within the first week of the accident, they released 2.3 times as much radiation as they thought they released in the first 80 days.”

According to Gundersen, the exposed reactors and fuel cores are continuing to release microns of caesium, strontium, and plutonium isotopes. These are referred to as “hot particles”.

“We are discovering hot particles everywhere in Japan, even in Tokyo,” he said. “Scientists are finding these everywhere. Over the last 90 days these hot particles have continued to fall and are being deposited in high concentrations. A lot of people are picking these up in car engine air filters.”

Radioactive air filters from cars in Fukushima prefecture and Tokyo are now common, and Gundersen says his sources are finding radioactive air filters in the greater Seattle area of the US as well. The hot particles on them can eventually lead to cancer.

“These get stuck in your lungs or GI tract, and they are a constant irritant,” he explained, “One cigarette doesn’t get you, but over time they do. These [hot particles] can cause cancer, but you can’t measure them with a Geiger counter. Clearly people in Fukushima prefecture have breathed in a large amount of these particles. Clearly the upper West Coast of the US has people being affected. That area got hit pretty heavy in April.”

In reaction to the Fukushima catastrophe, Germany is phasing out all of its nuclear reactors over the next decade. In a referendum vote, 95 per cent of Italians voted in favour of blocking a nuclear power revival in their country. A recent newspaper poll in Japan shows nearly three-quarters of respondents favour a phase-out of nuclear power in Japan.

NOT READY FOR EARTHQUAKES

Dr Shoji Sawada is a theoretical particle physicist and Professor Emeritus at Nagoya University in Japan. He is concerned about the types of nuclear plants in his country, and the fact that most of them are of US design.

“Most of the reactors in Japan were designed by US companies who did not care for the effects of earthquakes,”

Dr Sawada told Al Jazeera. “I think this problem applies to all nuclear power stations across Japan.”

Using nuclear power to produce electricity in Japan is a product of the nuclear policy of the US, something Dr Sawada feels is also a large component of the problem.

“Most of the Japanese scientists at that time, the mid-1950s, considered that the technology of nuclear energy was under development or not established enough, and that it was too early to be put to practical use,” he explained. “The Japan Scientists Council recommended the Japanese government not use this technology yet, but the government accepted to use enriched uranium to fuel nuclear power stations, and was thus subjected to US government policy.”

As a 13-year-old, Dr Sawada experienced the US nuclear attack against Japan from his home, situated just 1,400 metres from the hypocentre of the Hiroshima bomb. “I think the Fukushima accident has caused the Japanese people to abandon the myth that nuclear power stations are safe,” he said. “Now the opinions of the Japanese people have rapidly changed. Well beyond half the population believes Japan should move towards natural electricity.”

Dr Ramana expects the plant reactors and fuel cores to be cooled enough for a shutdown within two years. “But it is going to take a very long time before the fuel can be removed from the reactor,” he added. “Dealing with the cracking and compromised structure and dealing with radiation in the area will take several years, there’s no question about that.”

Dr Sawada is not as clear about how long a cold shutdown could take, and said the problem will be “the effects from caesium-137 that remains in the soil and the polluted water around the power station and underground. It will take a year, or more time, to deal with this”.

STILL LEAKING RADIATION

“They are still emitting radioactive gases and an enormous amount of radioactive liquid,” he said. “It will be at least a year before it stops boiling, and until it stops boiling, it’s going to be cranking out radioactive steam and liquids.”

Gundersen worries about more earthquake aftershocks, as well as how to cool two of the units. “Unit four is the most dangerous, it could topple,” he said. “After the earthquake in Sumatra there was an 8.6 [aftershock] about 90 days later, so we are not out of the woods yet. And you’re at a point where, if that happens, there is no science for this, no one has ever imagined having hot nuclear fuel lying outside the fuel pool. They’ve not figured out how to cool units three and four.”

Gundersen’s assessment of solving this crisis is grim. “Units one through three have nuclear waste on the floor, the melted core, that has plutonium in it, and that has to be removed from the environment for hundreds of thousands of years,” he said. “Somehow, robotically, they will have to go in there and manage to put it in a container and store it for infinity, and that technology doesn’t exist. Nobody knows



Principles for safeguarding nuclear waste at reactors

The following principles are based on the urgent need to protect the public from the threats posed by the current vulnerable storage of commercial irradiated fuel. The United States does not currently have a national policy for the permanent storage of high-level nuclear waste. The Obama administration has determined that the Yucca Mountain site, which has been mired in bad science and mismanagement, is not an option for geologic storage of nuclear waste.

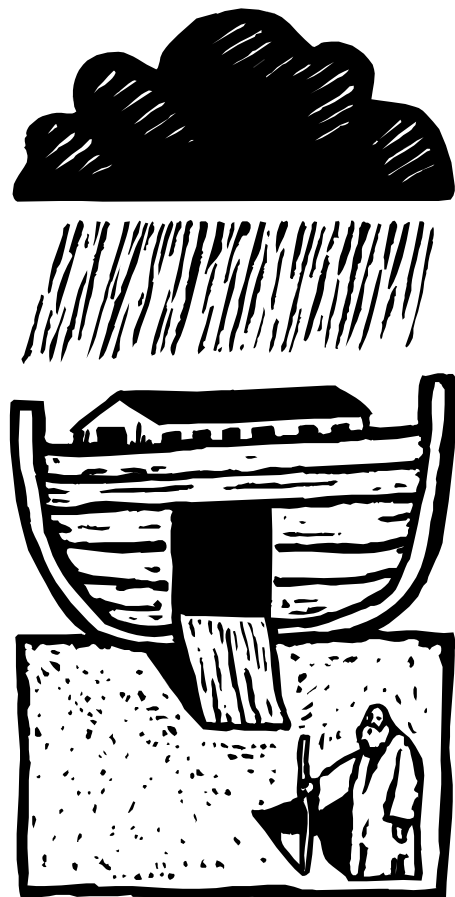
Unfortunately, reprocessing proponents have used this opportunity to promote reprocessing as the solution for managing our nuclear waste. Contrary to their claims, however, reprocessing is extremely expensive, highly polluting, and a proliferation threat, and will actually complicate the management of irradiated fuel. Nor will reprocessing obviate the need for, or "save space" in, a geologic repository.

The United States has a unique opportunity to re-evaluate our nuclear waste management plan. We can make wise decisions about safeguarding radioactive waste or go down the risky, costly, and proliferation prone path towards reprocessing.

The undersigned organizations' support for improving the protection of radioactive waste stored at reactor sites is a matter of security and is in no way an indication that we support nuclear power and the generation of more nuclear waste.

REQUIRE A LOW-DENSITY, OPEN-FRAME LAYOUT FOR FUEL POOLS

Fuel pools were originally designed for temporary storage of a limited number of irradiated fuel assemblies in a low density, open frame configuration. As the amount of waste generated has increased beyond the designed capacity, the pools have been reorganized so that the concentration of fuel in the pools is nearly the same as that in operating reactor cores. If water is lost from a densely packed pool



as the result of an attack or an accident, cooling by ambient air would likely be insufficient to prevent a fire, resulting in the release of large quantities of radioactivity to the environment. A low density, open-frame arrangement within fuel pools could allow enough air circulation to keep the fuel from catching fire. In order to achieve and maintain this arrangement within the pools, irradiated fuel must be transferred from the pools to dry storage within five years of being discharged from the reactor.

ESTABLISH HARDENED ON-SITE STORAGE (HOSS)

Irradiated fuel must be stored as safely as possible as close to the site of generation as possible. Waste moved from fuel pools must be safeguarded in hardened, on-site storage (HOSS) facilities. Transporting waste to interim away-from-reactor storage should not be done unless the reactor site is unsuitable for a HOSS facility and the move increases the safety and security of the waste. HOSS facilities must not be regarded as a permanent waste solution, and thus should not be constructed deep underground. The

waste must be retrievable, and real-time radiation and heat monitoring at the HOSS facility must be implemented for early detection of radiation releases and overheating. The overall objective of HOSS should be that the amount of releases projected in even severe attacks should be low enough that the storage system would be unattractive as a terrorist target. Design criteria that would correspond to the overall objective must include:

- Resistance to severe attacks, such as a direct hit by high-explosive or deeply penetrating weapons and munitions or a direct hit by a large aircraft loaded with fuel or a small aircraft loaded with fuel and/or explosives, without major releases.
- Placement of individual canisters that makes detection difficult from outside the site boundary.
- Irradiated fuel must be kept in pools for several years before it can be stored in a dry facility. The pools must be protected to withstand an attack by air, land, or water from a force at least equal in size and coordination to the 9/11 attacks. The security improvements must

be approved by a panel of experts independent of the nuclear industry and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

REQUIRE PERIODIC REVIEW OF HOSS FACILITIES AND FUEL POOLS

An annual report consisting of the review of each HOSS facility and fuel pool should be prepared with meaningful participation from public stakeholders, regulators, and utility managers at each site. The report must be made publicly available and may include recommendations for actions to be taken.

DEDICATE FUNDING TO LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS TO INDEPENDENTLY MONITOR THE SITES

Funding for monitoring the HOSS facilities at each site must be provided to affected local and state governments. The affected public must have the right to fully participate.

PROHIBIT REPROCESSING

The reprocessing of irradiated fuel has not solved the nuclear waste problem in any country, and actually exacerbates it by creating numerous additional waste streams that must be managed. In addition to being expensive and polluting, reprocessing also increases nuclear weapons proliferation threats.

NATIONAL SIGNATORS

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John Issacs, Council for a Liveable World
Kevin Kamps, Beyond Nuclear
Lynn Thorp, Clean Water Action
Erich Pica, Friends of the Earth
Michele Boyd, Physicians for Social Responsibility
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Michael Mariotte, Nuclear Information and Resource Service
Anna Aurilio, Environment America
Winona La Duke, Honor the Earth
Dan Becker, Safe Climate Campaign
Dave Hamilton, Sierra Club
Geoffrey Fettus, Natural Resources Defense Council
Ed Lyman, Union of Concerned Scientists and over 100 local groups



Mainstream Media = Truth? Check out the Alternatives and Find out for yourself!

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

Firedoglake <http://firedoglake.com>

Emptywheel
<http://emptywheel.firedoglake.com/>

Calitics <http://www.calitics.com/>

Eschaton <http://www.eschatonblog.com/>

Huffington Post <http://www.huffingtonpost.com>

Hullabaloo <http://digbysblog.blogspot.com>

Daily Kos <http://www.dailykos.com>

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<http://www.talkingpointsmemo.com>

TPM Muckraker
<http://www.tpmmuckraker.com/>

FiveThirtyEight.com
<http://www.fivethirtyeight.com/>

Congress Matters
<http://www.congressmatters.com>

Think Progress <http://thinkprogress.com>

Down With Tyranny
<http://downwithtyranny.blogspot.com/>

Crooks and Liars
<http://www.crooksandliars.com>

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Common Dreams:
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Truth Out: <http://www.truthout.org/>

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AlterNet <http://www.alternet.org/>

Independent Media Center
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Hightower News
<http://www.webactive.com/hightower/>

Mother Jones <http://www.motherjones.com/>

In These Times <http://inthesetimes.com/>

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

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

KPFA (94.1 FM) provides excellent coverage on many issues. You can listen on the internet at <http://www.kpfa.org>

Democracy Now! on KPFA, 94.1 FM and KVMR, 89.5 FM or on the web at <http://www.democracynow.org>



Lesson of Fukushima: not smaller nukes, it's no nukes

The first post-Fukushima nuclear legislation considered in the US Senate wasn't about nuclear safety; it wasn't about implementing safe, clean alternatives to dirty, dangerous nuclear power; it wasn't following the lead of Germany, Italy and elsewhere in ending the threat of nuclear catastrophe in the United States. It was about pretending Fukushima never happened. It was about building more nuclear reactors in the U.S. And it's absolutely unacceptable.

THREE WRONG BILLS

S. 512 would require the Secretary of Energy to develop and demonstrate two small modular nuclear reactor designs, one of 300 MW maximum and one of 50 MW maximum. By

comparison, new reactors being ordered by utilities are 1,000 MW or more, but several problematic early U.S. reactors—like Yankee Rowe, Big Rock Point, LaCrosse and others—were actually smaller than 300 MW. Fukushima Unit 1 was only 460 MW—not a lot larger than these “small modular” reactors.

S. 1067 would waste \$250 million taxpayer dollars over the next five years on a hopeless effort: it would create a new Department of Energy program to try to reduce the manufacturing and construction costs of both large and small new reactors.

And the Senate also may resume consideration of CEDA (Clean Energy Deployment Administration) legislation. This would set

up a “clean energy” bank to provide taxpayer loans and loan guarantees to eligible technologies. This legislation does not yet have a bill number, and we haven't seen the full text yet. While there appears to be some improvement over earlier versions (it may not allow unlimited taxpayer loans), it still perpetuates the fiction that nuclear power and some types of coal are “clean energy.” Until these dirty and dangerous technologies are removed from the definition of clean energy, this type of legislation must be opposed. Otherwise, the “clean energy bank” will simply become another mechanism to channel taxpayer dollars into large, polluting and irresponsible companies that produce lethal radioactive waste, destroy mountains and

generally are not deserving of any support.

SOME SUCCESS

President Obama's proposal for a \$36 Billion increase in the taxpayer loan program for new reactor construction has been stalled. The energy appropriations bill approved by the House Appropriations Committee does not contain any increase in the nuclear loan program. As the bill goes to the House floor and through the Senate, stay informed by visiting www.nirs.org.

Action: Tell the Senate now: we will not accept more nuclear power in the U.S., whether small or large, and we certainly won't pay for it.

Source: Nuclear Information and Resource Service alert 7/12/11 www.nirs.org

Dr. Helen Caldicott: Fukushima nuclear meltdown much worse than Chernobyl

Although several months have passed since the devastating earthquake and tsunami occurred in Japan, the resulting nuclear power plant crisis, and the effect on the world environment is still far from over. The health risks caused by the meltdown of nuclear fuel rods in at least three reactors actually melting down will be felt for hundreds of years to come.

The Fukushima nuclear plant disaster has been a clarion call for anti-nuclear activists from all over the

world. One of these activists—Dr. Helen Caldicott—is not prepared to be quiet as to the impact that this latest nuclear plant disaster will have on the world environment. Dr. Caldicott, a pediatric physician by profession and Australian by nationality, has been involved for the past 33 years in trying to make people aware of the dangers of nuclear energy.

In an interview following the Fukushima plant disaster, Dr. Caldicott stressed that the effects of the radiation

“leakage” from this disaster are ones that will not go away in a matter of months or even years. Some forms of radiation, she says, will last for hundreds of years and will continue to cause various forms of cancer, birth defects, and other health problems for generations to come.

She compared Fukushima to the Ukraine Chernobyl nuclear accident of 1986 from which she said more than 20,000 people, many of them children, contracted thyroid cancer.

She also says that 25 years later “40% of Europe is still radioactive”. A lot of the radiation expelled from Chernobyl came down in countries like Turkey, and as a result she believes that people should not eat food products like dried fruits and nuts that originate from Turkey. Dr. Caldicott also told her listeners not to eat many foods grown in parts of Europe as well.

