

connections

PRICELESS

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Aug/Sept 2008

SAVE THE DATES

**AUGUST 9
HIROSHIMA/NAGASAKI
COMMEMORATION20**

**SEPTEMBER 8
BOB BOWMAN AT UOP**

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A generational challenge: repower America

Al Gore

Ladies and gentlemen:

There are times in the history of our nation when our very way of life depends upon dispelling illusions and awakening to the challenge of a present danger. In such moments, we are called upon to move quickly and boldly to shake off complacency, throw aside old habits and rise, clear-eyed and alert, to the necessity of big changes. Those who, for whatever reason, refuse to do their part must either be persuaded to join the effort or asked to step aside.

This is such a moment. The survival of the United States of America as we know it is at risk. And even more—if more should be required—the future of human civilization is at stake.

I don't remember a time in our country when so many things seemed to be going so wrong simultaneously. Our economy is in terrible shape and getting worse, gasoline prices are increasing dramatically, and so are electricity rates. Jobs are being outsourced. Home mortgages are in trouble. Banks, automobile companies and other institutions we depend upon are under growing pressure. Distinguished senior business leaders are telling us that this is just the beginning unless we find the courage to make some major changes quickly.

The climate crisis, in particular,

Today I challenge our nation to commit to producing 100 percent of our electricity from renewable energy and truly clean carbon-free sources within 10 years.

is getting a lot worse—much more quickly than predicted. Scientists with access to data from Navy submarines traversing underneath the North polar ice cap have warned that there is now a 75 percent chance that within five years the entire ice cap will completely disappear during the summer months. This will further increase the melting pressure on Greenland. According to experts, the Jakobshavn Glacier, one of Greenland's largest, is moving at a faster rate than ever before, losing 20 million tons of ice every day, equivalent to the amount of water used every year by the residents of New York City.

Two major studies from military intelligence experts have warned our leaders about the dangerous national security implications of the climate crisis, including the possibility of hundreds of millions of climate refugees destabilizing

nations around the world.

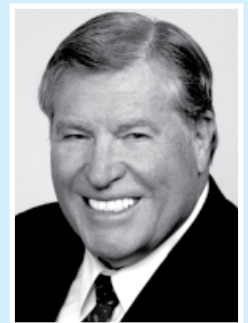
Just two days ago, 27 senior statesmen and retired military leaders warned of the national security threat from an "energy tsunami" that would be triggered by a loss of our access to foreign oil. Meanwhile, the war in Iraq continues, and now the war in Afghanistan appears to be getting worse.

And by the way, our weather sure is getting strange, isn't it? There seem to be more tornadoes than in living memory, longer droughts, bigger downpours and record floods. Unprecedented fires are burning in California and elsewhere in the American West. Higher temperatures lead to drier vegetation that makes kindling for mega-fires of the kind that have been raging in Canada, Greece, Russia, China, South America, Australia and Africa.

(continued page 14)

Take Back America!

**Dr. Bob
Bowman to
speak at UOP**



Dr. Robert Bowman is coming to speak in Stockton on Monday, September 8, 7 pm at Grace Covell Dining Hall at UOP. Cost is \$10.

An electrifying speaker with a powerful mind, Dr. Bowman directed all the Star Wars programs under presidents Ford and Carter. He envisions a world of peace and justice for all peoples, and he inspires action.

This presentation is part of Dr. Bowman's nationwide tour entitled "Take Back America! Follow the Constitution, Honor the Truth, Serve the People, End the Iraq Occupation, No Attack on Iran, What's the Truth about 9/11?"

This event is a fundraiser for *Connections* newspaper and the Peace and Justice Network. See page 20 for more information.

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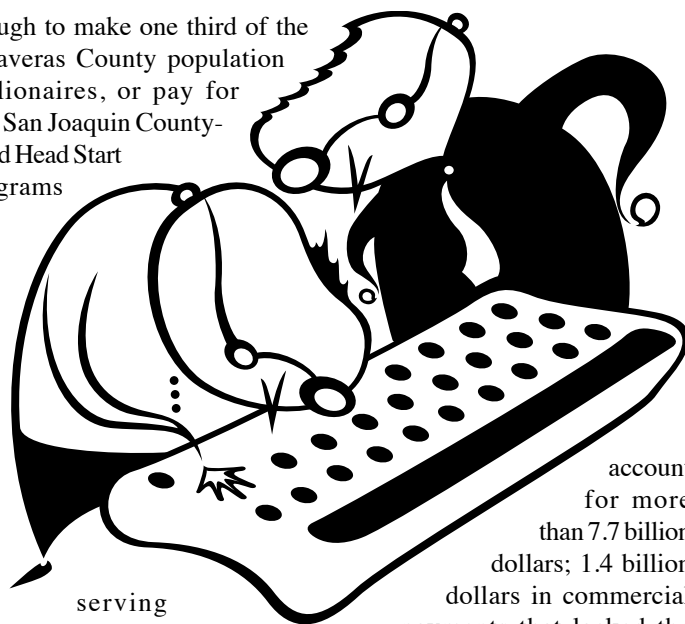
Follow the money

Bruce Giudici

This issue has a focus on the presumptive nominees for President: Obama, McCain and, nominally, McKinney. As you will discover here, McCain's positions mirror that of a 28%-approved Bush on virtually every issue. Yet, despite this bizarre Bush-clinging strategy (mixed with a strong dose of strange quotes earlier this month), the Republican candidate is given uncritical coverage by a fawning media: for example, on the same day the media ignored McCain calling Social Security a "disgrace," we saw Jesse Jackson's minor slur against Obama covered to the hilt (see page 9 for more). Incredible. Consequently, as a public service, we here at Connections feel we must make space for the candidates' positions on real issues like taxes, health care, and Iran—should you ever find yourself in the need to vote.

Even in a non-election year, however, one would hope to see better coverage of pocketbook issues—such as the \$15 billion of unaccounted for funds a recent Pentagon audit reported recently. Being a numbers person, I am fond of pointing out that a billion is one thousand million—which would make \$15 thousand million

enough to make one third of the Calaveras County population millionaires, or pay for 625 San Joaquin County-sized Head Start programs



... serving 1,875,000 children, or cover the cost of 30,000 Stockton Emergency Food Bank programs serving over 1.5 billion individuals, or support 50,000 small animal veterinary clinics employing 400,000 staff. These are just figures I am personally familiar with, but you get the picture.

With experience as a fiscal director of numerous non-profits, I cannot imagine a situation where: of 8.2 billion dollars in U.S. taxpayer-funded defense contracts reviewed by the Defense Department's inspector general, the Pentagon could not properly

account for more than 7.7 billion dollars; 1.4 billion dollars in commercial payments that lacked the minimum documentation for a valid payment; the Pentagon also was found to have given away another 1.8 billion in Iraqi assets with absolutely no accountability; and a 320-million-dollar payment in cash was handed over with little more than a signature in exchange. Unbelievable.

The amount of money squandered in the name of national "defense" is a national disgrace—wasting resources at a time when we have so many aching needs at home. The media seldom covers this part of the story, since, when it comes to "security," money is no object.

consumption, approximately two and a half years. Cover your eyes and ears when confronted with the fact that U.S. oil companies are private firms that can and will sell their newfound bounty to the highest bidder. We're Americans, by God, and we deserve action! President Bush and retread John McCain favor offshore drilling. Barrack Obama doesn't. The Republicans say Democrats have no ideas to solve the current crisis.

As a Democrat, let me suggest a solution—for your perusal, of course. Nationalize the oil companies. No more "record profits" reports causing your hands to tremble and your eyes to water. An end to four hundred million dollar compensation packages going to oil companies' executives such as Exxon-Mobil's Lee Raymond. Or, at the very

least, require the oil companies to sign a "Contract with America." Have Newt Gingrich present at the signing that stipulates every drop of oil found on U.S. territory is reserved for the sole and explicit use of "Americans Only".

If and when this is done, American entrepreneurialism can take over creating theme parks around our new National Symbols of Pride. Names like "Six Flags over Caribou," "Rocky Mountain Rigs," "The Black Waters of California," "Exxon-Mobil Land" and Chevron-Texaco's "Platforms of Glory" are destined to become a proud part of our National heritage.

Kids across America will be wearing red, white and blue t-shirts emblazoned with the words "Crude with 'Tude." Jed Clampett's picture will be on every hundred dollar bill. Mighty



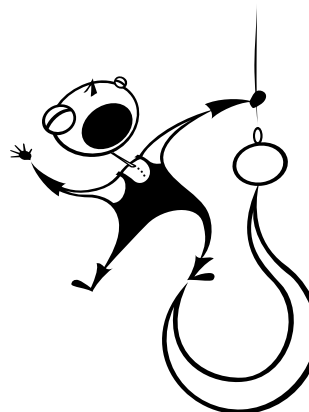
Bruce Giudici, editor

Well, it will be soon, when the US economy becomes too weak to lend to. So, while the surge may have postponed violence until Bush's watch ends, it has kept us in a conflict for which we borrowed another \$120 billion for expenditures that are either overpriced or fraudulent—at a time when we can afford neither.

In the coming 100 pre-election days, count on Bush to do what he can to make McCain more electable: Iran talks turn sour, necessitating an attack; Iraq troop withdrawals to make the surge seem successful; progress on the North Korean and Palestinian fronts. Media manipulation will shift into high gear, praising McCain's (generally flawed) foreign policy expertise. Bottom line: McCain's downfall will be an economy in a freefall too powerful to be manipulated. Follow the money to a President Obama November 4.

Mouse's old enemy, "Oil Can Harry," will finally shed the villain label and be recognized for what he is, a true American patriot just trying to make a buck and maybe rule the world. And "Ethyl" will once more be a name you can name a child with pride. Heck, we're missing out on all the fun. Let's get in the gas business. Let the drilling begin!

Dave Waldon



Connections

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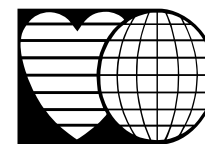
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"The Peace and Justice Network is a nonprofit educational organization committed to the vision of a world in which the equality of all persons is achieved, basic needs are met, conflict is resolved nonviolently, and the earth's resources are shared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

Obama-care versus McCain-care: real differences

Dean Baker

By far the most important domestic policy issue facing the next president will be fixing the health care system. The United States stands out among wealthy countries in not guaranteeing health insurance to its citizens.

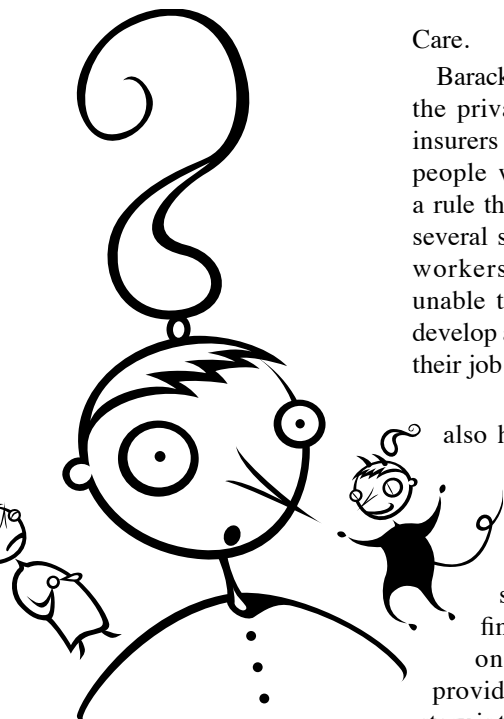
Yet, even though many people cannot get access to care, we still pay more than twice as much per person as the average in other wealthy countries. And we have the worst outcomes. Only a severely over-medicated politician would claim we have the best health care system in the world.

As bad as the current system is, it keeps getting worse. The number of people who are uninsured year round is at 47 million and rising. The costs also keep rising. Companies are increasingly dropping insurance for their workers, or forcing workers to pick up a larger share of the bill. The explosion of health care costs is the basis for all the scare stories that budget hawks use to cut "entitlements." Since half of the country's health care costs are paid by the government, if we don't fix the health care system, it will eventually destroy the economy—and also lead to very scary budget deficits.

So, what do the candidates offer? Following in the Republican tradition of referring to health care plans by the first name of their principal backer, let's see what the candidates propose.

John-Care is a plan to get rid of the employer-based insurance that most of us rely on presently. Senator McCain would eliminate the tax deductibility of employer-provided insurance, in effect requiring employers who offer insurance to take money out of workers' paychecks for their tax liability on their health insurance.

Needless to say, this will make dealing with insurers even less attractive to businesses. Most



employers will soon get out of the health insurance business and leave it to workers to buy their own plan. Toward this end, John-Care would give every worker a \$2,500 tax credit, or \$5,000 for a family.

This will not be sufficient to cover the cost of insurance for many families, especially those with serious health problems. Insurance companies don't like to insure people in bad health. While John-Care does provide a modest pool (at \$7 billion to \$10 billion) to help people with health problems to get insurance, this is a tiny fraction of what would be needed. Essentially, the McCain plan would undermine the current employer-provided system, and leave millions of people with health problems unable to buy insurance.

By contrast, Barack-Care would build on the current system. It would create a publicly run Medicare-type plan that any employer or individual can buy into. This would provide an additional option for people unhappy with their current insurance. However, those who are pleased with their current insurance would be able to stay with their plan under Barack-

Care.

