

connections

Volume XXV, Number 1

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Feb 2007

SAVE THE DATES

**SUNDAY, JAN 21
P&J NETWORK ANNUAL
POTLUCK AND MEETING**
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**JAN 19-FEB 16
PINTANDO CON LUZ
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..... 20

**JAN 27
STAND UP FOR
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**TUESDAYS IN FEB
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General plan six months & counting

Stockton's General Plan is about to be updated—and so far development interests dominate the proceedings. It is now time for the public to weigh in on what Stockton will become and how future Stocktonians will live.

While the process appears complex and bureaucratic, don't let that discourage you from participating. If you live here, you have a stake in this city's future. So, invest some time through the next six months—or live to regret the consequences.

The Draft Environmental Impact Report on Stockton's General Plan was circulated in December. Along with that came a "matrix" listing items in the Campaign for Common Ground (CCG) Alternative General Plan with items marked as accepted or rejected—and if rejected, why. CCG is studying that matrix closely to develop a response in time for the important January 10 Public Workshop for Oral Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report.

After that workshop, please plan attending the CCG meeting on January 15, to be held at the Valley Brewing Company, 157 W Adams Street, Stockton at 7 pm. Public comments are due January 29; if you can't make the meeting, contact <http://www.campaignforcommonground.org> to learn more on how to comment on the Draft EIR.

General Plan Schedule

December 1, 2006
Public Circulation of Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

January 10, 2007
Public Workshop by Staff for Oral Comments on DEIR

Mid-January
City/County Staff General Plan/Stakeholders of Interest Consultation

January 29, 2007
End 60-day DEIR Public Comment Period

Mid-March 2007
Final Environmental Impact Report Complete

Late-March 2007
Begin Planning Commission General Plan Public Hearings

May 2007
Begin City Council Public Hearings

June 2007
Final City Council Public Hearing

July 2007
LAFCo SOI Public Hearing

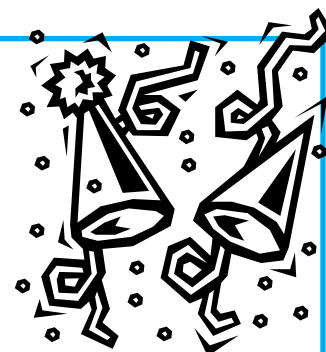
Sunday, Jan 21

It's Annual Meeting time again!

3-7 pm at the P&J Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton

Join us for the P&J Annual Meeting and Potluck!

This year brings great opportunities to make a difference on peace and environmental issues. Along with the great food, great company, and a wonderful venue, the PJN annual meeting will help determine our priorities for 2007. We will learn about some of the exciting new projects going on in San Joaquin County, discuss issues and strategies, share ideas, eat, and visit. There will be elections of officers and board members (all are welcome to join the PJN board). And, of course, the always fabulous potluck feast. Please come and enjoy this annual gathering. Call 209-467-4455 for more information. All are welcome!



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From the editor

You are invited to take part

Bruce Giudici

It's a new ballgame this year—and, believe it or not...you've been invited to play.

Locally, you are invited to help with the Stockton (read: San Joaquin County) General Plan. For 2007, we face two questions: will we allow Stockton to become an LA-north—with attendant suburban crowding, traffic, air and water pollution, to go with our low literacy and high crime rates? Or can we turn the development juggernaut around, in the same way that Susan Eggman defeated her developer- and power-broker backed foe in the November election? The only way to find out is to join the Campaign for Common Ground, which is working to retain some quality of life for our future community (see page 1). Their cause should be the top priority for locals who care about this place we call home. Common Ground needs your support; their success will benefit us all.



Feedback

Letters to George

Editor,

Bush now says he can open our mail. So let's send him letters—lots and lots of letters—telling him what we want:

- * US out of Iraq
- * universal health care
- * clean energy
- * honest government.

Send them to President George Bush, White House, Washington DC. On the outside of the envelope, down in the left hand corner, write: OPEN THIS!

John Morearty

PS: Pass it on.

Environmentally, you are invited to impact climate change. Stopping global warming and enhancing our environment begins with each person in each community taking care of their local issues. Starting with an alternative general plan that fights urban sprawl, we can limit greenhouse gas emissions, keep contiguous habitats in place and make our community more livable. Helping to inform you on these issues will be our new Environmental Editor Sally Galiste, who joins us after recent stints protesting Pombo's attack on the Endangered Species Act and educating folks on global

warming. We all welcome her knowledge and dedication.

On the peace front, you are invited to speak out. For the first time in over a decade, we have a representative in Washington who will listen. To us. As the Administration escalates the Iraq war (for arguments against, see page 4), Congress seems to have finally found its voice as a result of the November elections. Now, we in the peace community must ensure that tough talk is followed by consistent action. Connections will remain steadfast in reminding you to call your representatives often, encouraging them to embark on sane policies that will

Bruce Giudici



lead to peace in 2007. Compared to a year ago, we have come a long way. Congratulations.

So, in short, we have some great opportunities this coming year. You are invited to discuss them at our annual potluck and meeting on January 21, from 3 to 7 pm at the Peace Center, 231 Bedford Road in Stockton. Or drop us a line. It looks like our waters are slipping more and more into the mainstream. Happy New Year.

Meet our new environmental editor

*Sally Galiste,
Environmental Editor*

Hello! With the new year 2007 comes a new associate editor at *Connections* on environmental issues. What a global challenge! Not only is climate change/global warming one of the hottest environmental issues coming to the forefront of Americans' concerns, consequences of the greenhouse effect upon the Central Valley and the Greater San Joaquin/Sacramento Delta area override nearly any other important environment related issue on the table.

In this, and upcoming issues:

- Predicted impacts of climate change in San Joaquin County on agriculture production, crop yields, dairy practices and farmland values will be examined;
- Regional consequences of climate change to human health, local economies, land use/values, and businesses will be covered; and
- Predicted and current effects on our indigenous wildlife and vegetation—especially for threatened/endangered species—will be reported upon.

The lifeblood of California—water—has emerged as the top issue that scientists, politicians, fishermen, farmers, ranchers, industries, and absolutely every Californian needs to pay

attention to. Predictions of shrinking Sierra snowpacks; severe seasonal flooding (from more rain, less snow); saltwater intrusion up rivers, streams, and in groundwater; wild weather fluctuations; drought conditions on the rise; and ever-increasing water diversions to the Southland point to freshwater supplies becoming drastically lower as human population continues to climb. Water wars are already heating up along with our climate and will only get worse.

Suggestions on how we can help to reduce/abate increasing levels of heat-trapping gases will be offered, tips on how to increase energy efficiency as a consumer examined, P2 (pollution prevention) outlined, carbon offset evaluated, PZEV's compared, and unconventional ideas probed. Just about every part of our lives (and especially our children's lives) will be affected by the spiraling quantities of greenhouse gases spewing into Earth's atmosphere—human and geologically caused.