Source: Greenprophet release 7/5/11 <http://www.greenprophet.com>

Fukushima much worse than you think

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

how to pick up the molten core from the floor, there is no solution available now for picking that up from the floor.”

Dr Sawada says that the creation of nuclear fission generates radioactive materials for which there is simply no knowledge informing us how to dispose of the radioactive waste safely.

“Until we know how to safely dispose of

the radioactive materials generated by nuclear plants, we should postpone these activities so as not to cause further harm to future generations,” he explained. “To do otherwise is simply an immoral act, and that is my belief, both as a scientist and as a survivor of the Hiroshima atomic bombing.”

Gundersen believes it will take experts at least ten years to design and implement the plan. “So ten to 15 years from now maybe we can say the reactors

have been dismantled, and in the meantime you wind up contaminating the water,” Gundersen said. “We are already seeing Strontium [at] 250 times the allowable limits in the water table at Fukushima. Contaminated water tables are incredibly difficult to clean. So I think we will have a contaminated aquifer in the area of the Fukushima site for a long, long time to come.” Unfortunately, the history of nuclear disasters appears to back Gundersen's

assessment.

“With Three Mile Island and Chernobyl, and now with Fukushima, you can pinpoint the exact day and time they started,” he said, “But they never end.”

Source: Al Jazeera 6/16/11 <http://english.aljazeera.net/>

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Hands off social security

SEN. BERNIE SANDERS

As Social Security emerged as a target in White House budget negotiations, Sen. Bernie Sanders insisted that the retirement program must not be cut as part of any deficit reduction deal. "Let us be clear," Sanders said. "Social Security has not contributed one nickel to our deficit or our national debt." The program that benefits more than 50 million seniors and disabled has a \$2.6 trillion surplus, he stressed, and will be able to provide full benefits for every eligible American for the next 25 years. "I am especially disturbed that President Obama is considering cuts in Social Security after he campaigned against cuts in 2008," Sanders added.

Obama made his position clear on Sept. 6, 2008, when he said: "John McCain's campaign has suggested that the best answer for the growing pressures on Social Security might be to cut cost of living adjustments or raise the retirement age. Let me be clear: I will not do either," Obama said. "The American people expect the president to keep his word," Sanders said.

According to a coalition of seniors groups, Social Security Works, a change in the way Social Security cost-of-living adjustments are calculated would cost seniors hundreds of dollars a year in benefits. The Congressional Budget Office estimates adoption of the so-called "Chained-CPI," which would be used to



determine Social Security's annual COLA, would cut benefits by \$112 billion over 10 years. The Social Security Administration chief actuary estimates the effects of this change would be that beneficiaries who retire at age 65 and receive average benefits would get \$560 less a year at age 75 than they would under current law and get \$1,000 less a year at age 85 - a 3.7 percent cut and a 6.5 percent cut, respectively. The proposal would cut \$1.6 trillion over Social Security's 75-year valuation period - mainly from the oldest of the old, primarily women and those who are

disproportionately poor.

Cutting Social Security is opposed by overwhelming majorities of Americans. A recent survey by Public Policy Polling in swing states echoed findings of other national polls. When voters in Ohio were asked this spring if they would support or oppose cutting spending on Social Security to reduce the national debt, only 16 percent favored that approach compared to 80 percent who were opposed. There were nearly identical results in other states. Meanwhile, strong majorities favor increased revenue from the wealthiest Americans and

most profitable corporations should be part of any deficit reduction package. "In poll after poll, the American people agree there must be shared sacrifice," Sanders said.

Source: Reader Supported News 7/8/11 www.readersupportednews.org/opinion2/277-75/6545-hands-off-social-security

How the government can save \$2 trillion

JIM CASON

Consider the House leadership's threat to shut down the federal government, ostensibly as a way to focus attention on reducing the size of the deficit. Few people would argue that the federal budget deficit should be allowed to widen indefinitely. Yet for all the talk about deficits, the House this year approved a budget, proposed by Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI), that would barely make a dent

in the federal budget deficit. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities calculates that Ryan's budget would cut government spending by \$4.3 trillion over 10 years - and then give \$4.2 trillion of that back to the wealthy and large corporations through tax breaks. Net deficit reduction: \$155 billion.

What the House plan does do is make choices about where to spend federal dollars. It would cut spending on the kind of diplomacy, development, and

international cooperation that might help prevent future wars, while sparing the Pentagon from any real cuts. The House plan would also drastically reduce funding for successful programs that keep our elderly out of poverty, help young Americans obtain a college education, and assist poor children. These choices are morally wrong and politically backward.

President Barack Obama and his allies in Congress have not done any better. The budget he presented to

Congress in February would allow Pentagon spending to continue to grow, albeit at a slower rate, and proposed deep domestic spending cuts. Just like the GOP-dominated House's approach, Obama's budget would do very little to cut the budget deficit.

So what could Congress do better? The federal government could save nearly \$1 trillion by cutting the Pentagon budget during the next 10 years, according to a report prepared by a range of groups, including the

Institute for Policy Studies, the libertarian Cato Institute, and Taxpayers for Common Sense. Another \$1 trillion in revenue could be raised by eliminating the recently extended tax breaks for families with incomes over \$250,000 a year, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Yet neither of these proposals is getting enough consideration in Washington. Congress needs to hear that support for raising taxes on the wealthy and cutting

wasteful Pentagon spending is growing on both sides of the political aisle, as well as among voters, according to recent opinion polls.

JIM CASON IS THE ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FOR CAMPAIGNS AT FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION, A QUAKER LOBBY IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST. WWW.FCNL.ORG

Source: Other Words Op-Ed 7/4/11 <http://www.otherwords.org/>

Take FCNL's Budget Quiz!

1. How much does the Military Appropriations bill passed by the House this week cut the Pentagon spending over the next five years?

- a. 12 percent
- b. Zero
- c. 20 percent
- d. 17 percent

2. Up to how many low-income mothers, infants and young children will lose food assistance benefits under the cuts approved by the House Appropriations Committee last week?

- a. 65,000
- b. 100,000
- c. 350,000
- d. 1 million

3. The SNAP program (formerly known as food stamps) will be cut by approximately how much in the next 10 years under the Ryan budget?

- a. 10 percent
- b. 20 percent
- c. 15 percent
- d. 7 percent

4. How many million seniors and people with disabilities would be hurt by the GOP's budget cuts to Medicaid?

- a. Less than 8
- b. 10
- c. 12
- d. More than 16

5. Under the House budget, how many people would lose access to job training and placement services?

- a. 100,000
- b. 500,000
- c. 5 million
- d. 8 million

Source: Friends Committee on National Legislation release 7/8/11 <http://fcnl.org/issues/budget>

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

The most wasteful government agency: not part of the deficit discussion

DAVID MORRIS

In all the talk about the federal deficit, why is the single largest culprit left out of the conversation? Why is the one part of government that best epitomizes everything conservatives say they hate about government - waste, incompetence, and corruption - all but exempt from conservative criticism?

Of course, I'm talking about the Pentagon. Any serious battle plan to reduce the deficit must take on the Pentagon. In 2011 military spending accounted for more than 58 percent of all federal discretionary spending and even more if the interest on the federal debt that is related to military spending were added. In the last ten years we have spent more than \$7.6 trillion on military and homeland security according to the National Priorities Project.

In the last decade military spending has soared from \$300 billion to \$700 billion. When debt ceilings and deficits seem to be the only two items on Washington's agenda, it is both revealing and tragic that both parties give a free pass to military spending. Representative Paul Ryan's much discussed Tea Party budget accepted Obama's proposal for a pathetic \$78 billion reduction in military spending over 5 years, a recommendation that would only modestly slow the rate of growth of military spending.

Indeed, the Republican government battering ram appears to have stopped at the Pentagon door. This was evident early on. As soon as they took over the House of Representatives, Republicans changed the rules so that military spending does not have to be offset by reduced spending somewhere else, unlike any other kind of government spending. It is the only activity of government they believe does not have to be paid for. Which brings to mind a bit of wisdom from one of their heroes, Adam Smith. "Were the expense of war to be defrayed always by revenue raised within the year, wars would in general be more speedily concluded, and less wantonly undertaken."

The Tea Party revolution has only strengthened the Republican Party's resolve that the Pentagon's budget is untouchable. An analysis by the Heritage Foundation of Republican votes on defense spending found that Tea Party freshmen were even more likely than their Republican elders to vote against cutting any part of the military budget.

What makes the hypocrisy even more revealing is that the Pentagon turns out to be the poster child for government.

WASTE AND INCOMPETENCE

In 2009 the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found "staggering" cost overruns of almost \$300 billion in nearly 70 percent of the Pentagon's 96 major weapons. What's more, the programs were running, on average, 21 months behind schedule. And when they were completed, they provided less than they promised.

The Defense Logistics Agency had no use for parts worth more than half of the \$13.7 billion in equipment stacked up in DOD warehouses in 2006 to 2008.

And these are only the tips of the military's misspending iceberg. We really don't know how much the Pentagon wastes because, believe it or not, there hasn't been a complete audit of the Pentagon in more than 15 years.

In 1994, the Government Management Reform Act required the Inspector General of each federal agency to audit and publish the financial statements of their agency. The Department of Defense was the only agency that has been unable to comply. In fiscal 1998 the Department of Defense used \$1.7 trillion of undocumented adjustments to balance the books. In 2002 the situation was even worse. CBS News reported that Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld admitted, "we cannot track \$2.3 trillion in transactions."

Imagine that a school district were to reveal that it didn't know where it spent its money. Now imagine the Republican response. Perhaps, "Off with their desktops!"

How did Congress respond to DOD's delinquency? It gave it absolution and allowed it to opt out of its legal



requirement. But as a sop to outraged public opinion Congress required DOD to set a date when it would have its book sufficiently in order to be audited. Which the Pentagon dutifully did, and missed every one of the target dates. The latest is 2017 and DOD has already announced it will be unable to meet that deadline.

Adding insult to injury, last September, the GAO found that the new computer systems intended to improve the Pentagon's financial oversight are themselves nearly 100 percent or \$7 billion over budget and as much as 12 years behind schedule!

...AND CORRUPT TOO

The Pentagon is not just incompetent. It is corrupt. In November 2009 the Pentagon's Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA), the federal watchdog responsible for auditing oversight of military contractors, raised the question of criminal wrongdoing when it found that the audits that did occur were riddled with serious breaches of auditor independence. One Pentagon auditor admitted he did not perform detailed tests because, "The contractor would not appreciate it."

Why would the Pentagon allow its contractors to get away with fraud? To answer that question we need to understand the incestuous relationship between the Pentagon and its contractors that has been going on for years, and is getting worse. From 2004 to 2008, 80 percent of retiring three and four star officers went to work as consultants or defense industry executives*. *Thirty-four out of 39 three- and four-star generals and admirals who retired in 2007 are now working in defense industry roles -nearly 90 percent.** Generals are recruited for private sector jobs well before they retire. Once employed by the military contractor the general maintains a Pentagon advisory role.

"In almost any other realm it would seem a clear conflict of interest. But this is the Pentagon where such apparent conflicts are a routine fact of life", an in-depth investigation by the Boston Globe concluded. U.S. military spending now exceeds the spending of all other countries combined. Knowledgeable military experts argue that we can cut at least \$1 trillion from the Pentagon budget without changing its currently expressed mission. But a growing number believe that the mission itself is suspect. Economic competitors like India and China certainly approve of our willingness to undermine our economic competitiveness by diverting trillions of dollars into war and weapons production. Some argue that all this spending has made us more secure but all the evidence points in the opposite direction. Certainly our \$2 trillion and counting military adventures in the Middle

East and Afghanistan and Pakistan have won us few friends and multiplied our enemies.

"Countries feel threatened when rivals ramp up their defenses; this was true in the Cold War, and now it may happen with China. It's how arms races are born. We spend more, inspiring competitors to do the same - thus inflating defense budgets without making anyone safer. For example, Gates observed in May that no other country has a single ship comparable to our 11 aircraft carriers. Based on the perceived threat that this fleet poses, the Chinese are pursuing an anti-ship ballistic missile program. U.S. military officials have decried this "carrier-killer" effort, and in response we are diversifying our capabilities to strike China, including a new long-range bomber program, and modernizing our carrier fleet at a cost of about \$10 billion per ship."

For tens of millions of Americans real security comes not from fighting wars on foreign soil but from not having to worry about losing their house or their job or their medical care. As Joshua Holland, columnist for Alternet points out, 46 states faced combined budget shortfalls this year of \$130 billion, leading them to fire tens of thousands of workers and cut off assistance to millions of families. Just the supplemental requests for fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan this year were \$170 billion.

What is perhaps most astonishing of all is that cutting the military budget is wildly popular. Even back in 1995, when military spending was only a fraction of its present size, a poll by the Program on International Policy Attitudes reported that 42 percent of the US public felt that defense spending was too high and a majority of Americans were convinced that defense spending "has weakened the US economy and given some allies an economic edge."

The next time you hear Republicans insist they want to ferret out government waste and reduce spending and stamp out incompetence ask them why the one part of government that exemplifies everything they say is wrong with government is the one part of government they embrace most heartily.

DAVID MORRIS IS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL SELF-RELIANCE <[HTTP://WWW.ILSR.ORG](http://www.ilsr.org)>, BASED IN MINNEAPOLIS AND WASHINGTON, D.C., WHICH FOCUSES ON LOCAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

Source: On the Commons 7/12/11 <http://onthecommons.org/why-most-wasteful-government-agency-not-part-deficit-discussion>

Budget Quiz Answers and Explanations

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

1. How much does the Military Appropriations bill passed by the House this week cut the Pentagon spending over the next five years?

- a. 12 percent
- b. Zero
- c. 20 percent
- d. 17 percent

Answer: Zero.

Although House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan includes \$178 billion in his budget as “cuts” to the Pentagon, they aren’t really cuts. Instead, Chairman Ryan is slowing the growth of the Pentagon’s budget over the next several years and calling it “savings.”

Moreover, approximately \$100 billion of the proposed savings would never even leave the Pentagon. Instead, the money saved by eliminating out-dated weapons systems would be reallocated within the department, reinvesting in personnel and other weapons. Some realistic cuts were proposed by reducing troop numbers and improving health care efficiency for retirees, but the majority of “savings” are actually speculation on uncontrollable future events and not real changes to how the department spends its money.

Cuts instead come from public investments, like education, infrastructure and housing. The budget includes almost two trillion in cuts over ten years to programs that promote economic mobility and opportunity, such as Head Start (free preschool for low-income children), food stamps, and financial assistance for heating and cooling costs. We cannot afford to force families to choose between refilling prescriptions and keeping the heat on. Times are hard for everybody, but if we cut spending in human needs programs today, future generations will only face exacerbated inequality.

2. Up to how many low-income mothers, infants and young children will lose food assistance benefits under the cuts approved by the House Appropriations Committee last week?