Barack-Care would also reform the private market, prohibiting insurers from charging more to people with health conditions, a rule that is already in place in several states. This would mean workers need not fear being unable to get insurance if they develop a serious illness and lose their job.

Barack-Care would also have subsidies for low- and moderate-income families to ensure they can afford to buy insurance. These subsidies would be financed by a fee assessed on employers who don't provide insurance. The basic story is that every employer (with a small business exemption) will have to contribute towards their workers' health care. They can either buy insurance directly, or they can contribute to a general fund to pay for insurance.

So, those are the basic outlines of the two candidates' health care plans. Senator Obama would build on the system that is already in place and offer people an additional option—buying into a Medicare-type public plan. By contrast, Senator McCain wants to get rid of the current system of employer-provided insurance and force everyone to buy insurance as individuals.

In terms of health care policy, this is by far the sharpest difference between presidential nominees the country has ever seen. Hopefully, people will be aware of these distinctions when they cast their votes in November.

Dean Baker is co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research.

Source: TruthOut.org 7/11/08 <http://www.truthout.org>.



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

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

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

Democracy Now! on KPFA, 94.1 FM at 9am, on KVMR, 89.5 at 7pm or on the web at: <http://www.democracynow.org>

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Independent Media Center <http://www.indymedia.org>

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

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

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

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

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

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

We're on the web too!

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

<http://www.pjnsjc.org>

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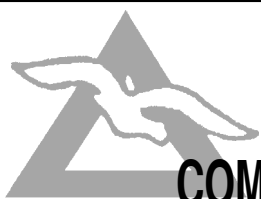
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Three oil myths by George

Faiz Shakir

On July 14, citing the "squeeze of rising prices at the pump," President Bush rescinded the presidential moratorium on offshore drilling. The moratorium on lease sales in the Outer Continental Shelf was established in 1990 by his father, George H.W. Bush, in response to the devastating Exxon Valdez oil spill and extended by President Clinton.

Bush's action pressures Congress to follow him in "capitulation to the oil companies" by lifting their moratorium, which must be renewed annually. In response, Rep. Edward Markey (D-MA) said at a press conference that Bush "is invoking the specter of another WMD: wells of mass deception."

At the *Huffington Post*, activist Martin Bosworth wrote, "Americans are smarter than we are often given credit for, and many of us do realize that destroying precious environmental resources and wildlife reserves to allow more domestic drilling is a psychological panacea—a placebo to make us feel like 'something is being done.'"

However, polls show increasing support for expanded offshore drilling. Conservatives are preying on Americans' concern over skyrocketing gas prices by propagating false myths that drilling for oil off our coasts will allow us to "pay less" at the pump, that it's "environmentally safe," and that drilling is already underway by communist China. Because "only real beneficiaries will be the oil companies that are trying to lock up every last acre of public land," their political allies must resort to selling falsehoods.

Myth #1—'Drill here, drill now, pay less'

Newt Gingrich's 527 organization, American Solutions, is promoting a "Drill Here. Drill Now. Pay Less" campaign, collecting over one million signatures on its petition to Congress to act immediately to lower gasoline prices by authorizing the exploration of proven energy reserves off our coasts.

American Solutions is funded by right-wing Las Vegas billionaire Sheldon Adelson, who wants Americans to place another bad bet on oil drilling. As the Energy Information Administration (EIA) has explained, "access to the Pacific, Atlantic, and eastern Gulf regions would not have a significant impact on domestic crude oil and natural gas production or prices before 2030."

But because United States demand for oil far outstrips production—we consume 25 percent of the world's supply but have two percent of the proven reserves—further exploitation of domestic resources will not have a long-term impact either. After 2030, the EIA found, "any impact on average wellhead prices is expected to be insignificant."

There are numerous ways to immediately affect prices, from use of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to improved oversight of the oil markets. Over the long term, we must fight global warming and break our addiction to oil through modern technology like plug-in hybrids and smart growth planning.

Myth #2—China on our coasts

Conservatives from Rudy Giuliani to Dick Cheney have repeatedly claimed that the United States needs to start drilling for off-shore oil because China is taking "American oil" off the coast of Cuba, just "60 miles off the coast of Florida." Cheney exhorted, "Even the communists have figured out that a good answer to high prices is more supply." That same day, Rep. Roy Blunt (R-MO) wrote that Castro was allowing drilling "45 miles from the Florida keys." Rep. George Radanovich (R-CA) and House Minority Leader John Boehner (R-OH) have also raised the specter of Chinese drilling just off U.S. shores. However, in this modern invocation of the Red Scare the claim is completely false.

As Cheney was forced to acknowledge, "no Chinese firm is drilling" off Cuba's coast. Talking Points Memo has recorded the large number of conservatives

hypothesizing the false story. The Washington Post's Ben Pershing said the China/Cuba oil drilling claim is the "myth that keeps on giving," calling it "just too juicy not to repeat."

Myth #3—'Not a drop was spilled'

Offshore drilling advocates know that the specter of oil-slicked beaches would doom their campaign, so they are desperate to wish its environmental impact away. Also on July 14, Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) claimed "not a drop of oil was spilled during Katrina or Rita." This myth has been told again and again by the likes of Gov. Bobby Jindal (R-LA), Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne, Mike Huckabee, George Will, and Bill O'Reilly.

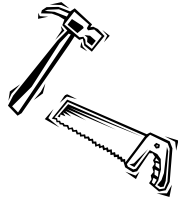
There were, in fact, major onshore and offshore spills due to the hurricanes. According to the official Minerals Management Service report, the hurricanes caused 124 offshore spills for a total of 743,700 gallons, six spilling 42,000 gallons or more.

The largest of these spills dropped 152,250 gallons, well over the 100,000 gallon threshold considered a "major spill." In addition, the hurricanes caused disastrous spills onshore throughout southeast Louisiana and the rest of the Gulf Coast as tanks, pipelines, refineries and other industrial facilities were destroyed, for a total of 595 different oil spills.

The nine million gallons reported spilled were comparable with the Exxon Valdez's 10.8 million gallons, but unlike the Exxon Valdez, they were distributed throughout Louisiana, Mississippi, and other Gulf Coast states, many in residential areas.

Source: *The Progress Report* 7/15/08,
<http://www.americanprogress.org>





Sawznhammers

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

On energy—an open letter to my Congressman

It isn't enough to elect good people to office—we've got to follow up on them, track what they do, announce loud and clear what we expect from them. After all, we are The People, they're our Public Servants.

These next four years it's our job to pursue President Obama, who's wobbling already: no war or occupation in Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Venezuela or anywhere else, and no more Big Brother spying. Yes to universal single payer health care, clean energy, public transportation, education, Head Start, social security, civilian national service and all the rest.

The first amendment to the Constitution guarantees us "freedom of speech, of the press, and the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." Well, grievances abound. As Benjamin Franklin said, the Founders gave us "a democracy-if we can keep it."

Keeping it means phoning our public officials, writing, emailing, meeting in their offices, peaceably demonstrating and marching in the streets, sporting buttons and bumperstickers, waving signs and banners, boycotting, marching on Montgomery like King or on Sacramento like Cesar Chavez, or sometimes just sitting in the road saying No.

I got some practice last week in peaceably assembling and petitioning our Government. My friend Jeremy Terhune, local organizer for Defenders of Wildlife, gathered a little delegation to drive to Pleasanton and announce to Congressman Jerry McNerney:

We want no more drilling for oil off our coasts, nor in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. We quizzed Our Public Servant, and told him what we expect of him. It was a good meeting, the beginning of a process.

I continued that process today by writing the congressman a letter. On paper, with envelope and stamp. Here's a copy:

Hon. Jerry McNerney
312 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington DC 20515

Dear Congressman Jerry,

As a member of the Defenders of Wildlife delegation, it was fine to talk with you last week in your Pleasanton office about energy and transportation—two urgent matters which mark the crossroads of our time. I love the windmills which adorn your office—banners in the wind, as it were.

Here are a couple comments:

1. I heard loud and clear your disgust at the "addicted drill, drill, drill" of some of your congressional colleagues, but I didn't actually hear you say you will vote against drilling offshore and in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Will you?

2. Public transportation in San Joaquin County is whimsical, bicycling is difficult. A little financial support from the Congress could help: incentives to businesses to encourage their employees to bicycle (lockers and showers come to mind), frequent bus service to the Dublin/Pleasanton BART (including weekends); a few dollars to produce and distribute an attractive wall map of "Safe(r) Bike Routes in Stockton/SJ County".

A shift to smaller and more frequent buses is also worth looking into, both as to initial investment and the added cost

of more bus driver jobs. Pilot program?

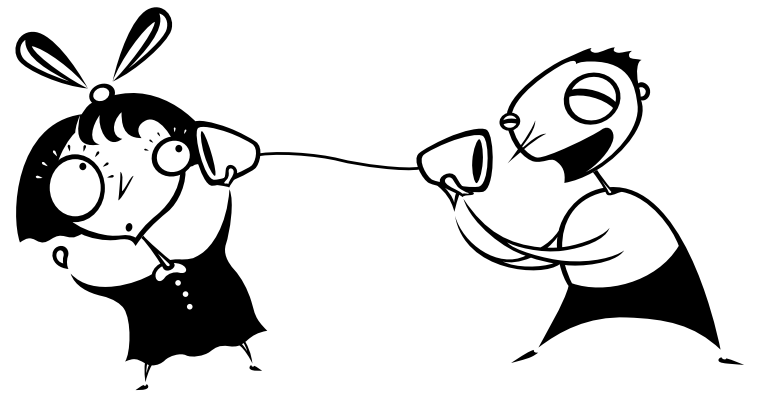
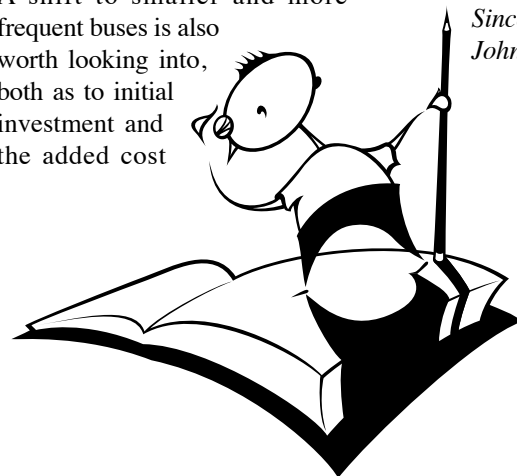
3. In your office, Jerry, I asked if you will take leadership, based on your professional expertise, in educating your congressional colleagues about the wonderful possibilities of wind-power and other technologies. For example, a few years ago you explained to a group of us at the Peace and Justice Center how windmills, running at night when electricity consumption is low, could be used to recharge plug-in hybrid cars in peoples' garages at cheap night-time rates; if car bodies were made of tough carbon fiber (like tennis rackets), mileage could be 100 or 150 miles per gallon! Americans are beginning to pay the price for our collective addiction to oil, and the times are ripe—people are ready to listen.

When I summoned you to take leadership, you answered that there are a number of congressmen well-informed about these matters. I'm delighted to hear that, but it wasn't exactly my question! As an amateur theologian, I would suggest that perhaps the Spirit has put you—particularly—in Congress to share your life's work in wind-power with your colleagues.

It's certainly a precious life's work; Mother Earth is crying out for clean energy. As Bob Dylan sang, "The answer, my friends, is blowin' in the wind!"

In hopes for the earth and her peoples, Congressman—

Sincerely,
John Morearty



Tell Congress not to allow drilling off our coasts

Oil companies and their allies in Congress claim that drilling in America's oceans and coastal areas would help solve the energy crisis and have proposed ending the 27-year moratorium on new offshore drilling. But offshore drilling would neither solve our energy needs nor significantly lower gas prices. Instead, drilling would harm America's economy, health, oceans and coasts.

Proponents of offshore drilling claim it would reduce gas prices, even though the Department of Energy has determined that it would not significantly do so. Oil companies currently have 5,500 offshore leases they are not drilling, and with 80 percent of the untapped oil in offshore areas already open to development, they do not need access to more areas to increase supply. And while the U.S. oil industry says it wants even more access to sensitive ocean areas to reduce reliance on foreign suppliers, American-based companies are shipping record amounts of gasoline and diesel fuel to other countries. This proposal is simply a way to give oil companies unfettered drilling access to our oceans and coastal areas.

In addition, opening up

additional offshore areas to drilling poses real threats to our ocean and coastal ecosystems and economies. Offshore drilling creates toxic waste products that contaminate fish and marine life. Offshore wells emit air pollutants that are known carcinogens, cause respiratory problems and worsen global warming. And current cleanup methods can only remove a small fraction of oil spilled in marine waters, where it is toxic for most species.

America needs real, long-term solutions for the energy crisis, but oil companies and their allies are not delivering them. We need to use less oil by improving energy efficiency and utilizing renewable energy. In doing so, we can achieve energy independence, fight global warming, and jump-start our nation's economy. Attempts to lift the offshore drilling moratorium could be attached to several different bills and come up for a vote at any time.

ACTION: Send a message *right away* urging your senators and representative to say NO to offshore drilling.