Yet 2007 brings some hope for this country with regard to climate change. California has begun to rise above the rhetoric with greenhouse gas related legislation. We're the first state to limit greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, oil refineries and other industries by requiring

a state board to implement this new program reducing emissions 25% by 2020. In addition, a newly enacted law only allows state utilities to sign contracts with suppliers whose power plants comply with greenhouse gas emission limits adopted by the CEC (Calif. Energy Commission). Thirdly, a new statute is requiring utilities in the state to replace fossil fuels with renewable resources so that at least 20% of their power is generated from renewables by 2010. Looking across America to Washington, D.C., our new Congress has a discernable green tint and will be bringing global warming right up front, right out loud, right away. "We will listen, listen, listen," Sen. Barbara Boxer (who heads the committee responsible for the national response to climate change) has promised, but added, "we also have to act."

Yes, we do have to act, and act now. Every one of us. Read, learn, watch, question, argue, listen, discuss, persuade, then take action. Stay tuned to Connections for ideas/suggestions on what to do. Follow your conscience and act/speak out on that information. Think globally, act locally. Earth Day must be every day. We really can make a difference in the outcome of our planet's forecast.

Shalom,

Connections

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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."

Radio address from new Rep. Jerry McNerney

Good morning and Happy New Year. This is Congressman-elect Jerry McNerney of Pleasanton, California, a new Member in the 110th Congress.

As we move into the New Year and the new Congress, I am excited about what we can achieve for the American people. In this election, the American people clearly called for change: change in the way we do business in Washington, change in the way that we shape our energy policy, and most importantly, a change of direction in Iraq.

As our first responsibility in fulfilling the mandate of this critical election, House Democrats will restore integrity and civility in Washington in order to earn the public trust.

We will ban gifts from lobbyists and lobbyist-funded travel, prohibit the use of corporate jets, and shut down the revolving door between Capitol Hill and K Street Lobbyists. We will restore the House tradition of allowing a reasonable 15-minute voting period to prevent extended votes, and we will require that Congress put away the credit card and

operate under pay-as-you-go common sense budget rules. We will hold Members of Congress accountable to the people who voted them into office, not lobbyists and special interests.

Our heavy dependence on foreign oil is putting our economy, our climate, and our national security at great risk. We are actually funding the very terrorists around the world who are trying to harm us. It's our patriotic duty as citizens of this great nation to end our dependence on imported oil. Democrats will quickly and significantly reduce our consumption of foreign oil while creating jobs, prosperity, and a healthy environment with a new energy technology, including renewable energy and bio-fuels.

Most of the technologies needed to reshape our energy future are already at hand; what has been lacking is the political will to develop and expand their use. Democrats have a vision of creating a new energy economy using good old-fashioned American ingenuity to achieve energy independence. New American jobs and a bright

future will be the dividend.

Democrats will also lead the way for a new direction in Iraq. My son was in the military when he convinced me to run for office, and we continue to keep our soldiers and their families in our prayers. But our troops need more than our well-wishes, and our veterans need more than lip service; we need a change in policy, as confirmed by the Iraq Study Group report released earlier this month.

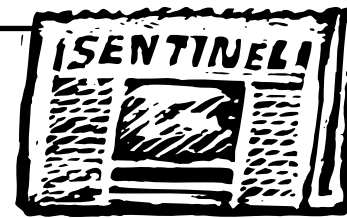
I share the concern of my Democratic colleagues that President Bush may use his same failed logic to increase our troop strength in Iraq by up to 30,000 soldiers. The incoming chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Ike Skelton, has said that an increase in troops at best won't change a thing, and at worst could exacerbate the situation even further in Iraq.

The Iraqis need to understand that the responsibility for the future of that country is theirs. Beginning the redeployment of American forces would send that message. We must also improve the training of Iraq security forces by ensuring that Iraqi units are not infiltrated by either militia members or insurgents. The consequences of not doing so are unacceptable. In my district there is a Gold Star mom whose son was killed in Iraq by the very Iraqis he was training. He and his mom are always in my thoughts. We simply can not ask our young men and women to train Iraqis without doing everything possible to make certain that the people they are training are not attacking our troops.

Our troops have done everything asked of them in Iraq with great courage. Particularly at this time of the year, when families gather to celebrate the holiday season, we need to remember the huge sacrifices being made by the brave men and women in our military, and give thanks for their service.

Thank you for listening. I wish everyone the very best 2007 and pray that God blesses you and your families for this holiday season. This is Congressman-elect Jerry McNerney.

Source: Release (12/27/06) from Congressman-elect Jerry McNerney (CA-11), P.O. Box 12022, Pleasanton, CA 94588



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>

Firedoglake <http://www.firedoglake.com>

Think Progress <http://thinkprogress.com>

Eschaton: <http://atrios.blogspot.com>

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

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

Common Dreams: <http://www.commondreams.org/>

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

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

Free Press <http://freepress.net>

<http://www.reclaimthemedial.org>

OpEdNews.com <http://www.opednews.com>

Media Tank, <http://www.mediatank.org>

Counter Punch <http://www.counterpunch.org>

MediaChannel: <http://www.mediachannel.org/>

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

Black Voices for Peace: <http://www.bvfp.org/>

The Nation—<http://www.thenation.com/>

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

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

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

Tom Paine.common sense — <http://www.tompaine.com/>

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

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

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

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

We're on the web too!

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

<http://www.pjnsjc.org>

Angel Picon to direct McNerney local staff

Congressman-elect Jerry McNerney has chosen Angel Picon as his Regional District Director based out of the Stockton office. In addition, McNerney announced a number of additional staff hires for both his district and Washington, D.C. offices.

Erich Pfuehler, the recent California Director of Clean Water Action and former Chief of Staff to Representative David Bonior (D-MI) will be his Chief of Staff located in the district. Angela Kouters, a political staffer at the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and former aide to Senator Fritz Hollings (D-SC) will serve as DC Chief of Staff in Washington. Additionally, Nick Holder will be joining the staff as Legislative Director

after having served for several years as a Senior Legislative Assistant to Congressman Tim Bishop (D-NY). Andy Stone has been tapped to fill the role of Communication Director. Most recently, Stone has worked as a communications strategist at M + R Strategic Services consulting on the Angelides for Governor campaign.

McNerney said of his new hires "I believe this is the most talented and experienced team I could have assembled to serve the needs of our community and bring about real change in Washington."