- a. 65,000
- b. 100,000
- c. 350,000
- d. 1 million

Answer: 350,000

The Woman, Infant and Children nutrition program (WIC) was funded at just over \$6 billion in the House Agriculture Appropriations bill, more than \$650 million less than FY2011 funding levels. Depending on the cost of food in the next year, 200,000-350,000 low-income women and young children will lose nutrition assistance. The program, which provides food and nutrition counseling for 9 million pregnant and post partum mothers, infants and children under the age of five, already does not reach the total number of eligible beneficiaries.

While cutting deeply into WIC and other nutrition and housing assistance programs, the House Agriculture Appropriations bill maintains expensive farm subsidies. Some of these subsidies go to small farms, but almost three quarters of them to go to the wealthiest 10% of farms. There is never a time to let new mothers and young children go hungry, especially when there are many other places in the federal budgets where we can afford cuts, like Pentagon spending, corporate tax loopholes and generous farm subsidies.

3. The SNAP program (formerly known as food stamps) will be cut by approximately how much in the next 10 years

under the Ryan budget?

- a. 10 percent
- b. 20 percent
- c. 15 percent
- d. 7 percent

Answer: 20 percent

The Ryan budget proposes cutting \$127 billion in spending - almost 20 percent - for the SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) over the next ten years by capping spending and leaving it to states to find “innovative approaches” to providing aid to those who need it. However, the very nature of SNAP means that the population affected by this cut would be overwhelmingly poor, with 86% of the households on the program living below the poverty line.

Very low income families with children (three quarters of SNAP participants are in families with children,) as well as seniors and people with disabilities (one third live in a household with an elderly or disabled member) are the people who depend on SNAP in order to eat, or to supplement their income in order to afford necessities like housing on a reliable basis. Cutting SNAP would have an immediate negative effect on this population and would very likely increase the number of Americans in poverty or deep poverty, thereby increasing the strain on emergency food providers and raising the risk of hunger among this vulnerable population.

See more about the proposed SNAP cuts. <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=3463>



4. How many million seniors and people with disabilities would be hurt by the GOP’s budget cuts to Medicaid?

- a. Less than 8
- b. 10
- c. 12
- d. More than 16

Answer: more than 16 million

The GOP budget includes a number of proposed cuts to the funding of Medicaid, including the latest proposals which would allow states to significantly reduce eligibility and enrollment in the program, and hurting people who have nowhere else to turn for the medical care that they need.

In addition to providing assistance to low income people, families, and children, Medicaid is a crucial service to seniors and people with disabilities- paying for things that Medicare does not cover, such as the cost of a nursing home or other long-term care facilities (an estimated 63.6% of seniors living in nursing homes rely on Medicaid as their primary payer).

Nationwide, 15.4% of all seniors and their loved ones depend on coverage from Medicaid. Among people with disabilities, that number is even higher: 44.6%, or almost 10 million. These are vulnerable Americans who depend on the Medicaid program to provide them with the care that they need every day, and whose health would be jeopardized by these cuts in funding.

Read more on the effects of Medicaid cuts on the elderly. <http://www.familiesusa.org/resources/publications/reports/cutting-medicaid-findings.html>

5. Under the House budget, how many people would lose access to job training and placement services?

- a. 100,000
- b. 500,000
- c. 5 million
- d. 8 million

Answer: 8 million

The House budget calls for the termination of funding for the Workplace Investment Act, which distributes resources to programs that assist adults, youth and dislocated workers with training and placement. Some of these programs are extremely successful. Research shows that every dollar spent on a court-involved YouthBuild participant yields a return on investment of at least \$10.80. YouthBuild is an education and community development program for low-income young people that helps them get their GED and teaches them jobs skills while building housing for homeless people and low-income families.

The Workplace Investment Act helps out-of-work people update their job skills before reentering the workforce. Especially those who have been out of work for a year or more, many are finding that extended unemployment is making their skill outdated or obsolete.

In a time when millions of people in the United States are unemployed or underemployed, job training and placement assistance programs are essential to help get families back on their feet. Cutting programs like YouthBuild that are proven effective is not the way to improve the economy, it only makes it harder for young low-income people and the unemployed to find opportunities for good jobs.

Source: FCNL release 7/8/11, www.fcnl.org

ENDING NUCLEAR EVIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that does not mean that nuclear disarmament is an impossible dream. My own country, South Africa, gave up its nuclear arsenal in the 1990’s, realizing it was better off without these weapons. Around the same time, the newly independent states of Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine voluntarily relinquished their nuclear arms, and then joined the NPT. Other countries have abandoned nuclear-weapons programs, recognizing that nothing good could possibly come from them. Global stockpiles have dropped from 68,000 warheads at the height of the Cold War to 20,000 today.

In time, every government will come to accept the basic inhumanity of threatening to obliterate entire cities with nuclear weapons. They will work to achieve a world in which such weapons are no more-where the rule of law, not the rule of force, reigns supreme, and cooperation is seen as the best guarantor of international peace. But such a world will be possible only if people everywhere rise up and challenge the nuclear madness.

DESMOND TUTU IS A NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATE AND SUPPORTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS (WWW.ICANW.ORG).

Source: Project Syndicate Op-Ed <http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/tutu12/English/7/3/11>

The right way to help in Afghanistan

REBECCA GRIFFIN

In early June, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee released a report on aid efforts in Afghanistan. Many of the problems they highlight line up with the criticisms Peace Action West has made of the large-scale, military-dominated aid that has happened in much of Afghanistan:

Even when U.S. development experts determine that a proposed project “lacks achievable goals and needs to be scaled back,” the U.S. military often takes it over and funds it anyway, the report says. It also cites excessive use and poor oversight of contractors. The report ... is critical overall of what one senior committee aide called the U.S. focus on a rapid “burn rate” of available funding as a key measure of success. All U.S. development projects in Afghanistan should be reexamined, it adds, to determine whether they are “necessary, achievable, and



sustainable.”

The report recommends multi-year congressional funding for the aid program that would plan ahead for the increased civilian responsibilities as the number of troops decreases and calls for “a simple rule: donors should not implement projects if Afghans cannot sustain them.”

High turnover among U.S. civilians working in Afghanistan, estimated at 85 percent a year, along with “pressure from the military, imbalances between military and civilian resources, unpredictable funding levels from Congress, and changing political timelines, have further complicated efforts,” it says.

We should not stop

development efforts in Afghanistan, but we should focus on what works. In a statement responding to the report, the Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network (of which Peace Action West is a member) noted that the report highlighted programs that are having a real impact in the lives of Afghans:

The report also highlights U.S.-backed Afghan development programs that “exemplify the goals of being ‘necessary, achievable and sustainable’”

The National Solidarity Program, which “promotes sub-national governance by setting up community development councils and training them to manage small-scale projects funded by block grants,” has been successful in part because of its “transparent, standardized, and streamlined” disbursements, local ownership of development initiatives, and “strong monitoring and evaluation.” The Basic Package of Health Services, which provides

public nutrition and maternal and child health services on levels ranging from community health posts to district hospitals, has increased health coverage rates to 85 percent in 2008 (from only 9 percent in 2003) nationwide, and it has reduced infant mortality by 26 percent. The number of children attending school in Afghanistan has increased sevenfold over the past decade.

The National Solidarity Program exemplifies the kind of aid Peace Action West has been pushing the government to support-Afghan-led, community-based, sustainable projects that are driven and carried out by the people who need them.

REBECCA GRIFFIN IS POLITICAL DIRECTOR FOR PEACE ACTION WEST, AND CURRENTLY IS HEADING UP CAMPAIGNS TO GET AFGHANISTAN RIGHT, AND PROMOTE A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION WITH IRAN. [HTTP://PEACEACTIONWEST.ORG](http://PEACEACTIONWEST.ORG)

Training women and men who train teachers in Afghanistan

DR. ZAHER WAHAB

There are signs of hope. For the last five years, I have been teaching in a master’s degree faculty development program designed to upgrade the knowledge, pedagogic skills, and professional dispositions of teacher education instructors from Afghanistan’s 18 four-year teacher training colleges. The program is funded by the US Agency for International Development, and implemented by the University of Massachusetts. The program is competitive and selective, and it maintains fairly high academic-professional standards. Each cohort consists of 11 men and 11 women, ages 24-43, representing the diversity in the country. We have graduated two cohorts thus far, and are currently working with two groups.

Naturally, people come from different backgrounds, having amazing, diverse and/or tragic histories. Some have never been to

the capital Kabul. Most have not touched a computer, and have never been on a plane. Some encounter academic difficulties. Many of the women have never sat next to a strange man, or spoken to one. Travel throughout the country is fraught with danger. All are caught in Afghanistan’s endless civil, ethnic, sectarian, urban-rural, and/or imperialist wars and turmoil. Several have been touched by the country’s 35-year turmoil directly. All have been traumatized in one way or other. Most have families who must survive on \$300 per month. Group members initially harbor fear, anxiety, uncertainty, suspicion, rivalries and distrust about each other. They feel overwhelmed, hopeless and angry about the condition of their wretched country.

But I have been amazed at the personal-professional progress, change and even transformation, among the participants. By the end of the four-semester program,

they cooperate, help, respect, trust, like, and seek each other in academic-professional-personal matters. They overcome their fear, stereotypes, prejudices, distrust, sectarianism and identity politics. They begin to coalesce as a professional group and as one people, and talk about the country, the nation and their common humanity. Hardly anyone is ever late or absent; they do not take breaks; and they never whine about the academic rigor or the heavy work-load. They work very hard. By the end of the program, they develop excellent academic-intellectual skills. And they develop professional identities, and a sense of the teaching profession and its educational, sociopolitical, economic, cultural, and ethical role and responsibility toward their students and the ravaged country. They are angry and impatient at the catastrophic conditions of the war-torn country, and they are determined to struggle for change, starting

with education and the teaching profession. Group three has started to organize a professional network of all the program participants and graduates, with the intent of establishing an association in the future. The fourth group just developed a code of conduct for all teachers and professors in Afghanistan. These men and women are energized, motivated, inspired, empowered, and committed to work for educational-social change. The network idea and this code of ethics are a start.

The total cost of putting one cohort through the program is probably one million dollars, equal to keeping one American soldier for a year in Afghanistan. Think about it!

Source: Peace Action West release, July 2011. <http://peaceactionwest.org/>



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Propaganda techniques Fox "News" uses to brainwash Americans



DR. CYNTHIA BOAZ

There is nothing more sacred to the maintenance of democracy than a free press. Access to comprehensive, accurate and quality information is essential to the manifestation of Socratic citizenship - the society characterized by a civically engaged, well-informed and socially invested populace. Thus, to the degree that access to quality information is willfully or unintentionally obstructed, democracy itself is degraded.

It is ironic that in the era of 24-hour cable news networks and "reality" programming, the news-to-fluff ratio and overall veracity of information has declined precipitously. Take the fact Americans now spend on average about 50 hours a week using various forms of media, while at the same time cultural literacy levels hover just above the gutter. Not only does mainstream media now tolerate gross misrepresentations of fact and history by public figures (highlighted most recently by Sarah Palin's ludicrous depiction of Paul Revere's ride), but many media actually legitimize these displays. Pause for a moment and ask yourself what it means that the world's largest, most profitable and most popular news channel passes off as fact every whim, impulse and outrageously incompetent analysis of its so-called reporters. How did we get here? Take the enormous amount of misinformation that is taken for truth by Fox audiences: the belief that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and that he was in on 9/11, the belief that climate change isn't real and/or man-made, the belief that Barack Obama is Muslim and wasn't born in the United States, the insistence that all Arabs are Muslim and all Muslims are terrorists, the inexplicable perceptions that immigrants are both too lazy to work and are about to steal your job.

All of these claims are demonstrably false, yet Fox News viewers will maintain their veracity with incredible zeal. Why? Is it simply that we have lost our respect for knowledge? My curiosity about this question compelled me to sit down and document the most oft-used methods by which willful ignorance has been turned into dogma by Fox News and other propagandists disguised as media. The techniques I identify here also help to explain the simultaneously powerful identification the Fox media audience has with the network, as well as their ardent, reflexive defenses of it.

The good news is that the more conscious you are of these techniques, the less likely they are to work on you. The bad news is that those reading this article are probably the least in need of it.

1. PANIC MONGERING

This goes one step beyond simple fear mongering. With panic mongering, there is never a break from the fear. The idea is to terrify and terrorize the audience during every waking moment. From Muslims to swine flu to recession to homosexuals to immigrants to the rapture itself, the belief over at Fox seems to be that if your fight-or-flight reflexes aren't activated, you aren't alive. This of course raises the question: why terrorize your own audience? Because it is the fastest way to bypasses the rational brain. In other words, when people are afraid, they don't think rationally. And when they can't think rationally, they'll believe anything.

2. CHARACTER ASSASSINATION/AD HOMINEM

Fox does not like to waste time debating the idea. Instead, they prefer a quicker route to dispensing with

their opponents: go after the person's credibility, motives, intelligence, character, or, if necessary, sanity. No category of character assassination is off the table and no offense is beneath them. Fox and like-minded media figures also use ad hominem attacks not just against individuals, but entire categories of people in an effort to discredit the ideas of every person who is seen to fall into that category, e.g. "liberals," "hippies," "progressives" etc. This form of argument - if it can be called that - leaves no room for genuine debate over ideas, so by definition, it is undemocratic. Not to mention just plain crass.

3. PROJECTION/FLIPPING

This one is frustrating for the viewer who is trying to actually follow the argument. It involves taking whatever underhanded tactic you're using and then accusing your opponent of doing it to you first. We see this frequently in the immigration discussion, where anti-racists are accused of racism, or in the climate change debate, where those who argue for human causes of the phenomenon are accused of not having science or facts on their side. It's often called upon when the media host finds themselves on the ropes in the debate.

4. REWRITING HISTORY

This is another way of saying that propagandists make the facts fit their worldview. The Downing Street Memos on the Iraq war were a classic example of this on a massive scale, but it happens daily and over smaller issues as well. A recent case in point is Palin's mangling of the Paul Revere ride, which Fox reporters have bent over backward to validate. Why lie about the historical facts, even when they can be demonstrated to be false? Well, because dogmatic minds actually find it easier to reject reality than to update their viewpoints. They will literally rewrite history if it serves their interests. And they'll often speak with such authority that the casual viewer will be tempted to question what they knew as fact.

5. SCAPEGOATING/OTHERING

This works best when people feel insecure or scared. It's technically a form of both fear mongering and diversion, but it is so pervasive that it deserves its own category. The simple idea is that if you can find a group to blame for social or economic problems, you can then go on to a) justify violence/dehumanization of them, and b) subvert responsibility for any harm that may befall them as a result.

6. CONFLATING VIOLENCE WITH POWER/ OPPOSITION TO VIOLENCE WITH WEAKNESS

This is more of what I'd call a "meta-frame" (a deeply held belief) than a media technique, but it is manifested in the ways news is reported constantly. For example, terms like "show of strength" are often used to describe acts of repression, such as those by the Iranian regime against the protesters in the summer of 2009. There are several concerning consequences of this form of conflation. First, it has the potential to make people feel falsely emboldened by shows of force - it can turn wars into sporting events. Secondly, especially in the context of American politics, displays of violence - whether manifested in war or debates about the Second Amendment - are seen as noble and (in an especially surreal irony) moral. Violence become synonymous with power, patriotism and piety.