Source: NRDC's EARTH ACTION: The Bulletin for Environmental Activists, 7/15/08 Natural Resources Defense Council, 40 W 20th St, NY, NY 10011 <http://www.nrdc.org>

America needs real, long-term solutions for the energy crisis, but oil companies and their allies are not delivering them.



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It was oil, all along

*Bill Moyers and
 Michael Winship*

Oh, no, they told us, Iraq isn't a war about oil. That's cynical and simplistic, they said. It's about terror and al-Qaeda and toppling a dictator and spreading democracy and protecting ourselves from weapons of mass destruction. But one by one, these concocted rationales went up in smoke, fire and ashes. And now the bottom line turns out to be ...the bottom line. It is about oil.

Alan Greenspan said so last fall. The former chairman of the Federal Reserve, safely out of office, confessed in his memoir, "Everyone knows: the Iraq war is largely about oil." He elaborated in an interview with The Washington Post's Bob Woodward, "If Saddam Hussein had been head of Iraq and there was no oil under those sands, our response to him would not have been as strong as it was in the first Gulf War."

Remember, also, that soon after the invasion, Donald Rumsfeld's deputy, Paul Wolfowitz, told the press that war was our only strategic choice. "We had virtually no economic options with Iraq," he explained, "because the country floats on a sea of oil."

Shades of Daniel Plainview, the monstrous petroleum tycoon in the movie, "There Will Be Blood." Half-mad, he exclaims, "There's a whole ocean of oil under our feet!" then adds, "No one can get at it except for me!"

No wonder American troops only guarded the Ministries of Oil and the Interior in Baghdad, even as looters pillaged museums of their priceless antiquities. They were making sure no one could get at the oil except ... guess who?

Here's a recent headline in The New York Times: "Deals With Iraq Are Set to Bring Oil Giants Back." Read on: "Four western companies are in the final stages of negotiations this month on contracts that will return them to Iraq, 36 years after losing their oil concession to nationalization as Saddam Hussein rose to power."

There you have it. After a long exile, Exxon Mobil, Shell, Total and BP are back in Iraq. And on

the wings of no-bid contracts—that's right, sweetheart deals like those given Halliburton, KBR and Blackwater. The kind of deals you get only if you have friends in high places. And these war profiteers have friends in very high places.

Let's go back a few years to the 1990's, when private citizen Dick Cheney was running Halliburton, the big energy supplier. That's when he told the oil industry that, "By 2010 we will need on the order of an additional fifty million barrels a day. So where is the oil going to come from? While many regions of the world offer great oil opportunities, the Middle East, with two-thirds of the world's oil and the lowest cost, is still where the prize ultimately lies."

Fast forward to Cheney's first heady days in the White House. The oil industry and other energy conglomerates were handed backdoor keys to the White House, and their CEO's and lobbyists were trooping in and out for meetings with their old pal, now Vice President Cheney. The meetings were secret, conducted under tight security, but as we reported five years ago, among the documents that turned up from some of those meetings were maps of oil fields in Iraq—and a list of companies who wanted access to them. The conservative group Judicial Watch and the Sierra Club filed suit to try to find out who attended the meetings and what was discussed, but the White House fought all the way to the Supreme Court to keep the press and public from learning the whole truth.

Think about it. These secret meetings took place six months before 9/11, two years before Bush and Cheney invaded Iraq. We still don't know

what they were about. What we know is that this is the oil industry that's enjoying swollen profits these days. It would be laughable if it weren't so painful to remember that their erstwhile cheerleader for invading Iraq—the press mogul Rupert Murdoch—once said that a successful war there would bring us \$20-a-barrel oil. The last time we looked, it was more than \$140 a barrel. Where are you, Rupert, when the facts need

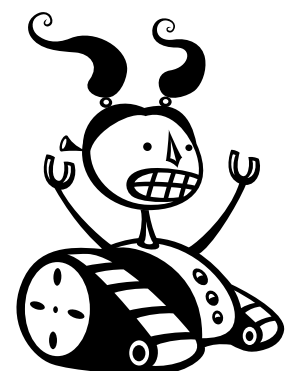
checking and the predictions are revisited?

At a Congressional hearing this week, James Hansen, the NASA climate scientist who exactly twenty years ago alerted Congress and the world to the dangers of global warming, compared the chief executives of Big Oil to the tobacco moguls who denied that nicotine is addictive or that there's a link between smoking and cancer. Hansen, whom the administration has tried again and again to silence, said these barons of black gold should be tried for committing crimes against humanity and nature in opposing efforts to deal with global warming.

Perhaps those sweetheart deals in Iraq should be added to his proposed indictments. They have been purchased at a very high price. Four thousand American soldiers dead, tens of thousands permanently wounded, hundreds of thousands of dead and crippled Iraqis plus five million displaced, and a cost that will mount into trillions of dollars. The political analyst Kevin Phillips says America has become little more than an "energy protection force," doing anything to gain access to expensive fuel without regard to the lives of others or the earth itself. One thinks again of Daniel Plainview in "There Will Be Blood." His lust for oil came at the price of his son and his soul.

Bill Moyers is managing editor and Michael Winship is senior writer of the weekly public affairs program Bill Moyers Journal, which airs Friday nights on PBS. Check local airtimes or comment at The Moyers Blog at www.pbs.org/moyers <http://www.pbs.org/moyers>.

Source: truthout | Perspective 6/28/08 www.truthout.com



U.S. perpetuates mass killings in Iraq

Peter Phillips

The United States is directly responsible for over one million Iraqi deaths since the invasion five and half years ago. In a January 2008 report, a British polling group Opinion Research Business (ORB) reports that, "survey work confirms our earlier estimate that over 1,000,000 Iraqi citizens have died as a result of the conflict which started in 2003. We now estimate that the death toll between March 2003 and August 2007 is likely to have been of the order of 1,033,000. If one takes into account the margin of error associated with survey data of this nature then the estimated range is between 946,000 and 1,120,000."

The ORB report comes on the heels of two earlier studies conducted by Johns Hopkins University published in the Lancet medical journal that confirmed the continuing numbers of mass deaths in Iraq. A study done by Dr. Les Roberts from January 1, 2002 to March 18, 2003 put the civilian deaths at that time at over 100,000. A second study published in the Lancet in October 2006 documented over 650,000 civilian deaths in Iraq since the start of the US invasion. The 2006 study confirms that US aerial bombing in civilian neighborhoods caused over a third of these deaths and that over half the deaths are directly attributable to US forces.

The now estimated 1.2 million dead, as of July 2008, includes children, parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, cab drivers, clerics, schoolteachers, factory workers, policemen, poets, healthcare workers, day care providers, construction workers, babysitters, musicians, bakers, restaurant workers and many more. All manner of ordinary people in Iraq have died because the United States decided to invade their country. These are deaths far in excess of the normal civilian death rate under the prior government.

The magnitude of these deaths is undeniable. The continuing occupation by US forces guarantees a mass death rate in excess of 10,000 people per month with half that number dying at the hands of US forces—a carnage so severe and so concentrated at to equate it with the most heinous mass killings in world history. This act has not gone unnoticed.

Recently, Dennis Kucinich introduced a single impeachment article against George W. Bush for lying to Congress and the American people about the reasons for invading Iraq. On July 15, the House of Representatives forwarded the resolution to the Judiciary Committee with a 238 to 180 vote. That Bush lied about weapons of mass destruction and Iraq's threat to the US is now beyond doubt. Former US federal prosecutor Elizabeth de la Vega documents the lies most

thoroughly in her book *U.S. vs. Bush*, and numerous other researchers have verified Bush's untrue statements.

The American people are faced with a serious moral dilemma. Murder and war crimes have been conducted in our name. We have allowed the war/occupation to continue in Iraq and offered ourselves little choice within the top two presidential candidates for immediate cessation of the mass killings. McCain would undoubtedly accept the deaths of another million Iraqi civilians in order to save face for America, and Obama's 18-month timetable for withdrawal would likely result in another 250,000 civilian deaths or more.

We owe our children and ourselves a future without the shame of mass murder on our collective conscience. The only resolution of this dilemma is the immediate withdrawal of all US troops in Iraq and the prosecution and imprisonment of those responsible. Anything less creates a permanent original sin on the soul of the nation for which we will forever suffer.

Peter Phillips is a Professor of Sociology at Sonoma State University and director of Project Censored a media research group. He is the co-editor with Dennis Loo of the book Impeach the President: The Case Against Bush and Cheney.



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Campaign finance reform has failed

Robert Parry

Barack Obama's decision to opt out of federal campaign financing has riled newspaper editorialists, TV pundits and even some progressives who

view regulating "money in politics" as the silver bullet to kill the special-interest domination of Washington. But the fury over Obama's choice to rely on his Internet-based small donors—rather than take nearly \$85 million in federal funding—misses a difficult truth that may be especially heretical on the Left: campaign-finance reform has been, by and large, a failure.

This reality comes clear if one asks the simple question: Is the U.S. government more in the pocket of special interests today than it was in the mid-1970s when this reform movement gained traction after the Watergate scandal? It's hard to reach an answer other than that today is worse.

Indeed, since Ronald Reagan became President in 1981, the federal government has operated in the interest of corporations and the well-to-do with a stunning consistency. Even when a Democrat (Bill Clinton) gained the White House in 1993, he did so as a pro-corporate centrist beholden to the Democratic Leadership Council.

I even would argue that the Left's obsession with campaign-finance reform helped pave the way for the two terms of George W. Bush, whose administration has marked the apex of government-to-corporate favoritism. That's because the great fallacy of campaign-finance reform has turned out to be that it only addresses money in the narrow political process, i.e. contributions to candidates and parties. It ignores the massive infusion of political money that has gone into the right-wing media.

The Right's media powerhouse, in turn, has given conservatives enormous influence over setting the national political agenda, especially since the timid mainstream corporate press tends to follow the themes put in play by Fox and other right-wing outlets.

Think back on Campaign 2000 when Al Gore was pummeled by the right-wing news media with the help of a mainstream press determined to shake its old "liberal bias" label by piling on Gore. Made-up quotes, like "I invented the Internet," were put into Gore's mouth; fabricated scandals, such as claims that he sold nuclear secrets to China, were thrown against him; ridicule about his clothing and personality were heaped on him. Meanwhile, Bush was treated with relative kid gloves, amid the widespread media expectation that his election would "put the adults back in charge"—respected old hands like Dick Cheney and Colin Powell.

Misguided priority

So, even as campaign-finance reform sought a rough parity between the money available to candidates Gore and Bush, there existed a great disparity in the investments that the American Right had made in media compared to the American Left. In effect, the Right's lavish investment in media over the past three decades—building a giant, vertically integrated media apparatus reaching from newspapers, magazines and book publishing to talk radio, TV networks and the Internet—has represented the greatest infusion of unregulated spending on politics in American history.

Conservative foundations, like Olin and Scaife, and wealthy right-wingers, such as Sun Myung Moon and Rupert Murdoch, have poured billions and billions of dollars into this media infrastructure in a conscious strategy to shift American politics rightward. Meanwhile, American progressives find themselves with almost no media infrastructure to speak of: essentially, a few under-funded magazines, Internet bloggers and some struggling talk radio operations, like Air America.

As this imbalance took shape, progressive foundations and well-heeled liberals set as their priority a disproportionate investment in campaign-finance reform. So, while the Left spent its money trying to regulate political finances, the Right expanded the

political playing field by building an ideological media, a year-in/year-out, 24/7/365 operation that has given birth to the "permanent campaign" of endless attack politics.

The Democrats and progressives can wring their hands over this development, but it has given the Republicans and conservatives a huge advantage. The Right's only vulnerability has been a tendency to overreach. Still, even after President Bush's first-term power grabs and deceptions had alarmed many Americans, his supportive right-wing media gave him a big edge over his Democratic rival, Sen. John Kerry, in Campaign 2004. In summer 2004, while Kerry was hamstrung by campaign spending limits, a pro-Bush attack group, the Swiftboat Veterans for Truth, smeared Kerry over his Vietnam War record—devastating themes that were amplified not only by Fox News and right-wing talk radio but which echoed through CNN and other mainstream outlets.

In other words, progressive-backed campaign-finance reforms effectively held Kerry down while a pro-Bush attack group and the right-wing media beat him up, aided further by elements of the mainstream media, always trying to shake the "liberal bias" canard.

Narrower Campaigns

Another unintended consequence of campaign-finance reform has been the narrowing of the American political battlefield. Since campaigns must husband their limited money, they tend to spend it almost exclusively in about 18 "battleground states." If you live in the other 32 states, you hardly know that a presidential campaign is underway; your vote is essentially ceded to one party or the other.

So, this is the backdrop of Obama's decision to forego federal spending limits and to count instead on his 1.5 million donors, mostly small contributors giving via the Internet. He hopes to have the money to react against negative assaults, which he has already faced in nearly unprecedented numbers, and

to make his case to a broader public. Seeking a campaign war-chest possibly three times the amount that otherwise would be available, Obama is advocating a 50-state campaign strategy that promises to bring the fight to places that are traditionally ignored in the general election. While Obama's opting out of the campaign-finance system has upset many editorialists and reformers, perhaps they should look at the internal contradictions of their own policies as the reason for their failure.