Source: Release (12/27/06) from Congressman-elect Jerry McNerney (CA-11), P.O. Box 12022, Pleasanton, CA 94588

Congress can shut down this war

Dean Baker

There has been no shortage of deceptions surrounding the prosecution of the Iraq War, beginning with the original justification—Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. Unfortunately, supporters of the war continue to use deception to advance their agenda. The latest lie is that Congress doesn't have the ability to end the war, because if they cut off funding they would jeopardize the safety of our troops.

I will explain in a moment why this is completely untrue, but I first want to call attention to the "hide behind the troops" mode of argument. From the beginning, supporters of the war have regularly insisted that they support our troops, implying that opponents of President Bush's agenda want to see our troops harmed.

The argument over the conduct of the war is with President Bush, his advisors and his supporters in Congress. It is not an argument against the troops. It is an incredible act of cowardice for anyone to try to justify pursuing the war as somehow based on supporting our troops. It has absolutely nothing to do with supporting our troops. The troops are doing what President Bush ordered them to do - they are not the ones who decided to go to war in Iraq. If supporters of the war felt that they had an honest case, they would not feel the need to hide behind the troops to push their agenda.

The latest version of the "hide behind the troops" mode of argument is to claim that Congress lacks the ability to end the war. The story goes that President Bush is commander in chief of the armed forces, and that if he does not want to end the war, then Congress cannot force his hand. According to this argument, if Congress were to use its control of the budget to restrict funding, it would jeopardize our troops stationed in Iraq by denying them the supplies and ammunition needed to defend themselves.

This argument is garbage. Congress has the authority

to require the top military commanders in Iraq to produce a plan for safely withdrawing our troops from the country. It can also require these commanders to give their best estimate of the cost of this plan. It can then appropriate this money, specifying that the funds be used for the withdrawal plan designed by the military.

President Bush would then have the funding required to safely withdraw our troops from Iraq. He would not have the money to continue his war. If he chose to defy Congress by misusing the funds (and thereby jeopardizing the lives of our troops), then the law provides a simple and obvious remedy: Impeachment. While it is possible that Bush would choose to violate the law, jeopardizing both the lives of our troops and his presidency, it is reasonable to assume that he would comply with the law and not exceed his authority as president.

Reasonable arguments could be made that this sort of decisive measure from Congress is not desirable. It could be argued that allowing President Bush more discretion in the conduct of the war would be the better route. But it is important to understand that Congress does have the authority to shut down the war without abandoning our troops. If Congress does not pursue this option, then it is because it has chosen not to. President Bush cannot continue to wage a war in Iraq if Congress is really determined to stop him.

Congress should have a real debate over how best to bring the war to an end. And, the supporters of the war should not be allowed to hide behind our troops.

*Source: truthout | Columnist 1/2/06, <http://www.truthout.org>. Dean Baker <<http://www.cepr.net/>> is the co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR). He is the author of *The Conservative Nanny State: How the Wealthy Use the Government to Stay Rich and Get Richer* (www.conservativenannystate.org <<http://www.conservativenannystate.org/>>). He also has a blog, "Beat the Press," where he discusses the media's coverage of economic issues. You can find it at the American Prospect's web site. <<http://www.prospect.org/deanbaker>>*



Impeach at Ocean Beach. Volunteers formed 100-foot letter to send a message to Nancy Pelosi.

Arrested on the Golden Gate Bridge for the 3,000 US dead

Retired Colonel Ann Wright

On New Year's Day, 60 peace activists organized by CodePink: Women for Peace gathered on both sides of the Golden Gate Bridge to walk across one of America's great landmarks in vigil for the 3,000 US servicemen and women killed in Iraq and for the hundreds of thousands of Iraqis who have died since the US invasion and occupation.

California Highway Patrol (CHP) officers blocked the pedestrian walkway on the San Francisco side of the bridge, saying that we did not have a permit for a demonstration. We responded that we were not demonstrating but only wanted to walk peacefully across the bridge to commemorate the 3,000 deaths.

Initially the CHP allowed tourists to pass through our group and begin their walk on the bridge. We complained that this was our bridge and we could not be denied access. The CHP then stopped all walkers.

After an hour, a group of ten walkers in pink came into sight. They had come from the Marin County side of the bridge, walking peacefully and respectfully to honor those who have died. Finally, after two hours, CHP announced that the bridge was closed to pedestrians and we had to leave, which we did not do. Ten of us were then arrested

for trespassing.

In October 2005, several of us were arrested in front of the White House when the US death toll hit 2,000. Now on January 1, 2006, we were arrested to commemorate 3,000 US deaths.

Thousands of GIs went AWOL from the Vietnam War and lived in the Haight Ashbury area of San Francisco. When they were picked up by military police in the city, they were taken to the notorious Presidio Stockade. In 1968, twenty-seven of these imprisoned soldiers protested the shotgun killing of a mentally disturbed prisoner by a guard. They sat in the prison courtyard, sang "We Shall Overcome," and were charged and tried for "mutiny" which carried a possible death sentence.

The image of GIs facing the electric chair for singing "We Shall Overcome" caused a national uproar and after the first several mutineers to be tried got 14, 15, and 16 years each, disillusionment about the military and the war grew in the civilian community and especially within the ranks of the military. Many historians consider the Presidio 27 incident as one of the first major GI resistance actions of the Vietnam War.

Forty years later, our military faces another unpopular, unwinnable war thrust upon the military by an administration that

did not think out the consequences of invading and occupying a country that had done nothing to the United States. GI resistance to the war is increasing. AWOLs are increasing.

War resisters are speaking out and are willing to go to prison rather than participate in an illegal war of aggression. Over 1,500 active duty soldiers have signed an "appeal for redress" to the Congress asking for the "prompt withdrawal of all American military forces and bases from Iraq." They will go to Washington and deliver the appeal to individual members of Congress on January 15.

We must bring extraordinary pressure on the new Congress to stop the funding to this war and bring our troops home. Join us in Washington, DC, January 27-29 to tell Congress: STOP THIS WAR and BRING OUR TROOPS HOME!

Colonel Ann Wright (retired) is a 29-year US Army veteran. She also was a US diplomat for 16 years and served in Nicaragua, Grenada, Somalia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Sierra Leone, Micronesia, Afghanistan and Mongolia. She resigned in March 2003 in opposition to the war on Iraq.

Source: truthout 1/3/07. <http://www.truthout.org>

Just say "no" to more troops

The president, members of Congress from both major political parties, and several influential commentators have endorsed calls for a "surge" in numbers of U.S. military troops in Iraq. Faced with an escalating civil war and growing public opposition to the ongoing war and occupation of Iraq, these U.S. policymakers are still looking for ways to "win" a war in Iraq that has already been lost. The U.S. needs a new political strategy in Iraq, not another effort to develop a military solution.