7. BULLYING

This is a favorite technique of several Fox commentators. That it continues to be employed demonstrates that it seems to have some efficacy. Bullying and yelling works best on people who come to the conversation with a lack of confidence, either in themselves or their grasp of the subject being discussed. The bully exploits this lack of confidence by berating the guest into submission or compliance. Often, less self-possessed people will feel shame and anxiety when

being berated and the quickest way to end the immediate discomfort is to cede authority to the bully. The bully is then able to interpret that as a "win."

8. CONFUSION

As with the preceding technique, this one works best on an audience that is less confident and self-possessed. The idea is to deliberately confuse the argument, but insist that the logic is airtight and imply that anyone who disagrees is either too dumb or too fanatical to follow along. Less independent minds will interpret the confusion technique as a form of sophisticated thinking, thereby giving the user's claims veracity in the viewer's mind.

9. POPULISM

This is especially popular in election years. The speaker identifies themselves as one of "the people" and the target of their ire as an enemy of the people. The opponent is always "elitist" or a "bureaucrat" or a "government insider" or some other category that is not the people. The idea is to make the opponent harder to relate to and harder to empathize with. It often goes hand in hand with scapegoating. A common logical fallacy with populism bias when used by the right is that accused "elitists" are almost always liberals - a category of political actors who, by definition, advocate for non-elite groups.

10. INVOKING THE CHRISTIAN GOD

This is similar to othering and populism. With morality politics, the idea is to declare yourself and your allies as patriots, Christians and "real Americans" (those are inseparable categories in this line of thinking) and anyone who challenges them as not. Basically, God loves Fox and Republicans and America. And hates taxes and anyone who doesn't love those other three things. Because the speaker has been benedicted by God to speak on behalf of all Americans, any challenge is perceived as immoral. It's a cheap and easy technique used by all totalitarian entities from states to cults.

11. SATURATION

There are three components to effective saturation: being repetitive, being ubiquitous and being consistent. The message must be repeated cover and over, it must be everywhere and it must be shared across commentators: e.g. "Saddam has WMD." Veracity and hard data have no relationship to the efficacy of saturation. There is a psychological effect of being exposed to the same message over and over, regardless of whether it's true or if it even makes sense, e.g., "Barack Obama wasn't born in the United States." If something is said enough times, by enough people, many will come to accept it as truth. Another example is Fox's own slogan of "Fair and Balanced."

12. DISPARAGING EDUCATION

There is an emerging and disturbing lack of reverence for education and intellectualism in many mainstream media discourses. In fact, in some circles (e.g. Fox), higher education is often disparaged as elitist. Having a university credential is perceived by these folks as not a sign of credibility, but of a lack of it. In fact, among some commentators, evidence of intellectual prowess is treated snidely and as anti-American. Education and other evidence of being trained in critical thinking are direct threats to a hive-mind mentality, which is why they are so viscerally demeaned.

13. GUILT BY ASSOCIATION

This is a favorite of Glenn Beck and Andrew Breitbart, both of whom have used it to decimate the careers and lives of many good people. Here's how it works: if your cousin's college roommate's uncle's ex-wife attended a dinner party back in 1984 with Gorbachev's niece's ex-boyfriend's sister, then you, by extension are a communist set on destroying

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Violating domestic laws to prevent crimes v. humanity

SALLY WITHUHN

I wrote my Senator the other day. She responded. Boy, what a disappointment. I wrote Senator Feinstein about how I thought Bradley Manning had acted in the tradition of those who honor honesty and openness; how he was just following the President's directions: "My Administration is committed to creating an unprecedented level of openness in Government. We will work together to ensure the public trust and establish a system of transparency, public participation, and collaboration. Openness will strengthen our democracy and promote efficiency and effectiveness in Government. Government should be transparent. Transparency promotes accountability and provides information for citizens about what their Government is doing." (Barack Obama, 1/21/09)

Boy was I surprised. The Senator seemed to have it in for Bradley. She went on and on about the charges against him and how his alleged actions had damaged our National security interests. Interest in what? War crimes? That's what I recall from the leaks that I saw. Like the

video of our soldiers shooting unarmed Reuters News photographers.

How do you reconcile the charges against Bradley with the President's pledge to openness? How do you reconcile the charges against Bradley with our President's statement, that the documents "don't reveal any issues that haven't already informed our public debate on Afghanistan?" More importantly, how do you reconcile the charges against Bradley, with what we agreed to at the Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal?

On August 8th, 1945, in pursuance of the agreement signed by the United States of America, France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, there was established an International Military Tribunal for the just and prompt trial and punishment of war criminals of the European Axis in Nuremberg Germany. From this came the statement:

"Individuals have international duties which transcend the national obligations of obedience. Therefore citizens have the duty to violate domestic laws to prevent crimes against peace and humanity from

occurring."

It would be different if it was just embarrassing, but some of the information that came out showed the indiscriminate murder of unarmed civilians. That's a crime not a "National security interest". A government that acts in secret is unaccountable

and as we have seen, prone to criminal behavior.

Bradley Manning is not convicted of anything and yet he has been made to stand at attention, in the nude, every morning; he has been in solitary confinement for 8 months; he has been subject to sensory deprivation;

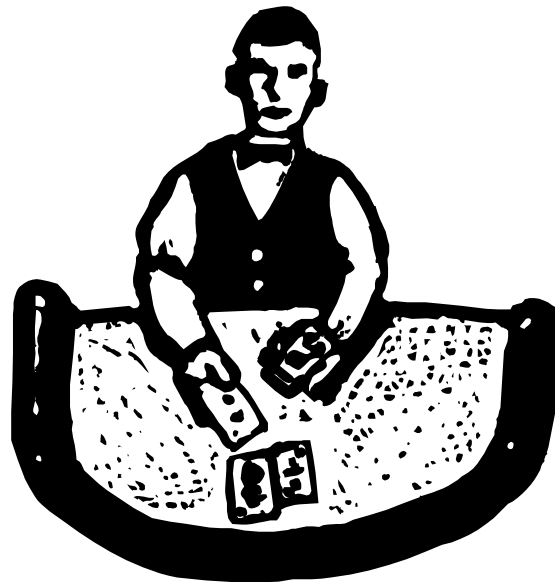
politicians have called for his execution. Then there is the U.S. Department of State spokesperson P.J. Crowley, who resigned after calling the treatment of Bradley Manning "ridiculous and counterproductive and stupid".

Why not stop our war

to arrest them instead of shoot them? Let's have trials instead of massacres! Imagine the world wide change of attitude towards our foreign policy. Imagine the money we would save. We are spending trillions. Instead of murdering so many civilians, let's find out where these

with Amnesty International showed me that it can be powerful just to write to prisoners of conscience. It can improve their living conditions and help get them a hearing. So I'm asking everyone I know to please take a moment and write Bradley Manning. We have heard that he is getting letters and that he is encouraged by them. And it will make you feel good. He has been a vehicle of truth that is honorable. His address is: Bradley Manning 89289, 830 Sabalu Road, Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027

Then, if you really want to make a difference, write his jailor. Ask him to be nice to Bradley; he may become a national hero. Col. Green's address is: Col. Wayne A. Green, 290 Grant Ave., Unit 1, Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027



action now, and change our tactics to a police action? Instead of worrying about whistleblowers, let's honor them. Bradley Manning is giving us the opportunity to be more civilized. Wouldn't it be more civilized, and more Constitutional, if someone is doing something illegal,

guys are and arrest them. Have trials with judges and juries. And "let us live out the true meaning" of our pledge, "...and justice for all."

Action: My experience

Propaganda techniques

CONTINUED FROM LAST PAGE

America. Period.

14. DIVERSION

This is where, when on the ropes, the media commentator suddenly takes the debate in a weird but predictable direction to avoid accountability. This is the point in the discussion where most Fox anchors start comparing the opponent to Saul Alinsky or invoking ACORN or Media Matters, in a desperate attempt to win through guilt by association. Or they'll talk about wanting to focus on "moving forward," as though by analyzing the current state of things or God forbid, how we got to this state of things, you have no regard for the future. Any attempt to bring the discussion back to the issue at hand will likely be called deflection, an ironic use of the technique of projection/flipping.

In debating some of these tactics with colleagues and friends, I have also noticed that the Fox viewership seems to be marked by a sort of collective personality disorder whereby the viewer feels almost as though they've been let into a secret society. Something about their affiliation with the network makes them feel privileged and this affinity is likely what drives the viewers to defend the network so vehemently. They seem to identify with it at a core level, because it tells them they are special and privy to something the rest of us don't have. It's akin to the loyalty one feels by being let into a private club or a gang. That effect is also likely to make the propaganda more powerful, because it goes mostly unquestioned.

In considering these tactics and their possible effects on American public discourse, it is important to note that historically, those who've genuinely accessed truth have never berated those who did not. You don't get honored by history when you beat up your opponent: look at Martin Luther King Jr., Robert Kennedy, Abraham Lincoln. These men did not find the need to engage in othering, ad hominem attacks, guilt by association or bullying. This is because when a person has accessed a truth, they are not threatened by the opposing views of others. This reality reveals the righteous indignation of people like Glenn Beck, Bill O'Reilly and Sean Hannity as a symptom of untruth. These individuals are hostile and angry precisely because they don't feel confident in their own veracity. And in general, the more someone is losing their temper in a debate and the more intolerant they are of listening to others, the more you can be certain they do not know what they're talking about.

One final observation. Fox audiences, birthers and Tea Partiers often defend their arguments by pointing to the fact that a lot of people share the same perceptions. This is a reasonable point to the extent that Murdoch's News Corporation reaches a far larger audience than any other single media outlet. But, the fact that a lot of people believe something is not necessarily a sign that it's true; it's just a sign that it's been effectively marketed. As honest, fair and truly intellectual debate degrades before the eyes of the global media audience, the quality of American democracy degrades along with it.

Source: Truthout | News Analysis 7/2/11 www.truthout.org

Media ownership victory

Today, in a sweeping victory for communities across the country, a federal appeals court overturned the Federal Communications Commission's attempt to weaken media ownership rules. Had these rules gone into effect, it would have unleashed a new wave of media consolidation across the country.

In 2007, the FCC ignored letters and calls from millions of Americans and tried to rewrite its media ownership rules to let companies own both newspapers and TV or radio stations in the same town. This change would have opened the floodgates to new media mergers, leading to even more layoffs in newsrooms while thinning out diverse perspectives from local news.

We sued the FCC for ignoring the public outcry; as a result, the court tossed out the FCC's flawed rules, but also upheld all other media consolidation restrictions and told the FCC it needed to do better to support and foster diverse voices in the media - all crucial decisions for our fight to build better media.

The court pointed to public comments as a deciding factor in overturning the FCC's attempt to change its rules. But the fight doesn't end here. Right now around the country, local stations are using loopholes and backroom deals to get around media ownership rules and consolidate their coverage of local news. This court case makes clear that the FCC needs to strengthen their rules and address this growing epidemic as well.

Source: Free Press Action Fund release 7/7/11 www.FreePress.net

Historic agreement for nation's egg-laying hens

In early July, the Humane Society of the United States reached an historic agreement with the United Egg Producers, which could result in a complete makeover of the U.S. egg industry and improve the treatment of the 280 million laying hens used each year in U.S. egg production.

The HSUS and UEP have agreed to work together to advocate for federal legislation that would:

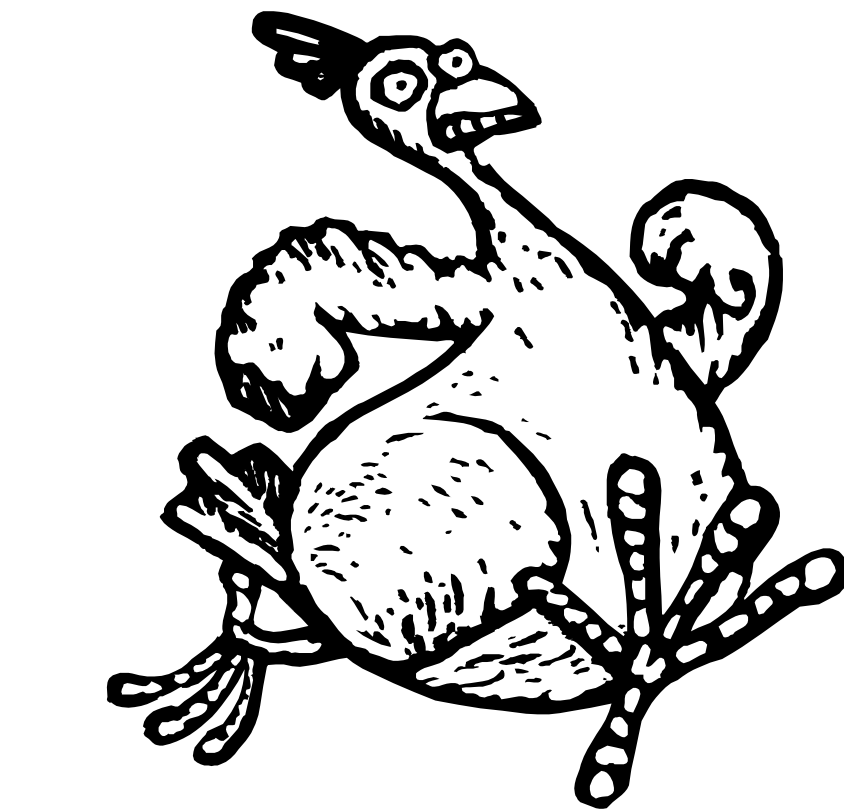
- Require a moratorium at the end of 2011 on new construction of unenrichable battery cages -- small, cramped, cages that nearly immobilize more than 90 percent of laying hens today -- and the nationwide elimination of barren battery cages through a phase-out period;

- Require phased in construction of new hen housing systems that provide hens nearly double the amount of space they're currently provided;

- Require environmental enrichments so birds can engage in important natural behaviors currently denied to them in barren cages, such as perches, nesting boxes, and scratching areas;

- Mandate labeling on all egg cartons nationwide to inform consumers of the method used to produce the eggs, such as "eggs from caged hens" or "eggs from cage-free hens";

- Prohibit forced molting through starvation -- an inhumane practice that is inflicted on tens of millions of hens each year and which involves withholding all food from birds for up to two weeks in order to manipulate the laying cycle;



- Prohibit excessive ammonia levels in henhouses -- a common problem in the industry that is harmful to both hens and egg industry workers;

- Require standards for euthanasia of hens; and

- Prohibit the sale of eggs and egg products nationwide that don't meet these above requirements.

If enacted, this would be the first federal law relating to chickens used for food, as well as the first federal law relating to the on-farm treatment of any species of farm animal.