After three decades, the bottom line is that the Left's concentration on this reform movement has not only failed to separate U.S. politics from special interests but—because of the Left's disproportionate spending on this priority—may have helped weld politicians and corporations more tightly together. Progressive foundations and well-to-do liberals may want to rethink the imbalance in their spending, cutting back on the campaign-reform

movement and putting more money into a media infrastructure



that can stand up to right-wing propaganda year-round.

Robert Parry's latest book, "Neck Deep: The Disastrous Presidency of George W. Bush," can be ordered at neckdeepbook.com. His two previous books, "Secrecy & Privilege: The Rise of the Bush Dynasty from Watergate to Iraq" and "Lost History: Contras, Cocaine, the Press & 'Project Truth'" are also available there.

Source: Consortium News 6/23/08 <<http://consortiumnews.com/2008/062308.html>>

Greens nominate Cynthia McKinney for President

John Nichols

Cynthia McKinney, a former Democrat who represented Georgia in the U.S. House during the administrations of Bill Clinton and George Bush and often sparred presidents of both big parties, easily secured the Green nomination Saturday at the party's convention in Chicago.

She then delivered an acceptance speech in which she made it clear that the small but serious party, which has more than 200 elected officials nationwide and grassroots organizations in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, would be heard in a campaign where much of the media has a hard time seeing beyond Democratic blue and Republican red.

As delegates and supporters waved "Paint the White House

Green" signs, McKinney declared, "I am asking you to vote your conscience, vote your dreams, vote your future, vote Green."

Resolutely anti-war and anti-imperialist, firmly committed to defending individual liberties and determined to hold the outgoing president and vice president to account—as a member of the House in 2006, McKinney introduced the first articles of impeachment against President Bush—McKinney is an ardent advocate for national health care, expanded education spending and energy policies that emphasize mass transportation and conservation rather than rewarding oil-company profiteering.

Source: Organic Consumers Association release 7/15/08 <http://www.organicconsumers.org>

Media makes McCain/Bush policies easy to swallow

Dean Baker

McCain proposed offshore drilling in environmentally sensitive areas, attempting to show he cares about lowering gas prices for everyday Americans. Despite the inability of this drilling to lower gas prices anytime soon, the media picked up on his posturing and promoted it, rather than offering a critique.

Senator McCain is in the unenviable position of running on the track record of a president with the worst economic performance since Herbert Hoover. He has adopted the strategy of ignoring the record while embracing his predecessor's policies. McCain is betting the media will be so incompetent that they will not notice. He might be right. The basic story here is very simple. The centerpiece of Senator McCain's economic agenda is the continuation of the Bush tax cuts. Of course, he has tossed out a few other items, but impact of his other proposals, such as ending earmarks, is trivial. For all practical purposes, McCain's economic agenda is Bush's tax cuts.

We could have an interesting debate about whether giving tax cuts to the wealthiest people in the country is good economic policy, if we didn't already know the answer. We have had almost eight years of President Bush's tax cuts and the record is as clear as it can possibly be. When it comes to producing economic growth that benefits the middle class, the tax cuts were dismal failures.

The economy is now in the process of sinking into the second recession of the second Bush administration, and President Bush already has the worst record on job creation of any president since Herbert Hoover. At the current rate of job loss, it is entirely possible President Bush will have created fewer private sector jobs in his entire eight years in office than the 2.6 million annual average for the eight years of the Clinton administration.

It is virtually certain the wage for the typical worker will be



lower when President Bush leaves office in January of 2009 than when he took office in January of 2001. This means most workers will have seen nothing from the benefits of productivity growth over the last eight years.

Certainly, President Bush cannot be blamed for everything that went wrong, but it certainly does not make sense to claim that his policies bear no responsibility for this economic failure. President Bush was left in charge of the store (he also controlled both houses of Congress through most of his presidency) and we got cleaned out. Imagine if some big government Democrat had this track record?

This is why it is absurd for McCain to present himself as the candidate of jobs and growth. We are doing his policies now—they don't work.

McCain should be embarrassed to be pushing these policies, given the huge transparent failure that is sitting in front of our face, but he is counting on the media to turn the issue into a he said, she said. McCain is betting the

media will treat the failure of the Bush-McCain economic policy as a matter of partisan contention, rather than a fact, like gravity.

Thus far, he has been right. He did a test run of media gullibility a couple of weeks ago when he proposed drilling for oil offshore in environmentally sensitive areas. He proposed this as a response to \$4 a gallon of gas. This was Senator McCain's way of showing he cares for the working stiff.

Of course, Senator McCain knows the amount of oil potentially available offshore in environmentally sensitive areas is too small to have a noticeable impact on prices and that it will take a decade before we even see a drop. But, he wanted the media frame of being the guy who was willing to sacrifice the environment in order to help Joe Six-Pack.

It worked like a charm. The media contrasted Obama's concern with the environment (out-of-touch elitist) with McCain's concern for jobs and growth.

If McCain could look good proposing a policy that jeopardizes the environment for no visible economic benefit, why not push a proven failure as though the past eight years never happened? As P.T. Barnum should have said, "no one ever lost an election underestimating the gullibility of the US media."

Dean Baker is the co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR).

Source: truthout.org Perspective 7/15/08

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McCain on Iran

Supports military option

And every option must remain on the table. Military action isn't our preference. It remains, as it always must, the last option. We have some way to go diplomatically before we need to contemplate other measures. But it is a simple observation of reality that there is only one thing worse than a military solution, and that, my friends, is a nuclear armed Iran. The regime must understand that it cannot win a showdown with the world.

—John McCain, *Speech to Christians United for Israel*, 7/17/07

I keep praying every night that we will avoid a conflict with Iran—I don't think it's inevitable that we're in a conflict with Iran—I still say there's only one thing worse than military action against Iran and that is a nuclear-armed Iran.

—John McCain, *quoted by Liz Sidoti, "McCain Says He Prays for No War with Iran," Associated Press*, 8/16/07

Supports sanctions and divestment

UN Security Council action is required to impose progressively tougher political and economic sanctions. Should the Security Council continue to drag its feet, the U.S. must lead a group of like-minded countries in imposing multilateral sanctions outside the UN framework. Iran's need to import refined gasoline, to cite one example, suggests an important vulnerability. And countries such as China and Malaysia, which have signed deals to develop Iranian gas fields, and Russia, which provides weapons systems to Tehran, should know that Iran will be a critical element in American's bilateral relations with each nation. In the meantime, the U.S. should immediately investigate whether any of these deals violate the terms of last year's Iran Freedom Support Act.

The U.S. should also privatize the sanctions effort by launching a divestment campaign. By persuading individuals, pension funds, and financial institutions to divest from companies

doing business with Iran, we can isolate and delegitimize a hostile government. We will also, as we did with the South Africa divestment campaign, increase the debate inside the country about whether the present course serves the interests of the Iranian people or merely those of a misguided elite. Americans and all proponents of freedom need to reassure the millions of Iranians who aspire to self-determination that we support their longing for freedom and democracy.

—John McCain, *Speech to Christians United for Israel*, 7/17/07

What I would be concentrating my efforts on is trying to get a league of democracies outside of the U.N., because Russia and China are going to veto just about anything we want to act effectively against Iran, and those league of democracies should cut off any kind of loans, which are being extended as we speak by European banks; diplomatic, other sanctions to put real pressure on a rather fragile economy in Iran. I think that's the way we should pursue this.

—John McCain, *MSNBC's Hardball with Chris Matthews*, 9/17/07

OK on consulting Congress prior to a military strike

If the situation is that it requires immediate action to ensure the security of the United States of America, that's what you take your oath to do when you're inaugurated as president of the United States. If it's a long series of build-ups, where the threat becomes greater and greater, of course you want to go to Congress. ... I would at minimum consult with the leaders of Congress because there may become a time where you need the approval of Congress.

—John McCain, *Republican Presidential Debate, Dearborn, MI*, 10/0/07

Opposes direct negotiations

McCain used Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as an example, saying, "Are we going to come out of this meeting, and the president of Iran is going to

say, 'I'm stopping the IEDs, I'm going to stop developing nuclear weapons, I will agree that Israel is going to exist,' then fine. Then let's set up the meeting." But he warned of the danger posed to the prestige of the presidency and the country as a whole if such a dictator would use a high-level meeting for propaganda purposes. Said McCain in conclusion: "There's a downside to just saying, I'll sit down and have face-to-face meetings with one of these dictatorial rulers, who violate every principle of upon which this nation was founded."

—Mark Murray, *McCain Also Agrees with Clinton, MSNBC's First Read*, 7/26/07

John McCain believes Syria and Iran have aided and abetted the violence in Iraq for too long... The answer is not to enter into unconditional dialogues with these two dictatorships from a position of weakness. The answer is for the international community to apply real pressure to Syria and Iran to change their behavior. The United States must also bolster its regional military posture to make clear to Iran our determination to protect our forces in Iraq and to deter Iranian intervention in that country.

—McCain Campaign Website, *Strategy for Victory in Iraq* <http://www.johnmccain.com>

Supports U.S. missile defense in Europe

Iran's most recent missile tests demonstrate again the dangers it poses to its neighbors and to the wider region, especially Israel. Ballistic missile testing coupled with Iran's continued refusal to cease its nuclear activities should unite the international community in efforts to counter Iran's dangerous ambitions. Iran's missile tests also demonstrate the need for effective missile defense now and in the future, and this includes missile defense in Europe as is planned with the Czech Republic and Poland.

—John McCain, *McCain Statement on Iran Missile Launch*, *Time's The Page*, 7/9/08

This kind of testing and this kind of progress that the Iranians

are making is here and now, and it cries out for collective action to cut off now the lines of credit that the Iranians are getting, to cut off now the trade and diplomatic and other activities that go on between the Iranians and the world...we're in a situation where we need to act now and say hey, we can't wait, we can't say let's just wait until next January to take meaningful action.

—John McCain, *McCain Reacts to Iran Missile Test on NBC, Time's The Page*, 7/9/08

In the Strait of Hormuz

Maybe the Iranians think we're weaker because of the NIE. Maybe the Iranians aren't really slowing their export of most lethal explosive devices into Iraq. And I believe the president of the United States made the right statement. He told them that we will preserve the fundamental principle of freedom of the sea, and he will do what's necessary in order to preserve it. So I believe these people—these commanding officers made the right decision, and I believe that we entrusted their ships and the lives of the people under them in the most appropriate fashion. But don't think that this wasn't a serious situation of the utmost seriousness in one of the most important waterways in the world, because of so much of the world's oil goes through there. The Iranians better understand that the United States will stick to its many years-long tradition of preserving the fundamental principle of freedom of the seas.

—John McCain, *Republican Presidential Debate 1/10/08*

Iran Revolutionary Guard Corps: a terrorist organization

The fact is, this is a terrorist organization, and it should have been branded as such.

—John McCain, *Pool Report of McCain Tour of Pennsylvania Coal Silo*, *Time's The Page*, 7/9/08

Source: FCNL, 245 Second St, NE, Washington, DC 20002 800-630-1330 www.fcni.org

Lawn signs, mugs, T-shirts

"War is NOT the answer" lawn signs come from the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). We are requesting a \$5 donation to cover costs (sorry, we can't ship lawn signs). We also have elegant pins made of pewter in the shape of the peace symbol for \$10. Also, handsome PJN T-shirts in many colors, and more. Come by the P&J Center to see these items, plus buttons and bumperstickers galore, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton CA 95204. Call 467-4455.



Obama on Iran

Supports military option

Although we must not rule out using military force, we should not hesitate to talk directly to Iran. Our diplomacy should aim to raise the cost for Iran of continuing its nuclear program by applying tougher sanctions and increasing pressure from its key trading partners. The world must work to stop Iran's uranium-enrichment program and prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. It is far too dangerous to have nuclear weapons in the hands of a radical theocracy. At the same time, we must show Iran—and especially the Iranian people—what could be gained from fundamental change: economic engagement, security assurances, and diplomatic relations.

—Barack Obama, *Renewing American Leadership, Foreign Affairs, July/August 2007*

I don't think we should be talking about attacking Iran at this point: what we should be doing is—talking to Iran directly about the potential carrots that we can provide, in terms of them being involved in the World Trade Organization, or beginning to look at the possibilities of diplomatic relations being normalized. There may come a point where those measures have been exhausted and Iran is on the verge of obtaining a nuclear weapon, where we have to consider other options, but we shouldn't talk about those options now.

—Barack Obama, *Democratic Presidential Debate 10/30/07*

We shouldn't allow Iran to have nuclear weapons, period. I have consistently said that I will do everything in my power to prevent them from having it, and I have not ruled out military force as an option.

—Barack Obama, quoted by Mike Shuster, *Presidential Candidates Come Out Strong on Iran, NPR, 5/8/08*

Supports direct negotiations with countries with Iran and other countries, without preconditions

Question: In the spirit of that

type of bold leadership, would you be willing to meet separately, without precondition, during the first year of your administration, in Washington or anywhere else, with the leaders of Iran, Syria, Venezuela, Cuba and North Korea, in order to bridge the gap that divides our countries?

Obama: I would. And the reason is this, that the notion that somehow not talking to countries is punishment to them—which has been the guiding diplomatic principle of this administration—is ridiculous.