Advocates of this call for additional troops argue that a short term surge in troop levels will enable the U.S. to gain control of the violence, proceed with training Iraqis in security tactics, and ultimately facilitate a withdrawal of U.S. troops. This rationale is the same argument offered and accepted last summer when 70,000 U.S. and Iraqi forces moved into Baghdad in an effort to use military force to secure the streets. As part of the military effort last summer, the U.S. sent 14,000 additional troops to Iraq, bringing the total number of U.S. soldiers up to the current level of 140,000. Yet the additional troops did not stabilize the city. The Pentagon's own statistics from that period document how weekly attacks increased by 15 percent while the number of Iraqi civilian casualties increased by 51 percent over the previous month. A November 2006 Department of Defense (DoD) report, "Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq," reported a 22% rise in violence from August to November 2006.

Sending more troops didn't work last summer and it won't work today.

Sending more troops to Iraq is not a new strategy, it is a dangerous repetition of a strategy that has failed consistently over the last year. There is no military solution to end the violence in Iraq. Only a political solution will offer an opportunity for Iraq to make the transition from violent chaos to a stable and sovereign nation and allow the U.S. to withdraw responsibly. For a political solution to occur the U.S. must support diplomatic efforts to end the violence. We at FCNL have developed a four point

The U.S. should responsibly disengage U.S. troops from Iraq and begin to develop a diplomatic plan to quell the internal violence and assist Iraq with reconciliation and reconstruction.

strategy which may help in this transitional phase: (1) a timetable for withdrawal of all U.S. forces; (2) negotiations that bring Iraqi nationals fighting the government and the U.S. to the table; (3) an international process that includes all of Iraq's neighbors and regional partners; and (4) U.S. financial support for an Iraqi-led reconstruction effort.

Military leaders oppose a troop surge

But FCNL is not alone in arguing that more troops are not the answer. Some of the top U.S. military leaders consider an increase in troops a bad idea. On November 15, 2006 General John Abizaid, commander of the U.S. Central Command, spoke before the U.S. Senate Armed Service committee. Senator Lindsey Graham (S.C.) asked: "Do we need more American troops at the moment to quell the violence?" Gen. Abizaid replied: "No. I do not believe that more American troops right now is the solution to the problem." Senator John McCain (AZ) followed with a similar question on troop strength. Again, Gen. Abizaid repeated that adding additional troops would not "add considerably to our ability to achieve success in Iraq." Gen. Abizaid has since turned in his resignation which will take effect in March 2007 while Senators McCain, Graham and Joe Lieberman (CT) continue to resist the U.S. "top military leaders" warnings by marching ahead with the call for more troops.

Following the initial rumors of a troop surge, Colin Powell, former secretary of state and

retired chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, also voiced his concerns about the effectiveness of troop increases. During an interview on CBS' Face the Nation on December 19, 2006 Powell stated that our military is "about broken" and asserted that the military could not send additional troops as they did not exist. Powell concluded that the violence in Iraq is now a civil war and requires a political solution. The current Joint Chiefs, a body that reports directly to the Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, also disagrees with the proposed increase in troop levels. Most military experts, it seems, believe that the main result of a troop increase would be to give insurgents more U.S. targets to shoot at.

The time has come for a dramatic new approach in Iraq. U.S. military leaders, diplomats, and the majority of people living in the United States (according to opinion polls) are ready to say "NO" to more troops and to say yes to a diplomatic and political effort in conjunction with a timetable for withdrawal. The time is now to stop the violence that the United States is a party to in Iraq. The U.S. should responsibly disengage U.S. troops from Iraq and begin to develop a diplomatic plan to quell the internal violence and assist Iraq with reconciliation and reconstruction.

ACTION: Contact your representative.

Source: Friends Committee on National Legislation release 1/5/07, FCNL, 245 Second Street NE, Washington, DC 20002 800-630-1330 <http://www.fcnl.org/>



Thank you Janet Tucker and the Woodshed for all your friendship and support through the past 20 years. We wish you great happiness in your new adventures.



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If you have ever been dismayed, disgusted, frustrated, sick-to-your-stomach, angry, tearful, hurt, sad or hopeless looking at a picture like the one above, now is your chance to turn those feelings into action. A Stockton City Council subcommittee will be reviewing a proposed ordinance to help curb pet over-population in San Joaquin County on January 17, 2007. To learn more about the ordinance or for more info about the meeting, please contact:

Sue Brause
209/639-2633
sue.brause@ci.stockton.ca.us

OR

Tammie Murrell
t.murrell@comcast.net



Ten small steps forward in Muslim-Jewish relations

Mas'ood Cajee

This year, lots of depressing news about Lebanon, Israel, and the occupied territories and the ensuing mess filled the airwaves. Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's Holocaust denial antics rose to a deafening din. Finally, newly-minted megastar Borat Sagdiyev aka Sacha Baron Cohen made it difficult with his comedy to determine whether he was a net positive or negative for Muslim-Jewish relations. Mainstream media consumers would be hard-pressed to know that substantial progress was actually made in Muslim-Jewish relations and in the struggle for peace.

We haven't heard enough about...

1. 120 Imams & Rabbis from 31 countries and four continents who gathered in Seville, Spain. In addition to chatting it up, they committed to working on joint projects, such as the protection of sites in the Holy Land.
2. Palestinian-American activist Ali Abunimah's new book *One Country* (Metropolitan Books), which outlines in detail how true peace and reconciliation could be achieved between the Jordan River and the sea.
3. The affirmation of the Israel-Palestine conflict's centrality to the region by the Iraq Study Group, a blue-ribbon bipartisan panel of American establishmentarians.
4. Working Paper Number RWP06-011, the policy paper by John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt, which made the not quite earth-shattering - though important - public claim that "the centerpiece of US Middle East policy is its intimate relationship with Israel... due primarily to the activities of the 'Israel Lobby'." The paper was published on the website of Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. Academics at elite institutions, Mearsheimer and Walt were savaged by anti-peace activists like Alan Dershowitz, who



claimed that the Saudi lobby was more powerful than the Israeli lobby. Hmm.

5. Former US President Jimmy Carter highlighting Palestinian suffering in a welcome book entitled "Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid" (Simon & Shuster), for which Carter has received the full Alan Dershowitz treatment.
6. Holocaust awareness efforts being held by Muslims. Young Muslim Londoners who comprise City Circle kicked off their annual lecture series by hosting Roman Halter, a Holocaust survivor. The event came in the wake of controversy surrounding Holocaust Memorial day in the UK. City Circle has previously hosted Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg to talk about genocide with Mufti Barkatulla. American Muslim activists visited the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC with survivor Johanna Neumann, who credits her survival to an Albanian Muslim family. Audiences in California, including one in Stockton, flocked to Holocaust survivor Annette Herskovitz's talks about the role of Muslims in rescuing Jewish children in wartime Paris.
7. Minnesotan Keith Ellison becoming the first Muslim elected to the United States Congress by forging a diverse coalition which included Jews. Ellison also became the first African-American Minnesota has sent to Congress. In his campaign, Ellison mobilized an unlikely crew of Muslim Somali immigrants, Jews, and gays. He also got an endorsement from the local Jewish newspaper to boot. Ellison has since become a

lightning rod for bigots fearful of democracy and pluralism, from CNN interviewers to a right-wing GOP congressman. But, Keith has shown how to get it done: he won, and he has taken controversy in stride.