Some of the provisions would be implemented nearly immediately after enactment, such as those relating to forced molting, ammonia, and euthanasia, and others after just a few years, including labeling and the requirement that all birds

will have to have at least 67 square inches of space each. (Currently, approximately 50 million laying hens are confined to only 48 square inches each.) The bill would require that all egg producers increase space per bird in a tiered phase-in, resulting in a final number, within 15 years for nearly all producers, of at minimum, 124-144 square inches of space each, along with the other improvements noted above.

In order to protect Proposition 2 (a landmark laying hen welfare initiative passed in California in 2008), all California egg producers--with nearly 20 million laying hens--would be required to eliminate barren battery cages by 2015 (the date Prop 2 goes into effect), and provide all hens with environmental enrichments, such as perches, nesting boxes, and scratching

areas. This will also apply to the sale of all eggs and egg products in California. And this agreement to pass comprehensive federal legislation on hen welfare puts a hold on planned ballot measures related to laying hen welfare in both Washington and Oregon.

Action: Passing this federal bill would be a historic improvement for hundreds of millions of animals per year. Contact your U.S. senators and representative today and urge them to support this federal legislation to end barren battery cage confinement and provide more humane standards for laying hens.

Source: *The Humane Society of the United States* release 7/12/11 HSUS, 2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037 www.humanesociety.org

Enviro bills need support

Today the California Legislature breaks for Summer Recess. Following is a status update on priority bills for the Planning and Conservation League. All of these bills are either on their way to Appropriations to assess whether or not the state can accommodate the fiscal impact of the bill, or have made it to the last step before making to the Governor's desk -- the Floor of the bill's opposite house of origin.

PCL SPONSORED LEGISLATION

AB 320 (Hill) -- This bill makes clarifying amendments to CEQA to ensure that all parties with a direct interest in a case brought pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) are aware of the pending litigation and parties with no direct link to the case are not unnecessarily dragged into a lawsuit. The bill was pulled from the Appropriations Committee after it was determined it would have zero fiscal impact. Currently this bill is headed to the Floor, for a full Senate vote.

PCL SUPPORT

AB 359 (Huffman) -- Bill promotes the management and protection of the state's groundwater supplies by requiring, as a condition of receiving a state grants or loans, local water agencies to map prime areas of groundwater recharge. The bill also requires local groundwater agencies to submit recharge maps to local planning agencies and expand public notification when preparing and approving groundwater plans. This bill will be heard

in Senate Appropriations.

AB 938 (V. Manuel Pérez) -- This bill, part of the Human Right to Water Bill Package, would require the public water system provide a written and non written public notice in English, Spanish, and in the language spoken by prescribed numbers of residents of the community served, in the event the public water system does not meet safe water drinking requirements. This bill will be heard in Senate Appropriations.

SB 568 (Lowenthal) -- This bill would ban the use of polystyrene food containers. Polystyrene, commonly known as Styrofoam, is hazardous to the environment and human health. It is a major cause of storm drain flooding, which is a huge cost to municipalities, and often ends up in waterways where it destroys natural ecosystems. Polystyrene factory workers are exposed to toxic chemicals during production and consumers that eat out of these containers ingest chemicals that are probable carcinogens and neurotoxins. This bill will be heard in Assembly Appropriations.

The California State Legislature reconvenes Monday, August 15th. We'll be contacting you before then in hopes of getting your support for PCL's position on these important bills.

Action: Contact your State representatives.

Source: *Planning and Conservation League* release 7/15/11. PCL, 1107 9th Street, Suite 901, Sacramento, CA 95814 www.PCL.org

Power generation from renewables surpasses nuclear

The latest issue of the Monthly Energy Review published by the US Energy Information Administration, electric power generation from renewable sources has surpassed production from nuclear sources, and is now "closing in on oil," says Ken Bossong Executive Director of the Sun Day Campaign.

In the first quarter of 2011 renewable energy sources

accounted for 11.73 percent of US domestic energy production. Renewable sources include solar, wind, geothermal, hydro, biomass/biofuel. As of the first quarter of 2011, energy production from these sources was 5.65 percent more than production from nuclear.

As Bossong further explains from the report, renewable sources are closing the gap

with generation from oil-fired sources, with renewable source equal to 77.15 percent of total oil based generation.

For all sectors, including transportation, thermal, and electrical generation, renewable energy production grew just over 15 percent in the first quarter of 2011 compared to the first quarter of 2010, and fully 25 percent over first quarter 2009. In a

break-down of renewable sources, biomass and biofuel accounted for a bit more than 48 percent, hydro for 35.41 percent, wind for nearly 13 percent, geothermal 2.45 percent, and solar at 1.16 percent.

Looking at just the electrical generation sector, renewable sources, including hydro, accounted for nearly 13 percent of net US

electrical generation in the first quarter of 2011, up from 10.31 percent for the same quarter last year. Non-hydro renewable sources accounted for 4.74 percent of net US production.

Source: <http://globalwarmingisreal.com/2011/07/07/power-generation-from-renewables-surpasses-nuclear/>

City of Jackson stands up against Pardee Reservoir expansion

On Monday, July 11, the Jackson City Council voted to approve a resolution opposing the proposed expansion of Pardee Reservoir on the Mokelumne River. The resolution also urges the East Bay Municipal Utility District to adopt other alternatives for future water supply, including the expansion of Los Vaqueros Reservoir in the East Bay. EBMUD owns and operates the reservoir, which extends upstream from Pardee Dam.

In a newspaper opinion piece published in the Amador Ledger Dispatch on Friday, July 8, Jackson Vice-Mayor Keith Sweet said, "We need to send EBMUD a clear message, together: Drop the Pardee Expansion now, protect the Mokelumne River and get your water in the East Bay. You have other options for water. But we cannot replace the Mokelumne River."

The resolution follows similar actions by Jackson over the last decade in support of public access

and recreation on the Mokelumne River. In 2000, the city passed a resolution supporting access to the Mokelumne Middle Bar reach, now threatened with destruction by EBMUD's proposed expansion of Pardee Reservoir. In 2009, the city passed a resolution opposing the expansion of Pardee Reservoir that was included in EBMUD's Water Supply Management Program 2040.

The huge East Bay water utility approved the WSMP 2040 in October 2009 despite massive opposition from foothill, statewide and East Bay interests. Conservation organizations challenged the approval and in April 2011, won a ruling that voided the plan and the related EIR. EBMUD is now beginning to seek information to inform a revised EIR, starting this week with meetings in Jackson and San Andreas.

The city's resolution recognizes the importance of the Mokelumne's Electra and Middle Bar runs as an

important local and regional recreational resource that brings income to local businesses and revenue to the city.

The proposed Pardee Reservoir expansion included in EBMUD's 2009 approved plan would:

- Destroy the entire Middle Bar Reach of the Mokelumne River from Highway 49 to the Middle Bar Bridge.

- Inundate or remove the historic 1912 Middle Bar Bridge, cutting off a critical fire and emergency services connection between Amador and Calaveras counties. The bridge was restored at considerable public expense about 11 years ago.

- Inundate the nearby Middle Bar rafting/kayaking take-out facility, constructed by EBMUD in 2003 with state funds to facilitate increased recreational access to the Mokelumne River. All five of Amador County's incorporated cities had earlier endorsed the opening of the Middle Bar reach to

public access.

- Destroy the many historical and Native American cultural sites in the Middle Bar Reach.

- Inundate the new, \$1 million Bureau of Land Management Big Bar River Access Facility currently under construction at the Highway 49 Bridge.

- Inundate up to 1,000 feet of the Mokelumne River's Electra Run upstream of the Highway 49 Bridge.

- Inundate a portion of the Mokelumne found eligible for National Wild and Scenic River designation.

- Destroy the potential for commercial whitewater rafting on the Mokelumne River, feasible only with a combined Electra-Middle Bar reach.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT CHRIS WRIGHT AT 209-295-4900, CHRIS@FOOTHILLCONSERVANCY.ORG OR SEE WWW.SAVETHEMOKE.COM/PARDEE.

Source: Foothill Conservancy release 7/12/11 www.savethemoke.com/pardee

EBMUD still wants to raise the Pardee Reservoir

In 2009 when East Bay MUD was considering including the expansion of the Pardee Reservoir in their 2040 water plan, EBMUD ignored the almost unanimous opposition and kept the Pardee option in their plan. They used a flawed Environmental Impact Report in making their decision and we took them to court over that inadequate EIR. The court agreed with us and sent EBMUD back to the drawing board. Judge Frawley told them to expand their evaluation of options to raising Pardee, including increased rationing, higher levels of conservation, water recycling, and most importantly, the joining with Contra Costa Water District in the expansion of the Los Vaqueros Reservoir. He told them to more closely evaluate the impacts on Recreation on the river, to consider the impact on flooding sacred Native American cultural sites, and to study the impact of removing the Middle Bar Bridge in regards to the emergency access it provides and the recreation it affords.

EBMUD is now in the process of revising their EIR and are holding meetings where we, once again, can tell them what we think of their plans to flood 2 miles of the Mokelumne River. Flooding that stretch of the Moke will also destroy the economic opportunity of having commercial rafting on the river, something the area badly needs.

Action: Tell EBMUD how we use and love the river, how we bond with our families along the river, how we count on the recreation it provides, how we would benefit from the economic impact from proposed commercial rafting, how we need Middle Bar bridge to be there for emergency access, how we don't want the native cultural sites and historic artifacts inundated. They have excellent options that no one objects to. Use them! Tell them to store their water in their own back yard, not ours! Deadline for comments is July 29th 2011

Please send an E-mail to: WSMP.
comments@ebmud.com
 Or by fax to: (510) 287-1295
 Or by mail to: WSMP Comments, c/o Tom Francis, Water Supply Improvements Division, East Bay Municipal Utility District, 375 11th Street, MS 407, Oakland, CA 94607

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO: [HTTP://WWW.EBMUD.COM/OUR-WATER/WATER-SUPPLY/LONG-TERM-PLANNING/WATER-SUPPLY-MANAGEMENT-PROGRAM-2040](http://WWW.EBMUD.COM/OUR-WATER/WATER-SUPPLY/LONG-TERM-PLANNING/WATER-SUPPLY-MANAGEMENT-PROGRAM-2040)
[HTTP://WWW.FOOTHILLCONSERVANCY.ORG/PAGES/PARDEE.CGI](http://WWW.FOOTHILLCONSERVANCY.ORG/PAGES/PARDEE.CGI)

Source: Foothill Conservancy release 7/8/11 PO Box 1255, Pine Grove, CA 95665 (209) 295-4900 www.foothillconservancy.org

- Overturn a court decision that protected national forests from actions that damage stream and river water quality.

"This bill is a house of horrors for anyone who values a sensible approach to protecting wildlife and the environment," Snape said.

"Americans are counting on the Senate to take a more reasoned approach and do what's right in this spending bill."

Source: Center for Biological Diversity release 7/7/11 <http://www.biologicaldiversity.org>

The environment under Republican rule

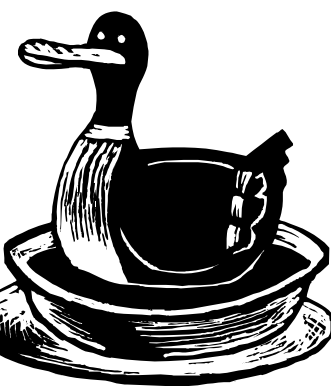
An appropriations bill proposed early July in the U.S. House of Representatives gave fresh evidence of the House majority's open hostility to environmental protection. The bill, released by subcommittee chairman Rep. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho), would halt any new listing protections for any endangered species or their critical habitat, allow Endangered Species Act protections to be stripped for gray wolves in several states without scientific review, exempt big polluters from greenhouse gas pollution limits, speed up dangerous offshore drilling in the Arctic and kill a proposed ban on new uranium mining on 1 million acres near the Grand Canyon.

"House Republicans are in a feeding frenzy, gorging themselves on anti-conservation legislation that will be a disaster for wildlife, clean air and water, and healthy landscapes across the United States," said Bill Snape, senior counsel with

the Center for Biological Diversity.

The proposed Interior Department appropriations bill will have far-reaching effects on a sweeping range of environmental protections that the department oversees. The bill - which does nothing to eliminate massive subsidies to favored extraction industries - includes provisions to:

- Eliminate funding for listing imperiled species as threatened or endangered, or for designating "critical habitat" protections under the Endangered Species Act;
- Allow wolves in



Wyoming and in the Great Lakes region to lose Endangered Species Act protection without proper scientific analysis and federal oversight;

- Force the Environmental Protection Agency to stop all work limiting carbon dioxide pollution from power plants, refineries and other large pollution sources;

- Stop more than 1 million acres around the Grand Canyon from being protected from new uranium mines;

- Halt efforts under the Clean Water Act from

protecting human health and endangered species from pesticides;

- Interfere with the Environmental Protect Agency's work to protect the public from toxic coal ash;

- Hinder the EPA's and U.S. Corps of Engineers' work to protect wetlands and other waters of the United States;

- Expedite air-pollution permits for offshore drilling in the Arctic;

- Open the door for additional livestock grazing on public lands, harming bighorn sheep and other wildlife;

The Great American carbon bomb

BILL MCKIBBEN

The climate problem has moved from the abstract to the very real in the last 18 months. Instead of charts and graphs about what will happen someday, we've got real-time video: first Russia burning, then Texas and Arizona on fire. First Pakistan suffered a deluge, then Queensland, Australia, went underwater, and this spring and summer, it's the Midwest that's flooding at historic levels.

The year 2010 saw the lowest volume of Arctic ice since scientists started to measure, more rainfall on land than any year in recorded history, and the lowest barometric pressure ever registered in the continental United States. Measured on a planetary scale, 2010 tied 2005 as the warmest year in history. Jeff Masters, probably the world's most widely read meteorologist, calculated that the year featured the most extreme weather since at least 1816, when a giant volcano blew its top.

Since we are the volcano now, and likely to keep blowing, here's his prognosis: "The ever-increasing amounts of heat-trapping gases humans are emitting into the air put tremendous pressure on the climate system to shift to a new, radically different, warmer state, and the extreme weather of 2010-2011 suggests that the transition is already well underway."

There's another shift, too, and that's in the response from climate-change activists. For the first two decades of the global-warming era, the suggested solutions to the problem had been as abstract as the science that went with it: complicated schemes like the Kyoto Protocol, or the cap-and-trade agreement that died in Congress in 2010. These were attempts to solve the problem of climate change via complicated backstage maneuvers and manipulations of prices or regulations. They failed in large part because the fossil-fuel industry managed, at every turn, to dilute or defang them.

Clearly the current Congress is in no mood for real regulation, so -- for the moment anyway -- the complicated planning is being replaced by a simpler rallying cry. When it comes to coal, oil, and natural gas, the new mantra of activists is simple, straightforward, and hard to defang:

Keep it in the ground!