—Barack Obama, *Democratic Presidential Debate 7/23/07*

You can't engage in diplomacy in isolation. There's got to be a broader strategic context to it...I would meet directly with Iranian leaders. We would engage in a level of aggressive personal diplomacy in which a whole host of issues are on the table. I think it is important for us to send a signal that we are not hell bent on regime change, just for the sake of regime change, but expect changes in behavior and there are both carrots and there are sticks available to them for those changes in behavior.

—Barack Obama quoted by Michael Gordon and Jeff Zeleny, *Interview with Barack Obama, New York Times, 11/1/07*

By reporting that Iran halted its nuclear weapon development program four years ago because of international pressure, the new National Intelligence Estimate makes a compelling case for less saber-rattling and more direct diplomacy. The juxtaposition of this NIE with the president's suggestion of World War III serves as an important reminder of what we learned with the 2002 National Intelligence Estimate on Iraq: members of Congress must carefully read the intelligence before giving the President any justification to use military force.

—Barack Obama, quoted by *Scholars and Rogues Blog, Clinton statement on NIE report is an exercise in double-dealing misdirection, 12/4/07*

Demanding that a country meets all your conditions before you meet with them—that is not a strategy. It is just naïve, wishful thinking.

—Barack Obama, quoted by Mark Murray, *Obama Fires Back at McCain, MSNBC's First Read, 5/19/08*

There's no reason why we would necessarily meet with Ahmadinejad before we know that he was actually in power. He's not the most powerful person in Iran.

—Barack Obama, quoted by Ben Smith, *Obama's Meetings, Politico's Ben Smith Blog, 5/27/08*

There will be careful preparation. We will open up lines of communication, build an agenda, coordinate closely with our allies, and evaluate the potential for progress. Contrary to the claims of some, I have no interest in sitting down with our adversaries just for the sake of talking. But as President of the United States, I would be willing to lead tough and principled diplomacy with the appropriate Iranian leader at a time and place of my choosing—if, and only if it can advance the interests of the United States.

—Barack Obama, Remarks to American Israel Political Action Committee, 6/4/08

Supports direct diplomacy in response to Iran's missile tests

These missile tests demonstrate once again that we need to change our policy to deal aggressively with the threat posed by the Iranian regime. Through its nuclear program, missile capability, meddling in Iraq, support for terrorism, and threats against Israel, Iran now poses the greatest strategic challenge to the United States in the region in a generation. Now is the time to work with our friends and allies, and to pursue direct and aggressive diplomacy with the Iranian regime backed by tougher unilateral and multilateral sanctions. It's time to offer the Iranians a clear choice between increased costs for continuing

their troubling behavior, and concrete incentives that would come if they change course.

—Barack Obama, *Obama Camp Statement on Iran Missile Test, Time's The Page, 7/9/08*

Opposed Kyl-Lieberman Amendment, but supports declaring Iran Revolutionary Guard Corps a terrorist organization

Why is this so dangerous? The Bush administration could use language like this to justify a continued troop presence in Iraq as long as it perceives a threat from Iran. Even worse, the Bush administration could use the language in Lieberman-Kyl to

justify an attack on Iran as a part of the ongoing war in Iraq.

—Barack Obama, *Five Years After Iraq War Vote, We're Still Foolishly Rattling Our Sabers, New Hampshire Union-Leader, 10/11/07*

Obama cosponsored an earlier bill that also called for designating the IRGC as a terrorist organization; the Kyl-Lieberman amendment did more than just label the IRGC terrorists. Obama stated at the time that he opposed the bill on the grounds that it constituted "saber-rattling."

—FactCheck.org, *Soft on Iran, 6/5/08*

Source: FCNL, 245 Second St, NE, Washington, DC 20002 800-630-1330 www.fcnl.org



Contact Your Reps

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Greener Patios

For many people, summer is the time to take the cooking and parties outdoors. If you want to create the perfect patio environment, keep the natural environment in mind as well; by choosing products that conserve resources and minimize pollution, you can enjoy your outdoor surroundings while also preserving them. Here are some ideas:

Building material

* For ground-based patios, choose bricks or paving stones; compared with poured concrete they allow better water drainage, minimizing storm runoff, and are easier to replace if damaged.

* If you're buying lumber for a deck, look for labels that indicate the wood comes from sustainably managed forests. Or, consider composite lumber made from recycled plastic and wood wastes. Avoid pressure-treated

wood if possible, as it is treated with chemicals that can leach into local water supplies.

Furniture

* Consider the lifespan of the furniture you purchase. Durable, well-made products will last longer, avoiding the need for frequent replacement. In addition, some materials (such as metal) will likely survive the elements far longer than wood. Buying used furniture, or furniture made from recycled materials, is another good option as it keeps materials out of the waste stream.

* If you are considering new wood furniture, look for products made from reclaimed or FSC-certified wood.

Grills

* If you are shopping for a new grill, consider a propane-fired model. According to the

Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory, propane generates about half the carbon emissions of charcoal briquettes per hour of grilling, and one-third the emissions of electric grills (the emissions for which are generated at power plants). Charcoal also generates particulate matter (soot) that pollutes the air and can aggravate respiratory problems.

* Already own a charcoal grill or prefer the taste that charcoal imparts to your food? Lower your impact by choosing lump charcoal harvested from sustainably managed forests. Avoid charcoal briquettes if possible, as they may contain coal dust or other additives as binders. (If you use briquettes, be sure to dispose of the ash in the garbage instead of scattering it outside, where trace elements in the ash can harm plants.)

* Whether you use lump charcoal or briquettes, light up your grill with a chimney starter instead of lighter fluid. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that the 46,200 tons of lighter fluid used per year in the United States produces approximately 14,500 tons of smog-forming pollution.

Lighting

* When the sun goes down, turn to compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) for floodlights and outdoor fixtures. CFLs use about 75 percent less energy than incandescents to provide the same amount of light, and last longer, too.

* If you use string lights around your patio, look for LED (light-emitting diode) versions, which use less energy than mini twinkle lights.

Insect Control

* Eliminate areas of standing water around your home (such as birdbaths, puddles, or gutters), which are prime breeding locations for mosquitoes. If you maintain a birdbath or fish pond in your yard, be sure to change the water frequently or use a pump to keep the water circulating.

* Avoid using electric or propane-fueled bug traps, which contribute to global warming. Instead, consider natural alternatives to repelling pests such as burning citronella candles or surrounding your patio with plants that repel insects (such as marigolds or geraniums).

Source: *Greentips—Union of Concerned Scientists 7/16/08 release www.ucsaction.org*

Water battles in Sacramento

Early July, Governor Schwarzenegger and California Senator Diane Feinstein unveiled yet another iteration of a multi-billion dollar water bond, and urged the legislature to take action to place the water bond on the November 2008 ballot.

This new \$9.2 billion proposal was presented as a "compromise." Indeed, their proposal is \$2.6 billion less than the Governor's last proposal. However, this latest proposal still contains many of the most controversial elements of previous failed attempts to put together a water bond.

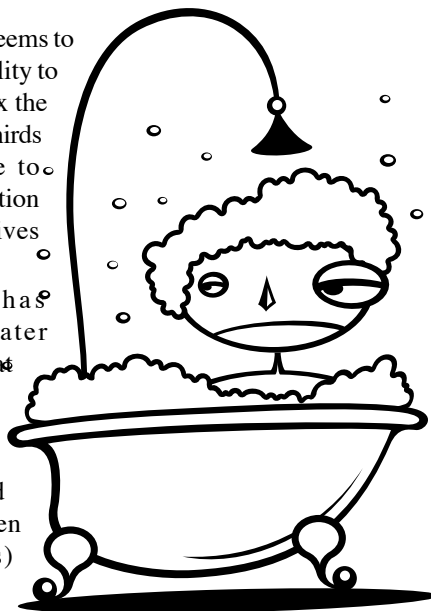
Most notably, the measure includes provisions that would limit future legislative oversight for water storage projects and projects affecting the Bay Delta, including the unprecedented continuous appropriation of \$3 billion for water storage projects. If approved, the water bond would bypass the legislature and grant allocation authority to the defunct California Water Commission (which is a commission entirely appointed by the Governor and which currently has no appointed members).

The proposal also includes

confusing language that seems to limit the Legislature's ability to engage in a solution to fix the Delta by requiring a two-thirds vote of the Legislature to change or amend any portion of the proposal's directives regarding the Delta.

The Legislature has responded with a water package of its own that does not include a new water bond. President pro Tempore Don Perata (D-Oakland) and Assembly Speaker Karen Bass (D-Los Angeles) announced Monday they will push a two-bill package including SB 1XX which would allocate existing funding to improve water storage and enhance water reliability, and AB 2175 (Laird/Feuer) which would establish requirements to reduce per capita water use in the state by 20% by 2020.

While the jury is still out on Governor Schwarzenegger and Senator Feinstein's proposal, the Planning and Conservation League, as well as several other environmental, fishing



and environmental justice organizations support the legislative package proposed by Senator Perata and Assemblywoman Bass. Both SB 1XX and AB 2175 provide timely solutions to ease the water challenges facing California.

Source: *PCL Insider for 7/16/08 Planning and Conservation League, 1107 9th Street, Suite 360, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 444-8726, www.pcl.org*

State budget fight

Dems tax the rich, GOP have no answer

The June 15th constitutional deadline to pass a budget has come and gone. The new fiscal year for California started on July 1st, two weeks ago, but still we have no decision on how the state is going to pay its bills, and on exactly what programs will be cut, and how much. Now, with predictions that the state will run out of cash in September, the Democrats in the State Legislature showed their hand in the budget poker game with a proposed \$9.7 billion tax increase aimed at closing in on this year's deficit gap.

In an attempt to save important programs such as public transportation and to continue funding air and water quality measures, Democratic lawmakers have proposed new policies to generate much needed new revenue. One major revenue proposal includes creating two new tax brackets for households earning over \$321,000 or a joint income of \$642,000. This plan is similar to proposals enacted under

former-Governor Wilson that have subsequently been rolled back. The second major proposal generates new revenue by closing a tax loophole over the next three years that allowed big businesses to deduct net operating losses.

Republicans in the Legislature have drawn a line in the sand and are vowing to block any budget with tax increases. Passing a budget requires a 2/3 majority vote in both the Assembly and the Senate, meaning that at least some Republican votes are needed for final passage. Therefore, this new Democratic proposal faces a tough fight on the floor in both houses and will most likely result in returning to the negotiations table. California will remain the nation's leader (now two years running) for being the last state with a July 1 fiscal deadline to pass the budget.

Source: *PCL Insider for 7/16/08 Planning and Conservation League, 1107 9th Street, Suite 360, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 444-8726, www.pcl.org*

Feds move on endangered smelt as Delta ecosystem collapses

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service made a positive initial finding on a petition to change the status of the critically imperiled delta smelt from threatened to endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act. The Bay Institute, Center for Biological Diversity, and Natural Resources Defense Council petitioned the Service in 2006 requesting a change in the federal listing. The finding is 25 months late; a final listing determination is 13 months overdue.

"We're seeing a cascading series of crashing Delta fish populations—Delta smelt, longfin smelt, chinook salmon, steelhead trout, green sturgeon, Sacramento splittail, striped bass—the warning bells are ringing loud and clear," said Jeff Miller with the Center for Biological Diversity. "The ecological collapse of the Delta threatens more than just our native fish: millions of people depend on the Delta for drinking water, agriculture, and fishing."

Delta smelt are an indicator of the health of the San Francisco Bay-Delta ecosystem, and the smelt population has plummeted since 1993 when it was listed as threatened. Smelt abundance this summer is the fourth lowest on record since surveys began in 1959. Federal and state agencies have allowed record levels of water diversions from the Delta in recent years, leaving insufficient

fresh water to sustain native fish and the Delta ecosystem.

"The governor's proposal to build more dams, as well as regulatory efforts to continue to allow record freshwater diversions from the Delta when most of our native fish species are struggling to survive, makes no sense," said Miller. "The state and federal water projects need to change their operations to eliminate reverse flows in Delta channels and prevent further losses of fish at the pumps."

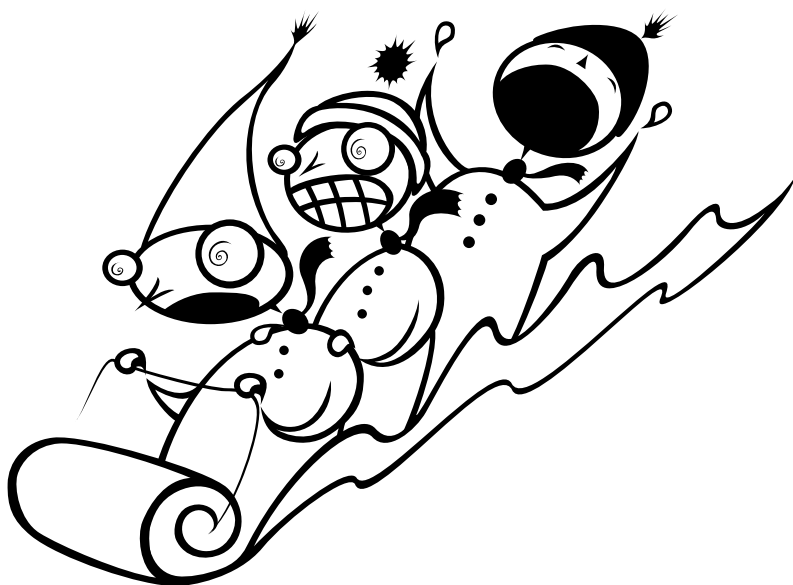
In 2007 an Alameda county court ruled that the California Department of Water Resources had been illegally pumping water out of the Delta without a permit to kill smelt and other fish species listed under the California Endangered Species Act; a federal court also rejected a federal "biological opinion"—allowing high water exports and ordered reduced Delta pumping. This spring a Federal judge invalidated a water plan that would have allowed more pumping from the San Francisco Bay-Delta at the expense of five species of protected salmon and steelhead trout, and federal fisheries managers cancelled this year's salmon fishing season because of a record decline in spawning fish. The Fish and Wildlife Service is preparing a new biological opinion for the operation of the Delta pumps, expected in September.