8. Nobel laureate Desmond Tutu leveraging his moral authority with regard to Palestine. Tutu agreed to lead a fact-finding mission to investigate Israeli military operations in Gaza, after 19 Palestinian civilians were slain in a single massacre in November. "This is a time in our history that neither allows for indifference to the plight of those suffering," Tutu told reporters in Geneva after Israel refused him a visa, "nor a refusal to search for a solution to the present crisis in the region."
9. The play *My Name is Rachel Corrie* finally being staged in New York and London. Based on slain human rights activist Rachel Corrie's experiences, the play generated controversy when producers initially cancelled it due to specious reasons. An Israeli military bulldozer crushed and killed Rachel Corrie in 2003.
10. The World Ethnic Market trade show in California, which paired Kosher and Halaal products for the first time under one roof in an American trade show. The show followed a successful previous one in the UK. "The halaal market in the US is the little brother to the kosher market and has a lot to learn," Jalel Aossef of Cedar Rapids, Iowa-based halaal food processor Midamar Corp, told the Los Angeles Times. "I wondered if this would work, but food is a good way for people to come together."

A toast to 10 good things about 2006

Medea Benjamin

As we close this year on the low of a devastating conflict in Iraq and a president contemplating sending yet more troops to fight and die in an unwinnable war, let us not forget that it was a year of many positive gains for the progressive movement.

Here are just ten:

1. First, of course, is the November elections, when voters gave Republicans an "electoral thumpin'." From California's Jerry McNerney to Ohio's Sherrod Brown to Minnesota's Keith Ellison, Democrats all over the country won elections by slamming Bush's war. The collapse of one-party rule in Washington reflected a spectacular repudiation of George Bush and handed Congress a mandate to get out of Iraq.
2. Latino communities throughout the United States took center stage in the spring of 2006, putting May Day back on the map as a day of grassroots mobilizing. From high-school students to union members to community organizers, the spirit and energy of millions of immigrants demanding to be treated with dignity and respect took the nation by surprise. Immigrants not only carved out new political space, but in the age of e-activism, they breathed new life into the importance of "street heat."
3. After decades of dictating the rules of the global economy, World Trade Organization talks fell flat on their face in 2006. Activists the world over celebrated its collapse after years of work to sink this titanic tool of empire. The work to derail corporate-dominated trade policies is far from over, with bilateral free-trade agreements taking the place of the WTO. But the WTO and its model of globalization have been exposed as a dismal failure, and opposition continues to grow worldwide.
4. Bush opened 2006 with a State of the Union Address bemoaning our "addiction to oil"; 86 prominent evangelicals called global warming a moral issue; Al Gore educated millions with his film, "An Inconvenient Truth"; and Time magazine declared that earth is at a tipping point with melting ice, drought, wind, disease, and fires raging out of control. Historians may one day look back on 2006 as the "tipping-point" year when human societies - including the United States as the major superpower and the major polluter - woke up to the precarious state of our world and decided it was time to find solutions.
5. As a clear indicator of the shift from debating global warming to doing something about it, this year, California passed the nation's toughest legislation to curb greenhouse gases. The groundbreaking bill would require the state to cut back its greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020: a reduction of approximately 25 percent. A smart politico, Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, saw the green writing on the wall and joined the state's Democrats in setting a new environmental standard for the rest of the nation to follow.
6. In a year when Enron executives were found guilty of cooking the books, Muhammad Yunus was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for proving that poor people can be more reliable money managers than rich ones. Yunus's "microcredit movement" started out giving small loans to poor Bangladeshis, mostly women, and mushroomed into a worldwide movement that has extended small loans to millions of the world's poor. By awarding Yunus the Peace Prize, the Norwegian Nobel Committee not only recognized the credit-worthiness of the poor, but acknowledged that poverty is a threat to peace. As Yunus said in his acceptance speech, "I believe that putting resources into improving the lives of the poor people is a better strategy [for combating terrorism] than spending it on guns."
7. While the fighting between Israel and Lebanon left more than 1,000 dead, mostly Lebanese, a cease-fire was achieved after only 34 days. When the violence threatened to spiral out of control, the United Nations, the Arab League, and individual governments stepped forward to insist on negotiations, to hammer out a cease-fire agreement and to provide international peacekeeping forces to serve as monitors. What could have been a prolonged conflict with devastating consequences for the entire region was halted. The lessons that should have been learned when the powerful Israeli military was unable to "win" the conflict through force are that military aggression will not solve the deep-seated problems in the region, and that negotiations and peace processes can work.
8. Speaking of dialogue, Jimmy Carter, with his new book, "Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid," took on the greatest taboo in US politics: the gross violation of Palestinian rights and the unqualified US government support for the Israeli government. Lkening Israel's policies in the Palestinian territories to the racist white rule in South Africa, Carter has raised a firestorm of controversy. But finally, someone with the credentials of a statesman, a peacemaker and a friend of Israel is crying out against Israel's hellish treatment of Palestinians. The public is embracing his views: his book quickly became a best seller, and he has been greeted by enthusiastic crowds at appearances around the country. Hopefully, our elected officials will start listening as well.
9. In 2006, we managed to stop the next war from starting. With the US bogged down in Iraq and the public sick of war, it has been impossible for the Bush administration to launch an attack against another country, such as Iran or North

Korea. The army do have enough recruits to fight a new war, and politicians know it would be political suicide to reinstate them. Two major warmongers, Donald Rumsfeld and John Bolton—were forced out of power. And with Bush obligated to appoint a new ambassador to the United Nations, perhaps diplomacy will come back into fashion.

10. Across Latin America, elections have continued to bring a wave of progressive leadership to power. With the victories of Daniel Ortega and Rafael Correa, Nicaragua and Ecuador join Bolivia, Venezuela, Chile and Brazil as governments committed to improving the lives of the majority. As a sign of the radical changes in the region, Bolivia's Evo Morales marked May 1 by nationalizing the country's oil and gas resources. "After today," he declared,



"the hydrocarbons will belong to all Bolivians. Never again will they be in the hands of transnational corporations. Today the country—la patria—stands up."