STOP THE PIPELINE

Two weeks ago, for instance, a few veteran environmentalists, myself included, issued a call for protest against Canada's plans to massively expand oil imports from the tar sands regions of Alberta. We set up a new website, tarsandsaction.org, and judging from the early response, it could result in the largest civil disobedience actions in the climate-change movement's history on this continent, as hundreds, possibly thousands, of concerned activists converge on the White House in August. They'll risk arrest to demand something simple and concrete from President Obama: that he refuse to grant a license for Keystone XL, a new pipeline from Alberta to the Gulf of Mexico that would vastly increase the flow of tar sands oil through the U.S., ensuring that the exploitation of Alberta's tar sands will only increase.

Forget the abstract and consider the down-and-dirty instead. You can undoubtedly guess some of the reasons for opposition to such a pipeline. It's wrecking native lands in Canada, and potential spills from that pipeline could pollute some of the most important ranchlands and aquifers in America. (Last week's Yellowstone River spill was seen by many as a sign of what to expect.)

There's an even bigger reason to oppose the pipeline, one that should be on the minds of even those of us who live thousands of miles away:

Alberta's tar sands are the continent's biggest carbon bomb. Indeed, they're the second largest pool of carbon on planet Earth, following only Saudi Arabia's slowly dwindling oilfields.

If you could burn all the oil in those tar sands, you'd run the atmosphere's concentration of carbon dioxide from its current 390 parts per million (enough to cause the climate havoc we're currently seeing) to nearly 600 parts per million, which would mean if not hell, then at least a world with a



similar temperature. It won't happen overnight, but according to the planet's most important climatologist, James Hansen, burning even a substantial portion of that oil would mean it was "essentially game over" for the climate of this planet.

Halting that pipeline wouldn't solve all tar sands problems. The Canadians will keep trying to get it out to market, but it would definitely ensure that more of that oil will stay in the ground longer and that, at least, would be a start. Even better, the politics of it are simple. For once, the Republican majority in the House of Representatives can't get in the way. The president alone decides if the pipeline is "in the national interest." There are, however, already worrisome signs within the Obama administration. Just this week, based on a State Department cable released by WikiLeaks, Neela Banerjee of the /Los Angeles Times/ reported, in 2009, the State Department's "energy envoy" was already instructing Alberta's fossil-fuel barons in how to improve their "oil sands messaging," including "increasing visibility and accessibility of more positive news stories." This is the government version of Murdochian-style enviro-hacking, and it leads many to think that the new pipeline is already a done deal.

Still, the president can say no. If he does, then no pipeline -- and in the words of Alberta's oil minister, his province will be "landlocked in bitumen" (the basic substance from which tar-sands oil is extracted). Even energy-hungry China, eager as it is for new sources of fossil fuels, may not be able to save him, since native tribes are doing a remarkable job of blocking another proposed pipeline to the Canadian Pacific. Oil, oil everywhere, and nary a drop to sell. (Unfortunately that's not quite true, but at least there won't be a big new straw in this milkshake.)

An Obama thumbs-down on the pipeline could change the economics of the tar sands in striking ways. "Unless we get increased [market] access, like with Keystone XL, we're going to be stuck," said Ralph Glass, an economist and vice-president at AJM Petroleum Consultants in Calgary.

Faced with that prospect, Canada's oilmen are growing desperate. Earlier this month, in a classic sleight of hand, they announced plans for a giant "carbon capture and sequestration" scheme at the tar sands. That's because when it comes to global warming, tar sands oil is even worse than, say, Saudi oil because it's a tarry muck, not a liquid, and so you have to burn a lot of natural gas to make it flow in the first place.

Now, the oil industry is proposing to capture some of the extra carbon from that cooking process and store it underground. This is an untested method, and the accounting scheme Alberta has adopted for it may actually increase the province's emissions. Even if it turns out to work perfectly and captures the carbon from that natural gas that would have escaped into the atmosphere, the oil they're proposing to ship south for use in our gas tanks would still be exactly as bad for the atmosphere as Saudi crude. In other words, in the long run it would still be "essentially game over" for the climate.

The Saudis, of course, built their oil empire long before we knew that there was anything wrong with burning oil. The Canadians -- with American help, if Obama obliges the oil lobby -- are building theirs in the teeth of the greatest threat the world has ever faced. We can't unbuild those Saudi

Arabian fields, though happily their supplies are starting to slowly dwindle. What we can still do, though, is prevent North America from becoming the next Middle East.

So there will be a battle, and there will be nothing complicated or abstract about it. It will be based on one question: Does that carbon stay in the earth, or does it pour into the atmosphere? Given the trillions of dollars at stake it will be a hard fight, and there's no guarantee of victory. But at least there's no fog here, no maze of technicalities.

The last climate bill, the one the Senate punted on, was thousands of pages long. This time there's a single sheet of paper, which Obama signs - or not.

BILL MCKIBBEN IS SCHUMANN DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR AT MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE, CO-FOUNDER OF 350.ORG, AND A TOMDISPATCH REGULAR. HIS MOST RECENT BOOK IS EAARTH: MAKING A LIFE ON A TOUGH NEW PLANET. <[HTTP://WWW.AMAZON.COM/DP/0312541198?TAG=COMMONDREAMS-20/REF=NOSIM](http://www.amazon.com/dp/0312541198?tag=COMMONDREAMS-20/ref=nosim)>

Source: TomDispatch.com 7/14/11 http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/175417/tomgram%3A_bill_mckibben%2C_the_great_american_carbon_bomb/

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Kucinich: Americans' wealth is stolen

CONGRESSMAN DENNIS KUCINICH

The rancorous debate over the debt belies a fundamental truth of our economy -- that it is run for the few at the expense of the many, that our entire government has been turned into a machine which takes the wealth of a mass of Americans and accelerates it into the hands of the few. Let me give you some examples.

Take war. War takes the money from the American people and puts it into the hands of arms manufacturers, war profiteers, and private armies. The war in Iraq, based on lies: \$3 trillion will be the cost of that war. The war in Afghanistan; based on a misreading of history; half a trillion of dollars in expenses already. The war against Libya will be \$1 billion by September. Fifty percent of our discretionary spending goes for the Pentagon. A

massive transfer of wealth into the hands of a few while the American people lack sufficient jobs, health care, housing, retirement security.

Our energy policies take the wealth from the American people and put it into the hands of the oil companies. We could be looking at \$150 a barrel for oil in the near future.

Our environmental policy takes the wealth of the people -- clean air, clean water -- and puts it in the hands of the polluters. It's a transfer of wealth, not only from the present but from future generations as our environment is ruined.

Insurance companies, what do they do? They take the wealth from the American people in terms of what they charge people for health insurance and they put it into the hands of the few.

We have to realize what this country's economy has become. Our monetary

policy, through the Federal Reserve Act of 1913, privatized the money supply, gathers the wealth, puts it in the hands of the few while the Federal Reserve can create money out of nothing, give it to banks to park at the Fed while our small businesses are starving for capital.

Mark my words -- Wall Street cashes in whether we have a default or not. And the same type of thinking that created billions in bailouts for Wall Street and more than \$1 trillion in giveaways by the Federal Reserve today leaves 26 million Americans either underemployed or unemployed. And nine out of ten Americans over the age of 65 are facing cuts in their Social Security in order to pay for a debt which grew from tax cuts for the rich and for endless wars.

There is a massive transfer of wealth from the American people to the hands of a few and it's going

on right now as America's eyes are misdirected to the political theater of these histrionic debt negotiations, threats to shut down the government, and willingness to make the most Americans pay dearly for debts they did not create. These are symptoms of a government which has lost its way, and they are a challenge to the legitimacy of the two-party system.

DENNIS KUCINICH IS THE US REPRESENTATIVE FOR OHIO'S 10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

Source: Truthout | Speech 7/15/11 www.truthout.org

U.S. has second lowest corporate taxes in world

MARIE DIAMOND

During negotiations regarding raising the nation's debt limit, congressional Republicans have defended tax loopholes for corporations, claiming that

America has a high corporate tax rate that is stifling economic growth and job creation. But the Center for Tax Justice (CTJ) has crunched the most recent data from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Office of Management and Budget, and the Census Bureau, and finds that "the U.S. is already one of the least taxed countries for corporations in the developed world."

As a share of GDP, the U.S. had the second lowest tax rate, behind only Iceland. This statistic flips on its head the often-repeated Republican charge that America has the second highest corporate tax rate in the world (which is only true on paper). In 2009, U.S. corporate taxes had fallen to only 1.3 percent of GDP, from 4 percent in 1965.

Conservatives love to point out that other OECD countries have lowered their corporate tax rates in recent years, but they conveniently ignore that "these countries have also closed corporate tax loopholes while the U.S. has expanded them." As CAP Director for Tax and Budget Policy Michael Linden has noted, the U.S. is actually a very low-tax country across the board.

Recently, conservative commentator Bill Kristol chastised his own party for pretending that lowering the

corporate tax rate is a cure-all for America's economic woes. On Fox News Sunday, he interrupted a panelist who again tried to assert the U.S. is suffering from a high corporate tax rate: "Republicans are making a mistake if they focus on big businesses and corporate tax rates. Corporations have a ton of cash. The corporate tax rate is not killing big business in America."

The GOP presidential candidates have almost uniformly introduced proposals to radically lower

the U.S. corporate tax rate. For instance, former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty (R-MN) wants to reduce the corporate tax rate to 15 percent and eliminate all taxes on capital gains, dividends, interest income and inheritance. CTJ put the issue succinctly in a tweet this morning: "Dear US Corporations: You pay 2nd LOWEST tax rate in industrial world, so quit whining or move to Iceland."

Source: ThinkProgress 7/5/11 http://thinkprogress.org/



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Awaken your inner artist

The Jagged Lines of Imagination Art Club's Free First Saturday series begins August 6 with a Sketch & Stroll session at the Haggin Museum. Don't miss this opportunity to awake your inner artist. JLI's Lead Artist Jon Guerzon will be sketching in the Haggin galleries from 2-4 in the afternoon. The public is invited to join him. Materials will be available for all to try their hands at matching the masters. Jon will suggest approaches to drawing that may help you refine or improve your own technique. He will also offer insights that will let you see more than you ever did before in the Museum's collection.

As the months roll on JLI's Art Club plans to hold sessions on the first Saturday of each month. Meetings will alternate between sketching & strolling at the Haggin (in conjunction with the Museum's "free first Saturdays" program) and workshops at JLI's studio at 2232 N. El Dorado (next to Louie's Fruit & Produce). Workshop topics will be determined by club member

interests and available instructors. (Please check online at www.JLIacademy.org for a workshop suggestion form, meeting details and schedule variations.)

The goal of this year's free draw-outs and workshops is to bring art and artists into everyone's life. Participation is free, materials are provided, observers are welcome and interaction is encouraged. This year Art Club membership will also be available to those interested in more involvement. Membership in the Art Club is free. Members will have access to private areas on JLI's website where club art can be reviewed and critiqued and comments can be exchanged. Members will also receive discounts on some JLI activities, including the August 12 Art Battle.

Support for the JLI Art Club's Free First Saturdays series is provided by the Stockton Arts Commission.

The T is not silent

Quitting, with benefits

ELENA KELLY

I was fortunate to have had my mother in my life for ten years. She was a very liberal Democrat and was active in Colorado politics, but she was just Mom to me. I adored everything about her. We didn't grow up together because she had to relinquish me for adoption when I was only eight days old. I found her when I was thirty-one.

Near the end of our years together she developed a disease that eventually took her life. She had several surgeries and was on dozens of medications, but a few months before her death she was faced with the decision of whether to take drastic measures to prolong her life. She chose not to do that. Some in the family said she quit trying to live. I think it was the correct choice because right up to the end she was able to enjoy life with just mild pain medications. The other choice would have extended her life, but the quality would have been much worse.

Recently I made the decision to run for Stockton City Council. As a fifteen year Finance Manager that helped my \$500 million dollar a year company remain profitable through years of recession, and with almost forty years of experience in the Democratic Party, I felt I had tools that could help my city get through their budget crisis. But one month later I withdrew from the race.

Some said I quit trying to make a difference for Stockton. What happened was I was faced with a life and death decision. The fateful day came when I was making fundraising calls to family and friends to help fund my campaign. It turns out that while I was making those calls, one of my transgender clients was trying to reach me. She was suicidal and needed a friend but she couldn't reach me. She ended up in the emergency room, very near death. Thankfully she has fully recovered now, but it was a close call.

It was also a wakeup call for me. I realized that running for City Council meant that for the eighteen months of the campaign, and for four years if elected, the needs of the City of Stockton would have to be my top priority. I would not be able to be available 24/7 for transgender folk or their family and friends. And it meant that some could be hurt or even die because I couldn't be there for them. No one would die if I didn't run for office.

There was a recent University of Minnesota study that looked into the old adage, "Winners never quit, and quitters never win." The study revealed that often quitters ARE the winners. Many people are driven to never give up until they experience utter and complete failure. Others learn the importance of a cost/benefit approach to life. That approach frees a person to quit an activity when the costs prove to be too high. The study revealed that these people live happier and longer lives than those who persist against all odds.

On June 14 of this year my company called a Town

Hall meeting of all the Finance employees. It turns out that the same meeting was going on in all 65 branches of the company nationwide. The purpose of the meeting was to let us know that almost all of us are being let go. At our Livermore office that means a department of thirty employees will be downsized to just four. My job will end on September 2.

I was in shock. I thought I had job security for years to come. After all, I trained my peers in the western division. I had been doing the job for so long that most of the best practices were developed by me. Besides that, I have a large debt from my transition surgeries that I am paying off. And to top it off, transgender people have four times the unemployment rate of cisgender people in California. I was devastated for about one day.

Then I talked to a good friend here in Stockton who made one comment that made it all clear. He and a few other LGBT folk have created a Board of Directors for the purpose of building an LGBT Pride Center in Stockton. I am honored to serve as the Treasurer on the Board. We have discussed the services we hope to provide, including counseling, support groups, temporary housing for "throw away" kids and others. And we have plans to open a coffee and sandwich shop so that LGBT young people can earn some income and learn some positive work skills. My friend's comment was, "So I guess now that you will have extra free time, we can have a five star restaurant!" I think we'll stick with the coffee shop.

Recently I was told of a position that my company hoped I would apply for. It would be considerably more work than I do now and require extensive travel. I decided not to apply. I have done a cost/benefit analysis, and it's time for me to leave the corporate world. I have a much better prospect that will pay me handsomely in personal satisfaction. Now that is a benefits package that would make my Mom proud.

REV. SR. ELENA KELLY, OSH IS A MINISTER TO THE PEOPLE OF STOCKTON AND THE CENTRAL VALLEY, AND IS THE DIRECTOR OF THE STOCKTON TRANSGENDER ALLIANCE. SHE CAN BE REACHED AT ELENA.KELLY@COMCAST.NET.

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In A City Charged With Change

RYAN CAMERO

In a city charged with change,
 There are streets that seep of sights.
 Sounds that squander in the same ears,
 But they scurry down minds that think we do not think alike.

... In a city charged with change,
 There are many directions pointing out doorways.
 Keys that try to unlock a community,
 But they are severed by misunderstanding.