Summer trawl surveys conducted by the state show the Delta smelt population has recently collapsed and is near extinction. The four years of lowest smelt abundance on record have been from 2005 to 2008; abundance is an order of magnitude smaller than in the early 1990s. The Delta Smelt Working Group, state and federal agency biologists, declared in 2007 that Delta smelt are "critically imperiled"—and that an "emergency response" is warranted.

The conservation groups also petitioned the California Fish and Game Commission in 2007 requesting a change in the state listing for Delta smelt from threatened to endangered under the California Endangered Species Act. In June 2007 the Commission designated the delta smelt as a candidate for uplisting from threatened to endangered species status.

A change in the Delta smelt's federal and state status to endangered is necessary to compel fisheries agencies to protect the species. Delta smelt have been on the brink of collapse for the past four years, and specific management and recovery actions recommended by scientists have not been implemented by the agencies responsible for protecting this endangered species.

Source: Center for Biological Diversity release 7/11/08, <http://www.biologidiversity.org>



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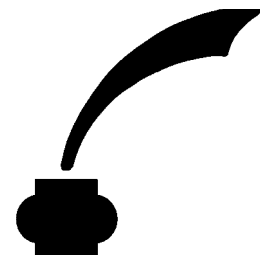
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Gore's challenge: energy independence *(continued from page 1)*

to me that all these problems are bigger than any of the solutions that have thus far been proposed for them, and that's been worrying me.

I'm convinced that one reason we've seemed paralyzed in the face of these crises is our tendency to offer old solutions to each crisis separately—without taking the others into account. And these outdated proposals have not only been ineffective—they almost always make the other crises even worse.

The common thread

Yet when we look at all three of these seemingly intractable challenges at the same time, we can see the common thread running through them, deeply ironic in its simplicity: our dangerous over-reliance on carbon-based fuels is at the core of all three of these challenges—the economic, environmental and national security crises.

We're borrowing money from China to buy oil from the Persian Gulf to burn it in ways that destroy the planet. Every bit of that's got to change.

But if we grab hold of that common thread and pull it hard, all of these complex problems begin to unravel and we will find that we're holding the answer to all of them right in our hand. The answer is to end our reliance on carbon-based fuels.

In my search for genuinely effective answers to the climate crisis, I have held a series of "solutions summits" with engineers, scientists, and CEOs. In those discussions, one thing has become abundantly clear: when you connect the dots, it turns out that the real solutions to the climate crisis are the very same measures needed to renew our economy and escape the trap of ever-rising energy prices. Moreover, they are also the very same solutions we need to guarantee our national security without having to go to war in the Persian Gulf.

What if we could use fuels that are not expensive, don't cause pollution and are abundantly available right here at home?

We have such fuels. Scientists have confirmed that enough solar energy falls on the surface of the earth every 40 minutes to meet 100 percent of the entire world's energy

needs for a full year. Tapping just a small portion of this solar energy could provide all of the electricity America uses.

And enough wind power blows through the Midwest corridor every day to also meet 100 percent of US electricity demand. Geothermal energy, similarly, is capable of providing enormous supplies of electricity for America.

The quickest, cheapest and best way to start using all this renewable energy is in the production of electricity. In fact, we can start right now using solar power, wind power and geothermal power to make electricity for our homes and businesses.

But to make this exciting potential a reality, and truly solve our nation's problems, we need a new start.

That's why I'm proposing today a strategic initiative designed to free us from the crises that are holding us down and to regain control of our own destiny. It's not the only thing we need to do. But this strategic challenge is the lynchpin of a bold new strategy needed to re-power America.

The challenge

Today I challenge our nation to commit to producing 100 percent of our electricity from renewable energy and truly clean carbon-free sources within 10 years.

This goal is achievable, affordable and transformative. It represents a challenge to all Americans—in every walk of life: to our political leaders, entrepreneurs, innovators, engineers, and to every citizen.

A few years ago, it would not have been possible to issue such a challenge. But here's what's changed: the sharp cost reductions now beginning to take place in solar, wind, and geothermal power—coupled with the recent dramatic price increases for oil and coal—have radically changed the economics of energy.

When I first went to Congress 32 years ago, I listened to experts testify that if oil ever got to \$35 a

barrel, then renewable sources of energy would become competitive. Well, today, the price of oil is over \$135 per barrel. And sure enough, billions of dollars of new investment are flowing into the development of concentrated solar thermal, photovoltaics, windmills, geothermal plants, and a variety of ingenious new ways to improve our efficiency and conserve presently wasted energy.

And as the demand for renewable energy grows, the costs will continue to fall. Let me give you one revealing example: the price of the specialized silicon used to make solar cells was recently as high as \$300 per kilogram. But the newest contracts have prices as low as \$50 a kilogram.

You know, the same thing happened with computer chips—also made out of silicon. The price paid for the same performance came down by 50 percent every 18 months—year after year, and that's what's happened for 40 years in a row.

To those who argue that we do not yet have the technology to accomplish these results with renewable energy: I ask them to come with me to meet the entrepreneurs who will drive this revolution. I've seen what they are doing and I have no doubt that we can meet this challenge.

To those who say the costs are still too high: I ask them to consider whether the costs of oil and coal will ever stop increasing if we keep relying on quickly depleting energy sources to feed a rapidly growing demand all around the world. When demand for oil and coal increases, their price goes up. When demand for solar cells increases, the price often comes down.

When we send money to foreign countries to buy nearly 70 percent of the oil we use every day, they build new skyscrapers and we lose jobs. When we spend that money building solar arrays and windmills, we build competitive industries and gain jobs here at home.

(continued next page)



Gore's challenge *(continued from previous page)*

Of course there are those who will tell us this can't be done. Some of the voices we hear are the defenders of the status quo—the ones with a vested interest in perpetuating the current system, no matter how high a price the rest of us will have to pay. But even those who reap the profits of the carbon age have to recognize the inevitability of its demise. As one OPEC oil minister observed, "The Stone Age didn't end because of a shortage of stones."

To those who say 10 years is not enough time, I respectfully ask them to consider what the world's scientists are telling us about the risks we face if we don't act in 10 years. The leading experts predict that we have less than 10 years to make dramatic changes in our global warming pollution lest we lose our ability to ever recover from this environmental crisis. When the use of oil and coal goes up, pollution goes up. When the use of solar, wind and geothermal increases, pollution comes down.

To those who say the challenge is not politically viable: I suggest they go before the American people and try to defend the status quo. Then bear witness to the people's appetite for change.

I for one do not believe our country can withstand 10 more years of the status quo. Our families cannot stand 10 more years of gas price increases. Our workers cannot stand 10 more years of job losses and outsourcing of factories. Our economy cannot stand 10 more years of sending \$2 billion every 24 hours to foreign countries for oil. And our soldiers and their families cannot take another 10 years of repeated troop deployments to dangerous regions that just happen to have large oil supplies.

What could we do instead for the next 10 years? What should we do during the next 10 years? Some of our greatest accomplishments as a nation have resulted from commitments to reach a goal that fell well beyond the next election: the Marshall Plan, Social Security, the interstate highway system. But a political promise to do something 40 years from now is universally ignored because everyone knows that it's meaningless. Ten years is about the maximum time that we as a nation can hold a steady aim and hit our target.

The plan

When President John F. Kennedy challenged our nation to land a man on the moon and bring him back safely in 10 years, many people doubted we could accomplish that goal. But 8 years and 2 months later, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the surface of the moon.

To be sure, reaching the goal of 100 percent renewable and truly clean electricity within 10 years will require us to overcome many obstacles. At present, for example, we do not have a unified national grid that is sufficiently advanced to link the areas where the sun shines and the wind blows to the cities in the East and the West that need the electricity. Our national electric grid is critical infrastructure, as vital to the health and security of our economy as our highways and telecommunication networks. Today, our grids are antiquated, fragile, and vulnerable to cascading failure. Power outages and defects in the current grid system cost US businesses more than \$120 billion a year. It has to be upgraded anyway.

We could further increase the value and efficiency of a Unified National Grid by helping our struggling auto giants switch to the manufacture of plug-in electric cars. An electric vehicle fleet would sharply reduce the cost of driving a car, reduce pollution, and increase the flexibility of our electricity grid.

At the same time, of course, we need to greatly improve our commitment to efficiency and conservation. That's the best investment we can make.

America's transition to renewable energy sources must also include adequate provisions to assist those Americans who would unfairly face hardship. For example, we must recognize those who have toiled in dangerous conditions to bring us our present energy supply. We should guarantee good jobs in the fresh air and sunshine for any coal miner displaced by impacts on the coal industry. Every single one of them.

Of course, we could and should speed up this transition by insisting that the price of carbon-based energy include the costs of the environmental damage it causes. I have long supported a sharp reduction in payroll taxes with the

difference made up in CO2 taxes. We should tax what we burn, not what we earn. This is the single most important policy change we can make.

In order to foster international cooperation, it is also essential that the United States rejoin the global community and lead efforts to secure an international treaty at Copenhagen in December of next year that includes a cap on CO2 emissions and a global partnership that recognizes the necessity of addressing the threats of extreme poverty and disease as part of the world's agenda for solving the climate crisis.

Of course the greatest obstacle to meeting the challenge of 100 percent renewable electricity in 10 years may be the deep dysfunction of our politics and our self-governing system as it exists today. In recent years, our politics has tended toward incremental proposals made up of small policies designed to avoid offending special interests, alternating with occasional baby steps in the right direction. Our democracy has become sclerotic at a time when these crises require boldness.

It is only a truly dysfunctional system that would buy into the perverse logic that the short-term answer to high gasoline prices is drilling for more oil ten years from now.

Am I the only one who finds it strange that our government so often adopts a so-called solution that has absolutely nothing to do with the problem it is supposed to address? When people rightly complain about higher gasoline prices, we propose to give more money to the oil companies and pretend that they're going to bring gasoline prices down. It will do nothing of the sort, and everyone knows it.

If we keep going back to the same policies that have never ever worked in the past and have served only to produce the highest gasoline prices in history alongside the greatest oil company profits in history, nobody should be surprised if we get the same result over and over again. But the Congress may be poised to move in that direction anyway because some of them are being stampeded by lobbyists for special interests that know how to make the system work for them

We should guarantee good jobs for any coal miner displaced by impacts on the coal industry.

instead of the American people.

If you want to know the truth about gasoline prices, here it is: the exploding demand for oil, especially in places like China, is overwhelming the rate of new discoveries by so much that oil prices are almost certain to continue upward over time no matter what the oil companies promise. And politicians cannot bring gasoline prices down in the short term.

However, there actually is one extremely effective way to bring the costs of driving a car way down within a few short years. The way to bring gas prices down is to end our dependence on oil and use the renewable sources that can give us the equivalent of \$1 per gallon gasoline.

Many Americans have begun to wonder whether or not we've simply lost our appetite for bold policy solutions. And folks who claim to know how our system works these days have told us we might as well forget about our political system doing anything bold, especially if it is contrary to the wishes of special interests. And I've got to admit, that sure seems to be the way things have been going. But I've begun to hear different voices in this country from people who are not only tired of baby steps and special interest politics, but are hungry for a new, different and bold approach.

The choice

We are on the eve of a presidential election. We are in the midst of an international climate treaty process that will conclude its work before the end of the first year of the new president's term. It is a great error to say that the United States must wait for others to join us in this matter. In fact, we must move first, because that is the key to getting others to follow; and because moving first is in our own national interest.

So I ask you to join with me to call on every candidate, at every level, to accept this challenge—for America to be running on 100 percent zero-carbon electricity in

10 years. It's time for us to move beyond empty rhetoric. We need to act now.

This is a generational moment. A moment when we decide our own path and our collective fate. I'm asking you—each of you—to join me and build this future. Please join the WE campaign at wecansolveit.org. We need you. And we need you now. We're committed to changing not just light bulbs, but laws. And laws will only change with leadership.

On July 16, 1969, the United States of America was finally ready to meet President Kennedy's challenge of landing Americans on the moon. I will never forget standing beside my father a few miles from the launch site, waiting for the giant Saturn 5 rocket to lift Apollo 11 into the sky. I was a young man, 21 years old, who had graduated from college a month before and was enlisting in the United States Army three weeks later.