So here's a toast to nations standing up to greedy transnationals; to people standing up to leaders who abuse their power, to humanity standing up to save the planet we inhabit - and to bringing our troops home in 2007!

Medea Benjamin <mailto:medea@globalexchange.org> is cofounder of CODEPINK <http://www.codepinkalert.org> and Global Exchange <http://www.globalexchange.org>.

Source: *truthout* 12/29/06 <http://www.truthout.org>

Hail to the Chief

Dear friends,

I have the distinguished honor of being named to the committee to raise \$5,000,000 for a monument to George W. Bush. I am contacting you in hopes you will be willing to contribute to this noble cause. But first, a little about what the committee has been doing to date.

We originally wanted to put him on Mount Rushmore until we discovered that there is not enough room for two more faces. We then decided to erect a statue of George in the Washington, DC Hall of Fame, we were in a quandary as to where the statue should be placed. It was not proper to place it beside the statue of George Washington, who never told a lie, or beside Richard Nixon, who never told the truth, since George could never tell the difference.

We finally decided to place it beside Christopher Columbus, the greatest Republican of all. He left not knowing where he was going and when he got there he did not know where he was. He returned not knowing where he had been decimated the well-being of the majority of the population while he was there, and did it all on someone else's money.

Thank you,

Jerry Bailey,

George W. Bush Monument Committee

P.S. The Committee has raised \$1.35 so far. So please be generous.

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Against the death penalty

Reid Cerney

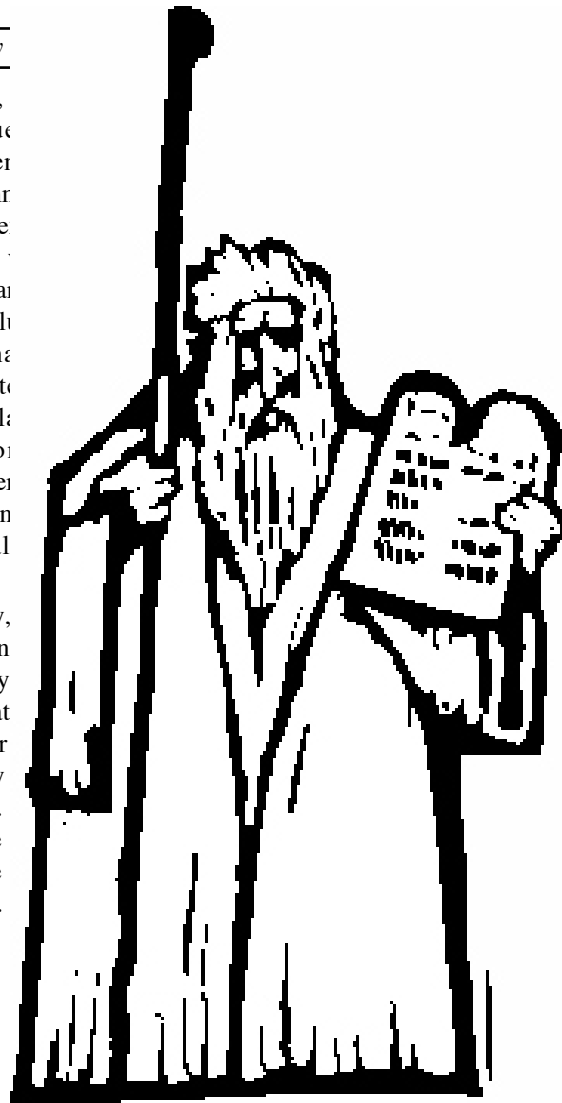
Over many years, I have studied the question of whether the death penalty is a deterrent from the commission of capital crimes. After extensive research, employing a variety of approaches, methods and data, they have concluded that either the death penalty does not deter or that deterrence cannot be proven. Clearly, the fact that each execution deters a certain number of murders have been discredited by social science research.

In civilized society, we reject the "eye for an eye" principle of literally doing to criminals what they have done to their victims. The penalty for rape cannot be rape. We don't torture those who torture others. The same is true of murder. When the state exacts vengeance, disguised as justice, it becomes complicit with killers in devaluing human life.

Attitudes for or against the death penalty have little to do with what one believes about deterrence. Generally, people base their positions on deep moral convictions, and, just as often, on outrage and a compelling desire for revenge.

In 1976, the United States Supreme Court majority in "Gregg vs. Georgia" found no conclusive evidence on the issue of deterrence but allowed the death penalty as a means of social vengeance or "retribution." In so doing, the court reversed itself from the 1972 "Furman vs. Georgia" case in which the court invalidated hundreds of scheduled executions claiming that existing laws were applied in an "arbitrary and capricious" manner in violation of the 8th amendment's prohibition against "cruel and unusual" punishment and the 14th amendment's guarantee of equal protection of the laws and due process.

Since 1976, when the Supreme Court ruled that the death penalty was not "cruel and unusual punishment," 78 death row



opposition to the death penalty does not diminish the need for imprisonment for those who, having committed brutal acts of violence, remain a probable threat to society. People need security and protection from those who threaten and destroy lives.

It is difficult to empathize with those whose loved ones have been violated, terrorized, traumatized and murdered. I understand the cry for retribution and vengeance. At the same time, I don't believe that the execution of a sociopath or brain-damaged dysfunctional human being has ever deterred another sociopath or psychopath from extreme violent behavior.

When people reject life imprisonment without possibility of parole as an alternative to the death penalty, it seems that what they want is more than protection; they want vengeance. But vengeance does not heal; it only widens the cycle of violence and tragedy, bringing in the offender's family and friends.

Anger, vengeance, and retribution are antithetical to the foundations of a moral culture. Quakers, together with Catholics, Jews, Episcopalians, Congregationalists, Methodists, and Buddhists, among others, have taken strong stands against capital punishment, because it has a brutalizing effect on society as a whole. Rather than committing the act that society condemns, they urge that the government choose life as a way of setting an example for its citizens. They reject the idea that society honors the victim by killing the offender.

I look for the day when the death penalty is forever abolished here and everywhere.

Note: Credit to Friends Committee on Legislation (FCL) for contributing to this commentary on the death penalty.

others who might have been executed before mistakes, coerced confessions, extra testimony or new witnesses were brought to light.

Most abolitionists, myself included, oppose the death penalty as a barbarous and inhumane policy which, like torture, would be immoral even if it worked on pragmatic grounds. Violence is simply not the answer to the problem of violence.

Outside the United States

The death penalty does not exist in Western Europe except for rare crimes such as treason and wartime military offenses. Since the 1970s, only one member of the 21 nation Council of Europe has carried out executions: Turkey.