In a city charged with change,
 There are people. Real human faces,
 Hidden behind electrical screens,
 Withered by the wilt of a profile,
 Shattered of a thing called identity,
 Because deception sprouts from a web-winged
 angel that feeds you hours of nostalgia, all day
 long, to look for likes to measure up a number of
 likes that you certainly like.

Surfing nets that web up humanity.

We are a city charged with change.
 But will we charge the change? Or will the change
 charge us?

Navigating

In Irish, "muircheartaigh" means "navigator" – one who searches out the way

Getting the news out

JOHN MOREARTY

Like fifteen other volunteers, I deliver this paper every month, seven thousand copies, in Valley rain or scorch. Connections prints real news, we take it to real people.

This morning on the Miracle Mile route, I told the guy at Valley Brew, "We're a little short this month." He smiled: "You look as tall as ever."

At Sam's Chinese café the breakfasters were chowing down, so to speak. Up the Avenue at Jeff Gamboni's landscape architecture office the woman said, "You built the barbecue overhang which Jeff designed on Bristol Street." "Yes," I said, "and Jeff is donating his services with the community farm in Boggs Tract." Shaw's took their usual stack. At the Empresso



bikes were chained up, beatniks lounging; this old hippie wedged his papers on the shelf, along with promos for local bands, and headed home. These are my people, this is my city.

My regular route starts downtown, with the Mexican Heritage Center and Fernando's café; his sandwiches are good. Donaldson Tire is an old-line business and a new Connections advertiser; Jim is a hardworking guy with big hands, he goes to our church, his wife is principal of Annunciation School.

Vision Printing on San Joaquin has printed our fundraising letters forever, they're a union shop. Printers have been craftsman radicals for centuries, it probably comes from printing flyers and broadsides. The Stockton Hotel now takes Connections for their seniors, thanks to Ed Nixon who lives there; he was my TV show mentor. The Downtown Business Alliance in Cort Tower takes twenty copies. So does Nena's new showplace Mexican restaurant in the Warehouse, down by the riverside.

Some of these locations are thanks to Daniel Fong, our champion Connections distributor. An oldtime Stockton kid,

he delivers two routes on the southeast side, and he's always scouting fresh places for the paper.

After downtown, my route gets gritty. The El Dorado Market, Mexican green paint and fragrance of fresh tortillas. St Mark's Methodist, fifteen papers in the mail slot. The laundromat on Charter takes thirty copies; working families soak in The News while they do their wash.

At the little Arab market at California and Fourth, I say "Good morning, as-salaam aleikum;" the guy always smiles and makes room for our paper on his crowded counter.

Then come three ghosts. McKinley Community Center loved the paper, but budget woes shut it down. In Triad Plaza at I-5 and Eighth Street, the delightful Mexican restaurant likewise fell victim to hard times, and the laundromat didn't like our politics. But the Filipino American supermarket still takes forty copies. South to the county housing office, exactly seven copies, slid under the bulletproof window where people pay their rent; the clerk always smiles and says thanks.

Around the corner is the gorgeous new Van Buskirk Community Center. While kids shoot pool or hoops, I praise the current issue to the folks at the desk. But outside the door, three little kids. Big sister raises clear brown eyes to me.

"What are those?"

I breathe.

"Well, this is our free community newspaper, I deliver it to places in the neighborhood."

"It's free?"

"Sure, here's a copy for you. Would you little kids like one?"

"No thank you, our sister has one."

"See, we believe that everyone deserves to get real news, not just the stuff on TV. Here on the front page, for example, is a story about a community farm over in Boggs Tract, not so far from here. You can read this story, I'm sure. You're ... ten, twelve years old?"

She lights up, pleased at my accuracy. "Eleven."

"Okay then. Well, there's a school just down the street from our garden, and the kids from the school will have their own patch to grow things."

"We grew some tomatoes in our yard, but we don't have much room." She looks wistful.

"I wish my school had a garden. But our school doesn't have much money. It's Taylor School."

I think fast. Taylor is southwest Stockton, in the news. They just lost a grant.

"Well, it doesn't take much money to start a garden, and maybe my group Puentes could help. We don't get paid, we do it because we love it. It just takes one teacher to start a garden, and a little bit of land. Maybe you could talk to one of your teachers?"

"I could talk to the principal."

"Yes," I say. "Listen, here is my phone number and address. Maybe you would like to write a letter to the editor of our paper, and tell him some of your thoughts about your school. Maybe tell him about how you are trying to start a school garden."

"Would he answer my letter?"

"He'd do more than that. He would put it in this paper, and nine thousand people would read what you have to say."

"My name is John. What is yours?"

"Joneisha."

"Joneisha, it has been a pleasure talking with you. I look forward to your letter."

This bright child is the age of my granddaughters. I feel I've touched a sacred place. This is my city, these are my people.

Activism is good for you

ROB KALL

I'm in Boston, my second day at the PsySR: Psychologists for Social Responsibility conference, sitting in a circle with about 35 people listening to a panel discuss how activism is a sign of and promotes mental health. Think about that. Activism is good for you. Activism is a sign that

you are mentally healthy. Breathe that in. Inhale it deeply. You've been on the right track. You're not crazy, not a deviate. You are at the forefront of humanity, at the cutting edge. When the speakers finish, I'm going to suggest that beyond Maslow's transformation of the self there's playing a role in transforming humanity.

Governor signs landmark LGBT education bill

Jerry Brown has signed a bill that will fairly and accurately portray the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights movement and the historic contributions of the diverse LGBT community in social science instruction. The Fair, Accurate, Inclusive, and Respectful (FAIR) Education Act (SB 48), by including fair and accurate information about the rich and diverse history of LGBT people in instructional materials, will enrich the learning experiences of all students and promote an atmosphere of safety and respect in California schools. SB 48 was authored by Senator Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) and co-sponsored by Equality California and Gay-Straight Alliance Network.

Studies have shown that inclusion of LGBT people in instructional materials is linked to greater student safety and lower rates of bullying. In schools where the contributions of the LGBT community are included in educational instruction, bullying declined by over half and LGBT students were more likely to feel they have an opportunity to make positive contributions at school.

The FAIR Education Act will bring classroom instruction into alignment with existing non-

discrimination laws in California and would add the LGBT community to the existing list of underrepresented cultural and ethnic groups, which are covered by current law related to inclusion in textbooks and other instructional materials in schools.

"There is no room for discrimination of any kind in our classrooms, our communities or our state," said Dean E. Vogel, president of the California Teachers Association. "We believe that curricula should address the common values of the society, promote respect for diversity and cooperation, and prepare students to compete in, and cope with a complex and rapidly evolving society. SB 48 does that by helping to ensure that curricular materials include the contributions of persons with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans to the development of California and United States."

Source: Equality California (EQCA) and Gay-Straight Alliance Network (GSA Network) 7/14/11 www.commondreams.org <<http://www.commondreams.org>>



Stockton Chorale Summer Sing

Two evenings of fun and a taste of Mozart and Beethoven, open to everyone
 Tuesday Aug 23, at 7 pm
 Tuesday Aug 30, at 7 pm

On Tuesday, August 23 and again on Tuesday August 30, at 7 p.m. at St. John's Anglican Church, 316 N. El Dorado Street, Stockton, the Stockton Chorale will hold a "SUMMER SING" where you can come for an evening to enjoy yourself singing great music. August 23 you can come and enjoy singing Mozart's "Requiem". On August 30 we will sing

Beethoven's "Mass in C Major". We supply the music. We supply the dessert. You supply the voice! Our Artistic Director and Conductor, Magen Solomon, will provide a little instruction and a lot of fun. Symphony Conductor Peter Jaffe will join us. The cost is only \$15 and if you really had fun, you can then attend a second night for free. The cost helps defray the cost of music. Everyone in the community is welcome: church choir members, soloists, college and high school singers, former members of the Stockton Chorale or members of other

choral groups, or those who just like to sing!

The Stockton Chorale, founded in 1951, is a nearly 100 member community chorus of singers from the Central Valley, Contra Costa County and the Sierra Foothills. With three concerts this season and a performance of Mozart's "Requiem" with the Stockton Symphony, the Chorale brings music that is sublime, deeply moving and enjoyable. Come sing with us!

South America ice cream safari

Come to Micke Grove Zoo on Saturday, August 13 from 11 am to 4 pm for a South America Ice Cream Safari. Discover the cotton top tamarin, a tiny, endangered primate from Colombia, and meet our own cotton top tamarin family. Learn about other South and Central American animals, and enjoy a few scoops of scrumptious ice cream. There will be crafts and activities for the kids, as well as some unique items handcrafted by Colombian villagers - proceeds go to support tamarin conservation and sustainable livelihoods for local populations. Ice

Cream Safari passports are \$5 for adults and \$4 for children ages three -17. Bring the whole family out.

Located west of Highway 99 between Stockton and Lodi, Micke Grove Zoo opens daily at 10:00 am. Admission is \$4 for adults and \$2 for those from three-17 years of age. Children two years and younger, and members of the Micke Grove Zoological Society receive free admission. There is an additional charge for admission to Micke Grove Park of \$5 per car.

For further information about the South America

Ice Cream Safari, and for information about all of the Zoos services and events, visit www.mgzoo.com and follow the links, or call the Zoo office Monday through Friday at (209) 331-2010. Don't forget to "like" us on Facebook where you can find information about this and future events, www.facebook.com/mgzoo.

Thursday, Oct 20th

CELEBRATE THE PEACEMAKER OF THE YEAR AWARDS INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION DAY

2011 PEACEMAKERS OF THE YEAR

- Gloria Allen, long-time community activist and school board member.
- Ralph Womack, organizer and mentor for programs serving at-risk youth.
- Carole Zeiter, an advocate and board member of many of Stockton's charities, founding member of Stockton's Shelter for the Homeless.

Every day individuals in the San Joaquin Community consciously choose to make a difference; to excel at bringing peace to our community. With your attendance and support, we will celebrate the efforts of those awarded as Peacemaker. Guests at the event will have an opportunity to network with other attendees pursuing similar endeavors. Let's not let these good deeds go unnoticed. Call the Mediation Center to inquire about the event, sponsorship opportunities, and tickets sales. Save the date: October 20, 6:00 pm, DeRosa University Center Ballroom, UOP.

- **Guest Speaker** Michael Collopy - From photographing Mother Teresa's work in Calcutta to Mikhail Gorbachev's Nobel Peace summit in Italy, Michael Collopy is an inspirational photographer known for his remarkable photography. Testimonial from Stress & Anger Management/Positive Parenting Client
- Raffle • Dinner and Socializing-\$45.00
- Celebration of our Newest Peacemakers

PAST PEACEMAKERS

Tino Adame	Sandy Affonso	Dr. Ray Amundson
Joshua Andal	Mary Claire Attebery	Thel Atterbury
Robert L Bivens	Ann Bonner	Jamie Clayton
Jaime Constantino	Alan Cook	Clemmie Cooper
Joan Darrah	Kim DeLaCruz	Margee Ensign
Peig Fairbrook	Cinda Fox	Walt Friesen
Bruce Giudici	Becky Gould	Judge Richard Guiliani
Paul Gutierrez	Annette Kirby	Jane Knowles
Barbara Kronlund	Paula LeVeck	Laurie Litman
David Love	Luis Magana	Paster Bob Margaron
Marci Massei	Linda Meyer	Patricia Miller-Battiste
Jeannie Millsaps	Sylvia Mundt	Judge William Murray
Hellen Perez	Larry Pippin	John Reynolds
Dr. Joseph Serra	Pat Sharrock	Bernice Turoff
Judge Richard Vlavianos	Peggy Wagner	Tony White
John Whittock	Linda Whittock	Douglass Wilholt
Susana Wood		

Mediation center, 829 Rose Marie Lane, Suite D, Stockton, CA 95207, 209-474-8794, www.mediatorsrus.org

Food 4 Less
 RANCHO SAN MIGUEL MARKETS PRESENTS
Big Sam's
 Funky nation
 OPENING ACT: SHIP OF FOOLS
 Stockton's own
 WEDNESDAY • JULY 27, 2011
 7:30PM • STOCKTON EMPIRE THEATRE
 1825 PACIFIC AVENUE • STOCKTON, CA 95204
TICKETS: \$20
 SERVICE CHARGES MAY APPLY
 "Band Leader Big Sam Williams is the top man on the slide trombone in the birthplace of Jazz."
 --The San Francisco Chronicle
 TO PURCHASE TICKETS:
 IN PERSON: STOCKTON EMPIRE THEATRE - ONSITE KIOSK
 1825 PACIFIC AVENUE, STOCKTON CA 95204
 PHONE: **800.514.3849**
 ONLINE: qproductionsco.com
 FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
209.594.1669

Art Battle 2011 - who will be Stockton's new champ?

5-8 pm - Friday, August 12, 2011
 DiCarli Square, Downtown Stockton, N. Center between Miner & Channel

Artists will break out Pens & Brushes to show you at the 2011 Art Battle on August 12. What's this all about? It's your chance to participate in Jagged Lines of Imagination's annual Art Battle, from 5:30 - 7:30 in DiCarli Square.

Your suggestions will decide who the Artists will draw. Your artistic talents will be showcased if you choose to compete. Your votes will determine the winners: Grand Prize \$100, Age-Group Awards, Special Teacher/Artist gets \$50. Your bids can take the art home

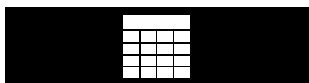
and support JLI Academy's all-ages art classes.

Challenge characters on this year's list already include Mayor Ann Johnson, Spiderman and Darth Vader. You can add your own favorite characters using the on line form at www.JLIacademy.org. A final list will be posted at that site on August 1.

Artist Competitors, using any medium, will go pencil-to-brush for 2 hours producing their own unique visions of a Stockton waterfront adventure. Rules and registration forms are available at www.JLIacademy.org. K-12 teachers with ID can register for FREE. The public is invited to watch as competitors create

"magnificent" works of art right before your eyes. Audience votes will decide who becomes Stockton's 2011 Champ. All Battle art work will be available for purchase at a silent auction during the event.

Pack up your crayons and come on down to the Art Walk to join the fun. Those too shy to jump into the competition are welcome to watch, vote and bid. Every vote and scribble counts. Supported for this event is provided by the Stockton Arts Commission and the Downtown Alliance.



AUG-SEPT CALENDAR

EDITOR'S NOTE: IF YOUR EVENT ISN'T LISTED, LET US KNOW. SEND ALL COPY TO: BGUDICI@CALTEL.COM BY THE 7TH OF EVERY MONTH.

JUNE 7-30

Tidewater Artists present small works and Beyond. M-F 10-5. Reception June 10, 5-8 pm. Tidewater Gallery, 223 E. Weber Ave, Stockton. 463-4033

JUNE 20 - JULY 29

Summer Zoofari Camp, 9 am - noon. Micke Grove Zoo, 11793 Micke Grove Rd, Lodi. Hands-on activities, live animal presentations, create work, discover animals. \$75 members, \$85 non. Info 331-2010.

SAT, JULY 9

Astronomy in the Park, 8 - 11 pm. Telescopes provided by the Stockton Astronomical Society. Oak Grove Regional Park, 4520 W Eight Mile Rd, Stockton. \$5 parking. 953-8814.