I will never forget the inspiration of those minutes. The power and the vibration of the giant rocket's engines shook my entire body. As I watched the rocket rise, slowly at first and then with great speed, the sound was deafening. We craned our necks to follow its path until we were looking straight up into the air. And then four days later, I watched along with hundreds of millions of others around the world as Neil Armstrong took one small step to the surface of the moon and changed the history of the human race.

We must now lift our nation to reach another goal that will change history. Our entire civilization depends upon us now embarking on a new journey of exploration and discovery. Our success depends on our willingness as a people to undertake this journey and to complete it within 10 years. Once again, we have an opportunity to take a giant leap for humankind.

ACTION: Visit www.wecansolveit.org and get involved.

Committing poetry

The award winning Independent Film Committing Poetry in Times of War, the 2007 Poetry Film of the Year, is being distributed across the U.S. and around the world. Recipient of the the Best Human Rights Award at the Taos Mountain Film Festival, Committing Poetry is a poetic glance at events that came to define the struggle of a nation at war abroad and with its people.

Committing Poetry in Times of War features a host of poets and musicians captured from 2003 to 2005 in Poetic Justice events, that the media has described as providing great insights into the human dilemma and our human potential.



10 more years

US to use cluster bombs

The Pentagon announced Monday that the U.S. military would continue to use and export even the most unreliable cluster bombs over the next decade. This policy decision comes shortly after 111 countries, including major NATO allies, agreed to a global treaty banning cluster bombs.

The new policy states that the United States will not impose restrictions on the use or export of cluster bombs, including those with high failure rates, until 2018. The announcement drew heavy criticism from human rights groups because of the danger that unexploded cluster munitions pose to civilians.

"Washington's cluster bomb policy is way too little, way too late," said Steve Goose, director of the arms division at Human Rights Watch, and member of the U.S. Campaign to Ban Landmines (USCBL) <<http://www.uscbl.org>> steering committee. "Most key U.S. allies have already rejected cluster munitions because innocent civilians are killed and maimed, not only when the weapons are used but also months and years after that. Knowing this, how in good conscience can the U.S. wait 10 years to accept a lesser standard?"

Cluster bombs are large weapons containing dozens or hundreds of smaller submunitions that have a long track record of harming more civilians than combatants. Two features of this weapon led the international community to ban its usage. First, their wide-area coverage kills and injures civilians who are present during military strikes. Second, many submunitions do not explode, becoming de facto landmines that cause civilian casualties for months or years to come.

The United States is the leading known user, producer, stockpiler, and exporter of cluster munitions. The U.S. government did not join in global negotiations that took place in May 2008 to ban cluster munitions, nor in any of the preparatory meetings. "The U.S. Campaign to Ban Landmines urges the United States government to declare now that it will sign the global cluster munitions treaty when it opens for signature in December 2008," said Lora Lumpe, USCBL coordinator and legislative representative at the Friends Committee on National Legislation.

She added that the new Pentagon policy represents a step backwards in that it seeks to reverse the

prohibition on exports of cluster bombs passed by Congress and signed into law by President Bush last year.

"Congress should make the cluster bomb export ban permanent and reign in cluster bomb use by passing the Cluster Munitions Civilian Protection Act," said Lumpe.

Last year, Senators Dianne Feinstein (CA) and Patrick Leahy (VT) introduced the Cluster Munitions Civilian Protection Act (S. 594), which would ban use and export of all but the most reliable cluster bombs. The bill currently has 21 co-sponsors in the Senate. The Pope, Bishop Desmond Tutu, the International Committee of the Red Cross, UNICEF, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Christian relief group World Vision, among others, have joined in condemning the use of these indiscriminate weapons.

Learn more about cluster bombs at www.banclusterbombs.org <<http://www.banclusterbombs.org>>, at the Human Rights Watch <http://www.hrw.org/doc/?t=arms_clusterbombs> website and at the U.S. Campaign to Ban Landmines <<http://www.uscbl.org/>>.

Source: FCNL 7/8/08 release, 245 Second St, NE, Washington, DC 20002. 800-630-1330 www.fcnl.org

Bush exam

Dave Waldon

Taken from a tragic play soon to be closing, none too soon.

The scene: A well equipped medical room in the White House.

The players: President Bush and his Doctor

Potus: This damn knee's causin' me some frightful misery Doc.

Doctor: Let's take a look at the results of your MRI George. (an extended period of silence)

Potus: C'mon Doc give me the news; I can take it.

Doctor: Well George, it looks like it's gonna need surgery. It's a complicated and expensive procedure.

Potus: Hell Doc, I'm not worried about that. I got insurance.

Doctor: That's good George. I wish everyone in America could say that.

Potus: Well, my Daddy used to tell me the story 'bout Horatio Algeirs.

Doctor: That's Alger sir.

Potus: Who's tellin' this story, boy?

Doctor: Sorry sir.

Potus: Anyway's... where was I at?, Oh yeah, this feller Algeirs said to pull up your bootstraps and go west young man.

Doctor: Wasn't that Horace Greeley, sir?

Potus: How'd you like to be workin' the night shift in a El Paso low-

income health clinic?

Doctor: I'd rather not sir.

Potus: Hush up then and listen. Like Dick Tracy said, A man's got to know his limitations and...

Doctor: Didn't Dirty Harry say

Potus: You're sorely temptin' me boy. You know what I'm like when I go off my axis.

Doctor: I do sir

Potus: Then let me finish my story. As I was a tellin' you, if Americans work hard, thank the Lord and trust in me, they'll get what's comin' to em.

Doctor: That's what I'm afraid of.

Potus: You're gonna luuuve El Paso.

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Grand inquest into Bush's high crimes needed to stop imperial presidency

Robert Borosage

One of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's first acts upon taking the gavel was to rule impeachment off the table. She wanted Democrats to focus on challenging the president on the war and on kitchen table concerns—from energy to education to health care. With Democrats now enjoying an increasing margin in generic polls and looking towards gaining seats in both the House and the Senate, the strategy certainly hasn't hurt politically.

But the constitutional implications are far more disturbing. This was dramatized as the Congress debated the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) reform legislation that will provide retroactive immunity to the telecommunications companies for warrantless interception of the conversations of Americans—and by implication, retroactive acceptance of the president's authority to order such wiretaps.

We have witnessed a staggering

abuse of power by President Bush. Even former Bush Justice Department officials now charge him with trampling the Constitution. Bush has claimed the prerogative to declare an endless war without congressional approval, to designate someone an enemy without cause, to proceed to wiretap them without warrant, arrest or kidnap them at will, jail them without a hearing, hold them indefinitely, interrogate them intensively (read torture), bring them to trial outside the U.S. court system. He claims that executive privilege exempts his aides—even the aides of his aides and his vice president's aides—from congressional investigation. He claims the right to amend or negate congressional laws with a statement upon signing them. And much more.

Even this Supreme Court, stacked with activist right-wing judges enamored of executive national security powers, has rebuked the president on some of these claims, particularly

around the treatment of alleged enemy combatants. But many of Bush's claims will escape judicial determination.

And there is the rub. According to the leading case on presidential powers, if Bush's extreme assertions of power are not challenged by the Congress, they end up not simply creating new law, they could end up rewriting the Constitution itself. Inaction can alter the Constitutional division of powers by establishing the president's claims as authority that the Congress or the courts may not infringe.

The Steel Seizure case—Youngstown Sheet and Tube v Sawyer, 343 U.S. 579 (1952), remains the leading case on presidential power. In Youngstown, a six-member majority of the Court joined in overturning President Truman's executive order nationalizing the steel plants to end a strike during the Korean War. Justice Black wrote the opinion for the Court, but the historically influential opinions were penned by Justices Robert H. Jackson and

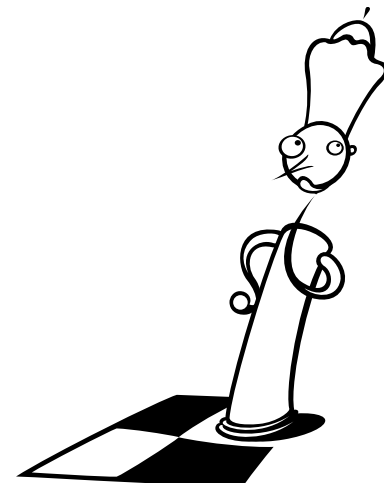
Felix Frankfurter, both Democratic appointees. Frankfurter laid out the argument for a sort of common law of constitutional amendment:

Deeply embedded traditional ways of conducting government cannot supplant the Constitution or legislation, but they give meaning to the words of a text or supply them. It is an inadmissibly narrow conception of American constitutional law to confine it to the words of the Constitution and to disregard the gloss which life has written upon them. In short, a systematic, unbroken, executive practice, long pursued to the knowledge of the Congress and never before questioned, engaged in by Presidents who have also sworn to uphold the Constitution, making as it were such exercise of power part [343 U.S. 579, 611] of the structure of our government, may be treated as a gloss on "executive Power" vested in the President by 1 of Art. II.

In Youngstown, Jackson concurred, arguing that the president's powers vary as to whether he acts with congressional authority (his greatest power), in the absence of it, or in opposition to it:

When the president acts in absence of either a congressional grant or denial of authority, he can only rely upon his own independent powers, but there is a zone of twilight in which he and Congress may have concurrent authority, or in which its distribution is uncertain. Therefore, congressional inertia, indifference or quiescence may sometimes, at least as a practical matter, enable, if not invite, measures on independent presidential responsibility. In this area, any actual test of power is likely to depend on the imperatives of events and contemporary imponderables rather than on abstract theories of law.

When a president egregiously abuses his power—particularly in areas relating to the rights of American citizens—remedies are often difficult. The Supreme Court is reluctant to arbitrate a power struggle between two co-equal branches. That is why the Constitution prescribes the specific



remedy of impeachment for crimes and abuses of power—"high crimes and misdemeanors"—and empowers the House and Senate to sit in judgment whether the actions are to be accepted or condemned.

What the Court said in Youngstown is that if presidents assert a prerogative, such the power to make war without a congressional declaration—systematically, with unbroken regularity, with the knowledge of the Congress and are never questioned—then that practice becomes a Constitutional power that cannot be infringed upon by the Congress or the Courts.

Thus, Congress must formally object to President Bush's abuses or it risks by "indifference or quiescence" contributing to the powers of our imperial presidency.

When Pelosi took impeachment off the table, impeachment was reduced to being a rhetorical protest vehicle for progressives like Dennis Kucinich or Russ Feingold. But Congress need not convict President Bush to impeach him for high crimes and misdemeanors. And arguably, the House need not even impeach the president to hold a grand inquest into the powers that he has claimed, registering a formal objection to them. The Judiciary Committee in the House should formally convene that inquest, no matter what the decision is on impeachment. For if Pelosi's sensible political judgment results, as it has to date, in a show of congressional "inertia, indifference or quiescence," the Democratic majority in Congress may have gained a dozen seats at the cost of relinquishing its own powers, and putting the rights of Americans at risk.

Source: *The Campaign for America's Future* 6/25/08, <http://www.ourfuture.org>,

Chewin' it with the Pres

Dave Waldon

The setting: A hastily called press conference during which President Bush answers questions about the decision to remove North Korea from the sanctions list.

Potus: Thanks to all of you for comin' today. I'd like to get started right away. I'm in the middle of a good movie. (The President is smiling). Yeah, it's

about this feller' who goes back to the days of Guinevere and Lancelot. It's called "A Connecticut Yankee in King George's Court."

Reporter: Isn't that King Arthur's Court Mr. President?

Potus: You seen it too huh! I cried when Robin Hood pulled that sword from the stone.

Reporter: Uh, ...yeah. Um, Mr. President about North Korea. I

was wondering why the decision was made to remove them from the sanctions list.

Potus: Well, after I brushed my teeth this morning, Laura always makes sure I brush my teeth, I just decided it was time to give the little feller' a break over there.

Reporter: Little feller sir? Do you mean North Korean President Kim Jong Il?

Potus: One and the same. Yessir, that's him allright.

Reporter: I thought the North Koreans were part of an axis of evil, Sir.

Potus: Well, I'm the decider and I just decided to make a decision. You know, speaking of evil, I remember seeing Evil Kneivel jump his motorcycle over the Astrodome. Me and Laura was sittin' at the fifty yard line of a Rangers game and, you good people remember I used to own the Texas Astros don't ya?

Reporter: Do you mean the Texas Rangers sir?

Potus: Rangers, Astros, I mean, don't make no difference when Nolan Ryan is quarterback. Anyhow we're a sittin' there and all of a sudden whoosh! There goes Evil a flyin' over our heads. Though I gotta say, just tween' you me and the fencepost, I always kinda hated that name a his. Not too Christian, know what I mean.

Reporter: Sir, we were discussing your position on North Korea and

Potus: North Korea's in the same position it's always been. (a broad grin expands across the President's face) right next to South Korea.

Reporter: Perhaps we should try this a bit later sir.

Potus: That's what I was a thinkin'. Laura honey, did ya'll find that bag a pretzels?

Join Earthdance International 2008

This is a call for organizers: put your location on the Earthdance Map! In 2007, 340 events in 60 countries united around the world (including the virtual world) to celebrate the Prayer for Peace and support humanitarian causes. Were you participating?