**Anger, vengeance, and retribution
are antithetical to the foundations
of a moral culture.**

Bush lies: how the story was sold

"The Greatest Story Ever Sold: The Decline and Fall of Truth From 9/11 to Katrina." Frank Rich. 341 pp. The Penguin Press. \$25.95.

reviewed by Dianne Runion

Former New York Times drama critic Frank Rich knows a lot about show business. But when the current Times Op-Ed columnist views the George W. Bush administration's spin and disinformation through his critical lens, adding a time line to show who knew what and when, the result is a reality-based polemic that leaves this government—and the press—culpable.

Using quote after damning quote, Rich illustrates the government's lies about the reasons for going to war in Iraq and demonstrates the slick manipulation of fear to control public opinion. Truth is an early casualty. Rich quotes a presidential aide: "A judicious study of discernible reality is not the way the world really works anymore. We're an empire now, and when we act, we create our own reality."

That image-dominated reality includes the president's bogus ranch, not a working ranch but a reinvention of things Rich calls "mythically Texan." Readers also learn how carefully and falsely the saving of private Jessica Lynch was scripted. They read how the president's 2003 landing on the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln where he declared victory in Iraq was filmed less than 40 miles from San Diego, California. They see how other photo ops were set up to disguise administration policies as opposed to dramatizing them.

A typical example is the toppling of Saddam Hussein's statue in Baghdad's Firdos Square. It was presented as a liberated Iraqis' spontaneous act of joy and defiance. "The Washington Post" reported that of all the Saddam Hussein statues scattered throughout the city, this scene was filmed across from the hotel where most of the media were housed. Rich writes, "the square never had more than a few hundred people in it (many of them reporters)." Locals were notably absent.

Rich reports how the Bush

administration's control of news left the illusion of "painless engagement." Accurate body counts were forbidden. Photos of flag-draped coffins containing U.S. troops were banned because of administration claims they would cause pain to the families. Rich writes that in an effort to avoid casualty news coverage, President Bush—unlike every president since Jimmy Carter—"did not attend any memorials or funerals for troops killed at war."

Gannett News Services discovered that 11 newspapers around the country ran identical letters from different soldiers "describing their successes in rebuilding Iraq." All were scripted and planted.

Many of the big lies Rich reports are old news. Timelines and carefully laid out sources make them more damning. Well-informed by reliable intelligence, the administration knew there was no concrete evidence of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction nor any build-up of materials needed for Iraq to pursue a nuclear weapons program. Even the little lies and revelations Rich recounts show a power-hungry culture of mendacious hawks.

Former Secretary of State Colin Powell later admitted his U.N. speech demonstrating the Iraqi weapons laboratory trailers were "cartoon" representations. But the Iraq invasion was planned well in advance of 9/11, the attack that offered an excuse acceptable to the American public. Rich quotes Richard Clarke, Bush's antiterrorism czar, in what Rich describes as an incendiary 60 Minutes segment. "Rumsfeld was saying that we needed to bomb Iraq, and we all said, but no, no. Al Qaeda is in Afghanistan. We need to bomb Afghanistan. And Rumsfeld said there aren't any good targets in Afghanistan, and there are lots of good targets in Iraq." Clarke compares this to saying after Pearl Harbor that we shouldn't invade Japan, but should invade Mexico instead. Yet within

20 days after 9/11, President Bush was informed in his president's Daily Brief there was no evidence of Iraqi participation in 9/11 and "scant credible evidence" of any "significant collaborative ties" between Iraq and Al Qaeda.

Often government and military control of information morphed into outright lies. The army sent out a fictitious press release of their star recruit football hero Patrick Tillman's hillside fire after they knew he had been killed by friendly fire and a month before Tillman's family learned the truth. Tillman's father said, "The administration clearly was using this case for its own political reasons. This cover-up started within minutes of Pat's death, and it started at high levels."

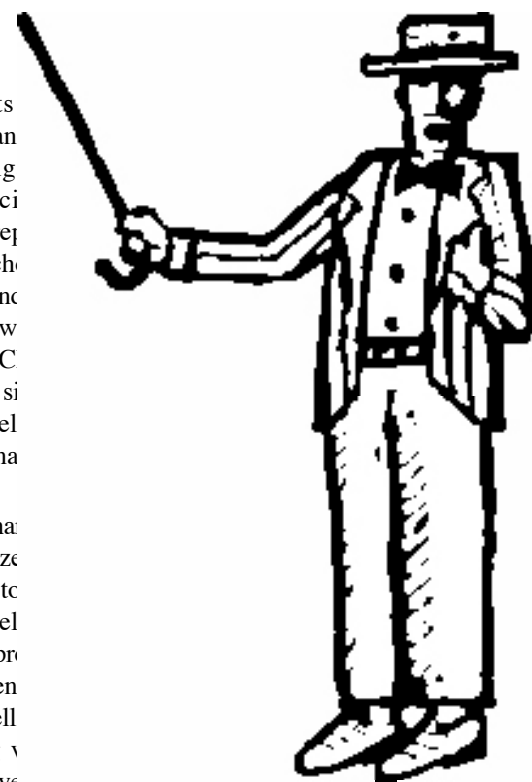
Rich revisits the scandal of the fake reporter from a fake news organization, planted at Bush press conferences to ask blatantly partisan questions. Similarly, so-called "ordinary citizens" were carefully recruited from administration supporters, pre-screened and vetted during the president's 60-stop pre-election "Ask the President" town-hall meetings.

Rich does not spare his own

profession. He castigates journalists for being too gullible and for failing to investigate reports. He is especially tough on Watergate reporter Bob Woodward for chipping intelligence and reporting what he knew the leaked identity of C. Valerie Plame Wilson's before special counsel Fitzgerald or subpoena the picture."

Perhaps Rich is not harsh on us—American citizens we become addicted to entertainment? Why else do we accept as truth a pre-flight suit reminiscent of Tom Cruise's "Outrageous Lie" Tom Cruise tell outright lie, claiming we Iraq. How could we have accepted his repeated denials, saying, "We do not torture," when other images and international reports demonstrated that we did.

I remember talking to a young Australian shortly after "Survival: The Outback" aired here. It was filmed not in the rough outback, but on his friend's private property, complete with caterers' vans and other trappings of the entertainment industry. We seem to believe



persuade us the job was well done when the government's handling of Hurricane Katrina's aftermath was neither prompt nor effective? Have we, too, failed to question?

An old saw holds that we get the leaders we deserve. If so, Rich's "Greatest Story Ever Sold" should remind us of an even older truth: "Buyer beware."