WED, JULY 27

Concert in the Park featuring the Valley Concert Band. 6 - 8 pm. Victory Park, 1201 N Pershing Ave, Stockton. Free admission. 464-4016

SAT-SUN JULY 30-31

Obon Festival, 11 am - 9 pm. Stockton Buddhist Temple, 2820 Shimizu Dr, Stockton. Japanese dance, martial arts, food and culture. Free admission. 466-6701.

WED, AUG 3

Concert in the Park featuring the Art Bregente Orchestra. 6 - 8 pm. Victory Park, 1201 N Pershing Ave, Stockton. Free admission. 464-4016

THU, AUG 4

Peace & Justice Network board meeting, Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. 6:30 pm. All welcome. 467-4455

SAT, AUG 6

Connections 25th Anniversary Celebration. DeltaKeeper

grounds, 3536 Rainier, Stockton. 11 am - 3 pm. Program at 12:30. All welcome. 467-4455

TUE, AUG 9

89.5 Valley Community Radio meeting, 7 - 9 pm, Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. All welcome. 467-4455

WED, AUG 10

Concert in the Park featuring Waterloo. 6 - 8 pm. Victory Park, 1201 N Pershing Ave, Stockton. Free admission. 464-4016

FRI, AUG 12

Art Battle V, 5:30 - 7:30, DiCarli Square at Downtown Stockton's 2nd Friday Art Walk. Vote for Stockton's 2011 Champ, or go Pen-to-Brush with other artists. Grand prize \$100. Free registration and special \$50 prize for best teacher/artist. Age-group awards. Contact Jagged Lines of Imagination Academy for more information, 479-4128 or www.JLlacademy.org. This event is also supported by the Stockton Arts Commission and the Downtown Alliance.

WED, AUG 17

Concert in the Park featuring the Valley Concert Band. 6 - 8 pm. Victory Park, 1201 N Pershing Ave, Stockton. Free admission. 464-4016

MON, AUG 22

Delta Sierra Club meeting, 7 pm. Central United Methodist Church Fireside Room, 3700 Pacific Ave, Stockton. 7 pm program with social time following. All welcome.

WED, AUG 24

Concert in the Park featuring Summit. 6 - 8 pm. Victory Park, 1201 N Pershing Ave, Stockton. Free admission. 464-4016

THU, SEPT 1

Peace & Justice Network board

meeting, Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. 6:30 pm. All welcome. 467-4455

WED-SUN

SEPT 7 - OCT 2

Forever Plaid. Thu 7:30 pm, Fri-Sat 8 pm, Sun 2:30 pm. Stockton Civic Theatre, 2312 Rosemarie Lane, Stockton \$15 - \$25. 473-2424. www.sctlivetheatre.com

TUE, SEPT 13

89.5 Valley Community Radio meeting, 7 - 9 pm, Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. All welcome. 467-4455

FIRST MONDAYS

Campaign for Common Ground meeting, 7 pm, Towers Building, 509 W Weber Ave, Stockton. ccgmemb@gmail.com

FOURTH MONDAYS

Delta Sierra Club meeting, 7 pm. Central United Methodist Church Fireside Room, 3700 Pacific Ave, Stockton. 7 pm program with social time following. All welcome.

SECOND TUESDAYS

89.5 Valley Community Radio meeting, 7 - 9 pm, Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. 467-4455.

SECOND THURSDAYS

Single Payer San Joaquin meeting, 6:30 pm, Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. bailey_hcasj@sbcglobal.net

THIRD THURSDAYS

Central Valley Wellstone Progressive Democratic Club, 6:30 pm, Perko's Cafe, 1703 E. Yosemite Ave., Manteca, Info: Rose Roach, 209-474-8496

FIRST SATURDAYS

JLI Art Club 2-4 pm, August 2011 - June 2012. Club sessions

will alternate between sketch & stroll in the Haggin Museum galleries and workshops at Jagged Lines of Imagination's studio at 2232 N. El Dorado in Stockton (next to Louie's Fruit & Produce). Everyone is invited to observe and participate. Appropriate for families. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult at all times. The First Saturdays series is supported in part by the Stockton Arts Commission. 479-4128 or www.JLlacademy.org.

FOURTH SATURDAYS

Greater Lodi Area Democrats (GLAD) breakfast meeting, 8:30 am, Dee Dee's Family Dining, 1170 S. Cherokee Ln, Lodi. 209-663-3717

MONDAYS

Jazz at the Blackwater 8:30 - 11 pm. Mike Rocha, Rick Russell, Giulio Cetto, Michael Klooster and more. Acacia & Yosemite, Stockton.

THURSDAYS

Peace demonstration, 5-6 PM, edge of Delta campus across from Elephant Bar. Park at Sherwood Mall. Signs provided, or bring your own! Info: Patrick Wall, 954-5438. Dinner and a show, 6:30 - 9:30. Blackwater Cafe, Acacia & Yosemite, Stockton.

SATURDAYS

Crosstown Freeway Farmers Market, under the freeway between El Dorado & San Joaquin, Stockton. 7 - 11, or when sold out. 943-1830

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO DISTRIBUTE CONNECTIONS TO WELL-ESTABLISHED ROUTES. ABOUT TWO HOURS PER MONTH. EASY AND FUN! CALL DEAN OR MARCIA SAVAGE, 209-339-1599.

Q productions presents:

WED, JULY 27, 7:30 PM

Big Sam's Funky Nation
New Orleans-style jazz and urban funk

Nation is a driving force of urban funk. Ryan White, of the Oregonian, says the band is "tight enough (and hot enough) to turn coal into a diamond!" The band is led by trombone powerhouse, Big Sam Williams, formerly the trombonist for the Dirty Dozen Brass Band, who the San Francisco Chronicle calls "the top man on the slide trombone in the birthplace of jazz." Big Sam refuses to let the audience sit still. Between the band's solos, Big Sam's signature dance moves and his distinctive trombone riffs, the energy level is high voltage when this band takes the stage!

The Funky Nation is a stellar group of world-class musicians who meet the challenges of their funky band leader. The band is comprised of Andrew Baham on Trumpet/Vocals/Keys, Takeshi Shimmura on Guitar, Chocolate MILK on Drums, and Eric Vogel on Bass in addition to Big Sam on Trombone/Vocals. BSFN's signature Noladelic Powerfunk sound masterfully combines a rock sensibility with improv-style associated with jazz and the horn-heavy front section that's the hallmark of big band funk.

Opening act is Stockton's own Ship of Foolz (UOP and Delta past and present students)

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$20

SAT, AUG 13, 7:30 PM

Rex Navarrete
The Premier Filipino Comedian
In partnership with the Central Valley Asian American Chamber of Commerce
VIP front seating area and special pre-show meet and greet with Rex: \$27

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$20

FRI, SEPT 23, 7:30 PM

Jim Messina
(formerly with Loggins and Messina)

Singer, songwriter, and record producer Jim Messina started out as a bass player, recording engineer and producer of the rock group Buffalo Springfield, then created country rock band, Poco, with Richie Furay, and later partnered with Kenny Loggins in the Loggins and Messina band. Jim released a number of albums as a solo after that, with recent works featuring folk to rock, and Latin to jazz.

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$25

TUES, OCTOBER 11, 7:30 PM

LoCash Cowboys

LoCash Cowboys are Chris Lucas and Preston Brust, who combine soul, rock, funk, pop, hip-hop, and gospel in a high-energy version of country. The two share a vision of bringing the dance moves and energy of R&B and hip hop into the realm of country. A self-released album, LoCash Cowboys, appeared in 2008, and their single debut, "Here Comes Summer," came out in 2010. Their latest single, "Keep in Mind," became a Country Top 40 this year.

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$20

Tickets are available for all shows online: Qproductionsco.com; by phone: 1.800.514.3849; or in-person: kiosk at the Empire Theatre (credit cards only). All shows are at the Stockton Empire Theatre, an intimate 300-seat theatre located at 1825 Pacific Avenue in Stockton, CA. For more information, please call 209.594.1669.

ABOUT Q PRODUCTIONS:

Q Productions is an entertainment company focused on promoting and producing concerts & special events in California's San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and San Luis Obispo counties. The company recruits regional, national, and international acts, and partners with small to mid-level facilities in managing these events. Q Production has teamed up with the Valley's premier independently-owned grocery chain, Food 4 less and Rancho San Miguel Markets, to create a formidable marketing sponsorship, and outreach platform for artist recruitment.



Talking It Through

EDUCATION • ENVIRONMENT • POLITICS • CULTURE

Peace & Justice Network Sponsors two Half-Hour Shows:

"Lets Talk" hosted by Margee Ensign features speakers at University of the Pacific and elsewhere documentaries of important community meetings and events. **Mondays, 6pm.**

"Talking It Through" hosted by Sammy Nuñez features live discussines of important community issues, especially with your people. **Mondays, 6:30pm.**

Both shows are produced by Peace & Justice volunteer Vince Kotecki on SJTV: Stockton, Lodi and Manteca cable channel 26.

For up to the minute listings of current shows, see our website www.pjnsjc.org, click on Talking it Through.

Sept 13, 20 & 27 Climate change workshop — Register now!

Winnifred Wilson will be teaching "The Earth's Changing Climate" workshop for the Delta College Community Education Department on September 13, 20, 27, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. The class will provide a scientific explanation of the variability of our climate and weather patterns by looking at impacts made by the natural forces through the ages, impacts made by man, global warming since the industrial revolution, its consequences, and our climatic future.

This class will also be described on the Community Education website at: The Earth's Changing Climate on August 22. Registration will begin on the same date at 8:00 a.m. and will be available online at www.adultedreg.com/delta. Please click on "Personal Interests & Hobbies."

WINNIFRED LIANG WILSON HOLDS A MASTER'S DEGREE IN BOTH GEOGRAPHY AND URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING, HAS TAUGHT AT SEVERAL CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, AND HAS WORKED IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND URBAN PLANNING FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS.



CONNECTIONS

Would you like Connections delivered to your home? It's FREE!

Name _____

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

Peace & Justice Network does not sell or donate our mailing list. Connections is supported by donations and advertisers.

Come raft the Moke on August 6

OARS Benefit Raft Trips on the Mokelumne River Sat, August 6. Trips at: 8 am, Noon, & 4 pm Mokelumne River, Electra and Middle Bar runs

Foothill Conservancy's mid-June raft trips were canceled due to the dangerously high flows on the Mokelumne. But now that the Moke is back to a more usual summer flow, we'll be running a day of benefit raft trips with OARS on Saturday, August 6. This will be your last chance to raft the Moke on a professionally guided and outfitted trip this year, so don't miss it!

On Saturday, August 6, OARS will be running three trips down the Electra-Middle Bar run of the Mokelumne River for the benefit of the Foothill Conservancy and our efforts to preserve and protect the river. The cost is \$70 per person.

This is a rare opportunity to take a guided raft trip down a special 5.5-mile section of the Mokelumne. It's a nice float trip with some fun rapids and beautiful scenery. The trip is great for families, young people and seniors. Minimum age is 6 (subject to change depending on water conditions).

OARS of Angels Camp is one of the country's finest whitewater outfitters. They will provide all equipment, skilled guides, and transportation to and from the river from Jackson. Reserve your spot soon! Contact Randy at the Foothill Conservancy office: 209-295-4900 9 am - Noon, Mon. Tues. Thurs. or Fri. or by e-mail: randy@foothillconservancy.org

Ten years is enough!

By October 6 this year, our government "celebrates" the ten years of war in Afghanistan. That war costs endless blood and suffering, creates endless enemies, brings soldiers home to our streets as "Walking Wounded" all their lives, AND IT COSTS US two billion dollars - two thousand million - (\$2,000,000,000) a week.

TEN YEARS IS ENOUGH

On October 6 in Washington, D.C., fifty thousand peacemakers will begin a nonviolent occupation of "Freedom Plaza" on Pennsylvania Avenue. They vow to stay till all US troops and mercenaries leave Afghanistan.

On October 6 (or before), thousands of peacemakers in Stockton will begin a series of **daily demonstrations calling for an immediate withdrawal of all US forces from Afghanistan.**

Please join us, individually or with your group, union, business,

church, or veterans' organization. Call the coordinating committee:

Mario D'Angeli, 477-4015; John Morearty, 464-3326; Irene Ojeda, 462-8114

Shine the light on the connection between your group's cause and the drain of blood, treasure and spirit in the Afghan war.

Bring our troops and money home! Rebuild America! Ten years is enough.

PS: Get a head start! Join the peace demonstration every Thursday, 5 PM, along the edge of the Delta campus across from Elephant Bar. Park at the mall. Signs provided, or bring your own!

Connections turns 25

BRUCE GIUDICI

On August 6, we celebrate the community that has supported Connections and issues of peace and justice for the past 25 years - for this year, we turn 25.

Twenty five years is a fair piece of time - for instance, our new layout person had not been born when the first issue rolled out. Through those years, we have reported on the nuclear freeze movement, Iran-Contra, the first Gulf War, new welfare reform and drug laws, the W nightmare and our current economic "recovery", 9-11, the endless wars and more: through it all, Connections has gladly and faithfully provided progressive information and opinion important to the people who are concerned about the future of the earth and her inhabitants.

In most all cases, the perspective offered by Connections and its contributors - generally following the precautionary principle - has proven both morally and practically correct. If our views had held sway when decisions were made, this world would be more peaceful, less polluted and in a better position to solve the next crises. Alas, we have some work to do.

This newspaper, now with a circulation of 9,000 and mailed to over 1,700 of the most influential citizens of our community, educates and empowers far beyond its numbers. We are a strong group. Unfortunately however, as with most education, the results of our efforts are not always apparent. In fact, it would be hard to argue that the world is in better shape now than it was in 1986. But, without our collective progressive voice, the world would be in worse shape.

So, here in 2011, media

like Connections is needed more than ever. In a world where media primarily entertains and where money talks more loudly than ever, Connections remains profoundly unentertaining and deaf. In times of critical choices, we proudly provide the balance so lacking in the mainstream.

Of course, it takes some money to run our little show. By relying on all volunteer labor, writers and articles chosen from other non-profits or educational outlets, however, our expenses are the lowest possible - the cost of paper, ink and postage. Ten issues cost about \$15,000 - which has been supplied each and every year by those in our community that value a independent media voice - is a bargain. And, for a quarter of a century - we all should be very proud.

COME CELEBRATE!

And so, we celebrate. On the sprawling DeltaKeeper grounds at 3536 Rainier Dr in Stockton (across from the Stockton Country Club), the party will begin at 11 am. Come and visit old and new supporters before the 12:30 program that will recognize the keys to our continued success, capped off by a keynote address by non other than our own editor, Bruce Giudici. We kick off this celebration with a new look to Connections - we hope you like the design, the ease of finding articles and just the overall modernity of it all - thanks to Luis Gonzalez, our fine new layout master. And thanks to you - our supporters. Without a readership, information is useless. See you on the 6th (bring something to grill, if you wish - and potluck if you can...drinks, condiments and utensils will be supplied).