Now is a good time to register to hold an Earthdance event of your own for the 2008 celebration, and at the appropriate time join in the Prayer for Peace. Earthdance international theme is "Honoring the Earth", with a focus on saving the forests and the preservation of pristine wilderness zones. We will also continue the success of last year's "Global Om" by uniting our voices once again with a synchronized global "Ma",

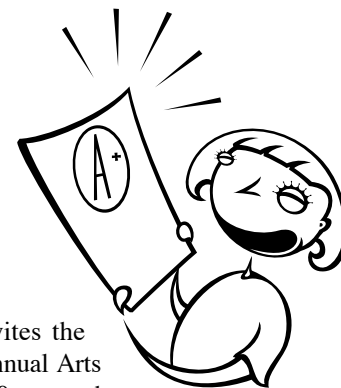
(pronounced MAAAH) which will follow the global prayer for peace link up. If you are interested in promoting either a private or public event, contact Earthdance at www.earthdance.org.

Spotlighting what can happen at these events, the following describes Earthdance Sao Paulo, Brazil, attended by 1,200 on 9/15/07: "Earthdance São Paulo was a beautiful two day event focused on ecologic consciousness, peace and respect over differences. The global focus 'Water' permitted us make a good work on the theme, giving space to a local NGO dedicated to reforestation of damaged areas and fair use of natural resources. There also was native tree seeds distribution and

a recycling programme involving local cooperatives. The state water treatment company joined the whole initiative and showed us lots of support.

The 'Prayer For Peace' was by far the most powerful moment—around a very touching artistic performance with glowing light, the initial big circle naturally transformed itself into a moving spiral of people with their hands joined. A strong, dense and meaningful moment, that made people cry of joy and happiness—something very different from everything that happens nowadays in the electronic music scene in Brazil. —Earthdance São Paulo www.earthdance.org/saopaulo

Arts Commission announces 2008 awards recipients



The Stockton Arts Commission invites the community to join them at the 31st Annual Arts Awards Celebration on October 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bob Hope Theatre. This year's awards recipients include: Richard Rios, STAR Award, Bill Humphreys, Career Achievement and John and Pat Quinn of Food 4 Less/San Miguel Markets will receive the Patron Award. Outstanding Achievement Awards will be presented to Bobbie Wallinger for arts education and David Humphreys for the literary arts. The Tidewater Art Center and Gallery is this year's recipient of the Mayor's Award.

The celebration will also feature performances by many of the community's finest artists and a juried art exhibition coordinated by the Tidewater Gallery. Downtown restaurants will provide samples of their specialties and wine tasting will be provided by Delicato Vineyards.

Tickets are \$15 (students), \$25 (rear orchestra and balcony), \$35 (orchestra) and will be available after September 1 at the Bob Hope Theatre box office at 209-337-4673 or on-line at www.bobhopetheatre.org. For additional information contact the Stockton Arts Commission at 209-937-7488.

Become a PEACE PAL!

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

Monthly Giving Enrollment Form

Name: _____

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

Here is my monthly pledge contribution of:

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

I prefer to donate by one of the following methods:

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

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

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

Stockton Arts Commission: awards celebration call for artists



The Stockton Arts Commission, in collaboration the Tidewater Art Center and Gallery, has issued a call for artists for an exhibition at the 31st Annual Arts Awards Celebration. The event, which honors community individuals, organizations and businesses that have made significant contributions to the arts, will be held on October 17, 2008 at the Hope Theatre. It is also an opportunity to honor Stockton's performing and visual artists.

Original work of any medium may be submitted for consideration with no jury fee required. Exhibition criteria and application information can be downloaded at www.stocktongov.org/arts or by calling the Stockton Arts Commission at 209-937-7488.

The Tidewater, located at 223 E. Weber Ave in downtown Stockton, will accept entries on October 3, 4 or 6 between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. No additional drop-off times will be available. Accepted artists will be notified on October 7 or 8. Others are asked to pick up their submissions by 5 p.m. on October 24. Artists featured in the exhibit will receive two tickets to the arts awards celebration and a listing in the program. Pieces may be priced for sale with a commission going to the Tidewater.

Peace and Justice Network



of San Joaquin County

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August/September Calendar

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

July 8—Aug 2

Pottery by the SJ Potters' Guild. M-F 10-5, Sat 11-3 Tidewater Gallery, 223 E. Weber Ave, Stockton. Reception July 11, 5-8 pm. 463-4033

July 13—Aug 24

Carl V Miller: A Retrospective. Watercolors at the Haggin Museum, 1201 N Pershing, Stockton. Wed-Sun, 1:30-5 pm. \$5 adult; \$2.50 youth 10-17 and seniors. 940-6300.

Aug 5—30

Japanese brush art by Margaret Kono. M-F 10-5, Sat 11-3 Tidewater Gallery, 223 E. Weber Ave, Stockton. Reception July 11, 5-8 pm. 463-4033

Sun, July 20—27

Stockton Buddhist Temple Obon & Cultural Bazaar, 2820 Shimizu Dr, Stockton. Free. 329-0661 (see page 18)

Sat, July 26

Ragtime at Ola's Exotic Coffee at the Chavez Library, 605 N El Dorado, Stockton featuring Chris & Jack Bradshaw, Virginia Tichenor, and Youth in Ragtime. 2 pm. Free. 931-8221.

Mon, July 28

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 6

Concert in the Park features Stardusters, Victory Park, Pershing & Argonne, Stockton. 6-8 pm. Free admission. 937-8099

Fri, Aug 8

Peace and Justice Network summer social, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. 6

pm board meeting, 7 pm program. All welcome.

Wed, Aug 13

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

Thu, Aug 14

Artist demonstration—Irene Lester, Stockton Art League, 1902 Pacific Ave, Stockton. 7-9 pm. Free. 466-6604.

Sat, Aug 16

Ragtime at Ola's Exotic Coffee at the Chavez Library, 605 N El Dorado, Stockton featuring Frederick Hodges. 2 pm. Free. 931-8221.

Wed, Aug 20

Concert in the Park features Waterloo, Victory Park, Pershing & Argonne, Stockton. 6-8 pm. Free. 937-8099

Aug 21—Sept 18

Four views: photographic works by Barbara Rita Jenny, Shelly Murney, Xavier Nuez and Michelle Rogers. Horton Gallery, Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave. Tue 11-4 pm, Wed-Thu 11-6:30, Fri 11-1. 954-5507.

Tue, Aug 26

Candlelight prayer vigil for peace, Annunciation Cathedral, Lincoln/Rose, Stockton, 7 pm. All welcome, candles provided. Ria deGroot, 462-3340.

Mon, Sept 1

Stockton Black Family Day Celebration "Enriching our Legacy." A free cultural celebration with food, vendors, exhibitors, workshops and more. Martin Luther King Jr Plaza and Amphitheater, 525 N Center St, Stockton. 9am-6pm. 1-800-513-1554 x 712. stocktonblackfamilyday.org

Thu, Sept 4

Peace and Justice Network monthly meeting, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. 6 pm Board, 7 pm program. All welcome.

Mon, Sept 8

Dr. Robert Bowman, Lt. Col. USAF (ret) speaks at UOP. See article page 1. Grace Covell Hall, 7pm, doors open at 6. \$10 benefit for Peace and Justice Network. School of International Studies, 946-2650.

Thu, Sept 11 & 13

Stockton Symphony with Robert Bonfiglio on harmonica. Atherton Auditorium, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Thu 8 pm, Sat 6 pm. 951-0196

Sat, Sept 13

Family Day at the Park, University Park, East Magnolia St, Stockton. 9:30 am-4 pm. More than 80 businesses/organizations focus on the importance of a literate community. 957-7277.

Sat, Sept 20

START! San Joaquin Heart Walk, Banner Island Ballpark, 404 W Fremont St, Stockton. 9 am. 477-2683.

Thursdays

Peace demonstrations continue, 5-6:30 pm, Delta campus along Pacific, north of stoplight at Yokuts. Free Sherwood Mall parking. Signs provided or bring your own. John Morearty 464-3326.

Fridays

Downtown farmers market, Hunter Square & E Main, Stockton. 9 am-2 pm. 464-5246

First Sundays

Vegan potluck, Peace & Justice Center,

231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. 5:30 pm \$2 donation bringing food, \$9 without. Info: sivegans@hotmail.com.

First Thursdays

Experimental & improv music, 8 pm Blackwater Cafe, 914 N Yosemite, Stockton. \$3. 943-6938.

Third Thursdays

Hispanics for Political Action meets 6 pm at Cancun restaurant, downtown Stockton. Louis Gonzales 464-9205

Fourth Saturdays

Greater Lodi Area Democrats (GLAD) meets 8:30 a.m., Dee Dee's Restaurant, 1170 S. Cherokee Ln, Lodi. All welcome, including recovering Republicans. 339-1599.

Wolf Creek Lodge

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Talking It Through

Talking It Through is now two half-hour shows.

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

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

SJTV: Stockton, Lodi and Manteca cable channel 26

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PJN Fundraiser

Bob Bowman at UOP

John Morearty

Colonel Robert Bowman earned a Ph.D. at the California Institute of Technology in aeronautics and nuclear engineering, and directed all DOD space warfare programs under presidents Ford and Carter. He retired in 1978 to a lucrative job in the defense industry. But in 1982, when Ronald Reagan announced Star Wars, Bowman said, "Weapons in space? No way. Missile defense is folly." He quit his job, published Star Wars: Defense or Death Star?, and has been on the stump for peace ever since.

On Monday, September 8, Dr. Bob's RV is rolling into Stockton, on a four-month nationwide "Take Back America" tour addressed to patriots both conservative and liberal. His themes are "Follow the Constitution, Honor the Truth, Serve the People; End the Iraq Occupation, No Attack on Iran; What's the Truth about 9/11?" He says he's not a conspiracy theorist; he has no theory of what really happened on September 11, 2001—but the official story is full of holes, and demands a real investigation.

Bob's RV is rolling into Stockton

on a four-month nationwide "Take Back America" tour addressed to patriots both conservative and liberal. His themes are "Follow the Constitution, Honor the Truth, Serve the People; End the Iraq Occupation, No Attack on Iran; What's the Truth about 9/11?" He says he's not a conspiracy theorist—he has no theory of what really happened on September 11, 2001—but the official story is full of holes, and demands a real investigation.

Bowman has lectured at the National War College, the United Nations, Congressional caucuses, the Academies of Science of six nations, and the House of Lords. The *LA Times* called him "the best public speaker in the country."

Dr. Bob Bowman will speak in Grace Covell Hall (behind Morris Chapel), University of the Pacific, Monday, September 8, co-sponsored by the School of International Studies in a fundraiser for *Connections* newspaper and the Peace and Justice Network.

The program starts at 7pm, doors open at 6, admission is \$10. Dr. Bob will stay for informal conversation. It should be an evening to remember.

August 9, Livermore

Hiroshima & Nagasaki commemoration

In commemoration of the 63rd anniversary of US bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki we will gather at the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab on Saturday, August 9th at 10:30 am at the corner of Patterson Pass Rd. and East Vasco Ave., where we will traverse the

"nuclear maze," a huge structure created to educate about the link between nuclear weapons and nuclear power and the direct impacts of the nuclear fuel cycle on local communities.

At 11:02 am, the time the US dropped an atomic bomb

on Nagasaki, we will observe a moment of silence. Our keynote speaker will be Mr. Nobuaki Hanaoka, a survivor of the Nagasaki bombing. Vocalist and spoken-word artist Kaylah Marin will perform.

Call 510-922-8797.



Thank you, thank you, and thank you for your generous response to our Spring/Summer fundraising letter! It is heartwarming to open the P.O. Box on the Miracle Mile in Stockton and find it packed with envelopes. Thank you for taking the time and sharing your funds with us. You know that we can not do this without your financial and physical support.

It is our hope that each and every person connected to the Peace and Justice Network realizes that this is an opportunity to support change through education at the local level; through *Connections* newspaper, *Talking It Through* and *The Reality Show*, events and movie showings, the Peaceful Holiday Faire and Earth Day. We are not in the Bay Area, or a large metropolitan city, we are in San Joaquin County and are slowly growing and changing, awakening to the many progressives issues and actions that will improve the quality of life for all members. Thank you for being a part of the progressive growth in this area.

Thank you for the small checks and large checks and dollar bills in the mail, and donations dropped off at the center.

Every single cent helps.

Thank you to people in Stockton and Lodi, Linden, Acampo, Turlock, Lockeford, Sacramento, Manteca, Modesto, Acampo, Elk Grove, Claremont, Santa Rosa, Camarillo, Ripon.....

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

The summer fundraiser has, to date, brought in almost \$ 5,000.00. This will help to pay the \$800.00 rent, and \$100.00 for utilities; \$1,600.00 for the printing and mailing costs of *Connections* and \$100.00 for the cable television programs. It gives us seed money to set up the Peaceful Holiday Faire and contributes toward Earth Day. But as you can see this is not enough ... so you will be hearing from us again-in the fall and in the winter-we can't do it alone and we know you need gentle reminders.

Please take the time to convince one other person to participate in our next fundraiser, Speaker Bob Bowman at UOP on September 8th and to also become a partner for peace in the San Joaquin Valley.

Sincerely,
Board of Directors Peace and Justice Network of San Joaquin County

connections

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

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

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