Climate change goes to court

Sally Galiste

Two critically important cases stemming from vehicle emissions are in our courts, and their outcomes will have far reaching implications. In September 2006, Attorney General Bill Lockyer filed a lawsuit against leading U.S. and Japanese auto makers, alleging their vehicles' emissions have contributed significantly to global warming, harmed the resources, infrastructure and environmental health of California, and cost the state millions of dollars to address current and future effects. The lawsuit is the first of its kind to seek to hold manufacturers liable for the damages caused by greenhouse gases that their products emit. In December 2006, six automakers asked the federal judge in this case to toss out the lawsuit. An attorney for the carmakers said that state officials who want to reduce auto emissions should do it through regulation, not

litigation. The auto companies include Chrysler Motors Corp., General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co., Toyota Motor North America Inc., American Honda Motor Co. and Nissan North America Inc.

In late November 2006, a coalition of 12 states (CA, CT, IL, MA, ME, NJ, NM, NY, OR, VT and WA) and environmental organizations went before the Supreme Court of the U.S. as it heard *Massachusetts v. EPA*, the most significant environmental case in decades. The question facing the court: are emissions that cause global warming "air pollutants" under the Clean Air Act? The court's decision could mark a turning point in the battle against global warming. The case, working its way through the courts since 2003, will determine whether the EPA has the authority to regulate carbon dioxide—the main cause of global warming—from motor vehicles. It will also rule on whether the EPA can avoid such regulation

by saying it favors "a different policy approach" such as voluntary action. The wide, diverse coalition for action reflects the enormous public impatience with the Bush administration's refusal to do anything to stop global warming.

The good news is that regardless of the outcome of this case, the global warming deniers are losing the battle. American states and cities have put global warming solutions at the top of their agendas. Clean, renewable energy is now the darling of Silicon Valley venture capitalists. And hybrid cards can't be kept on the lots, while gas guzzlers are collecting dust in the showrooms. The rest of the industrialized world is already acting. And with the new Congress elected by the American people, maybe even Washington is ready to go to work on solving global warming.

Sources: <http://lag.ca.gov/newsalerts>, www.nrdc.org/globalWarming/supremecourt.asp

Potential impacts of climate change on California

Sally Galiste

Weather matters almost all the time in California. Weather is already varied and changeable in our state. From the lethal heat and baking dryness of Death Valley to the ice and snow atop the Sierras, climate and temperature hit extremes in California on a regular, seasonal basis. Weather can change quickly, and now it appears that global warming could push California's weather to still further extremes.

Human activities have been increasing the atmospheric concentrations of "natural" greenhouse gases and adding some new man-made ones, such as chlorofluorocarbons. The concentration of "greenhouse gases" in the atmosphere that trap the sun's heat and provide the comfortable layer of air we live in at ground level, are increasing dramatically.

In trying to predict the outcome of this change, it is important to note that the world's climate system is huge and complex, making it difficult to accurately predict how much warming will happen, when it will happen, and how it will affect weather patterns. But scientists and models do tend to agree on general projections for a given area. What do the models say? California will be warmer and wetter, with average temperatures up by 5 degrees F in the next 100 years, with rainfall increasing by as much as 20-30% if warming goes unchecked, according to EPA and the IPCC.

Yet results would vary starkly

from place to place within our state. Climate change is likely to affect not only the overall amount of water California receives, but also the time, form (rain or snow), and location of it, likely resulting in more runoff during the wet winter season (when floods occur) and lower streamflow during summer, when it is most needed. The expected sea level rise (from melting glaciers and icefields) may cause salt water to intrude into coastal aquifers, making it useless for drinking or irrigation. More than 80% of our state's cropland is irrigated. Farms are heavily dependent on managed water.

Changes in the frequency or severity of drought and flooding could have a huge economic impact on California agriculture. Warmer weather can spur crop growth, though in other cases it can be detrimental. Shifts in seasonal timing or local temperature ranges could make growth of some current crops unfeasible, while bringing opportunities for new crops in. Increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere may actually improve plant growth in some cases, but changes in temperature and humidity may also affect agricultural pests, since many insects and fungi like warmer, wetter weather. Decreased summer streamflow would increase the salinity of San Francisco Bay and the San Joaquin Delta, kicking off a complex sequence of changes in ecosystems serving as a major breeding and feeding ground for invertebrates, fish, birds, and other species.

The California Energy Commission has stated that the

observed and projected impacts of climate change in California include hotter days, additional smog, sea level rise, and a 15 to 30 percent reduction in surface water supply to California's cities and farms over this century. However, some models suggest the possibility of significant increases in precipitation in the southern part of the state. The combination of water and temperature changes poses problems for plants and animals, including threatened and endangered species. Wildlife, forests and grasslands will tend to shift north and to higher elevations, unless human development and natural barriers prevent it.

Heat waves and droughts affecting urban centers, where 9 out of 10 Californians reside, will additionally stress the energy and water supply systems of cities. Utility problems such as water contamination and power blackouts will likely become more prevalent as demand for water and electricity increases. Most people in our state will suffer as air quality deteriorates during this century, with higher risks of asthma and chronic bronchitis resulting. Water and vector borne diseases could rise as temperature and flooding increase, providing a favorable environment for mosquitoes. Inequality and disparities in health and economic factors promise that climate change will disproportionately affect California's most vulnerable people, including the elderly, low-income, and people of color.

Sources: www.climatehotmap.org, www.climateregistry.org, www.environmentwriter.org, www.rprogress.org

Support alternative energy choice

In a letter delivered today to congressional leaders, 102 business, consumer, environmental, energy policy, and other groups urged that federal energy research and development funds be shifted from fossil fuel and nuclear power programs to those supporting renewable energy and energy efficiency. The letter specifically proposes changes in the Fiscal Year 2007 (FY'07) budget for the U.S. Department of Energy, which the 110th Congress is expected to consider shortly after convening on January 4.

The groups noted that "a shift in federal funding from mature and/or polluting technologies to cleaner, safer, and sustainable energy sources offers the best option for curbing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing oil imports, and addressing the nation's other pressing energy and deficit-reduction needs within the constraints of a very tight federal budget."

What to fund

The groups' proffered recommendations include the following:

- * Fund all core DOE renewable energy and energy efficiency programs at no less than the FY'06 appropriated levels unless otherwise indicated below;
- * Restore the DOE geothermal research program to at least its historic level of \$27.5 million;
- * Restore the DOE advanced and incremental hydropower research program to at least its historic level of \$5.0 million;
- * Restore and maintain policy, research, development and demonstration funding for the DOE Distributed Energy program at the FY'06 level of \$60 million;
- * Fund the DOE State Energy Program at the at the U.S. Senate FY'07 level of \$49.5 million;
- * Fund the DOE Buildings Technologies program at the U.S. Senate FY'07 level of \$95.3 million; and
- * Fund the DOE Solar Energy Technologies Program at the

House
Senate
FY'07
of \$1
million.

What to cut

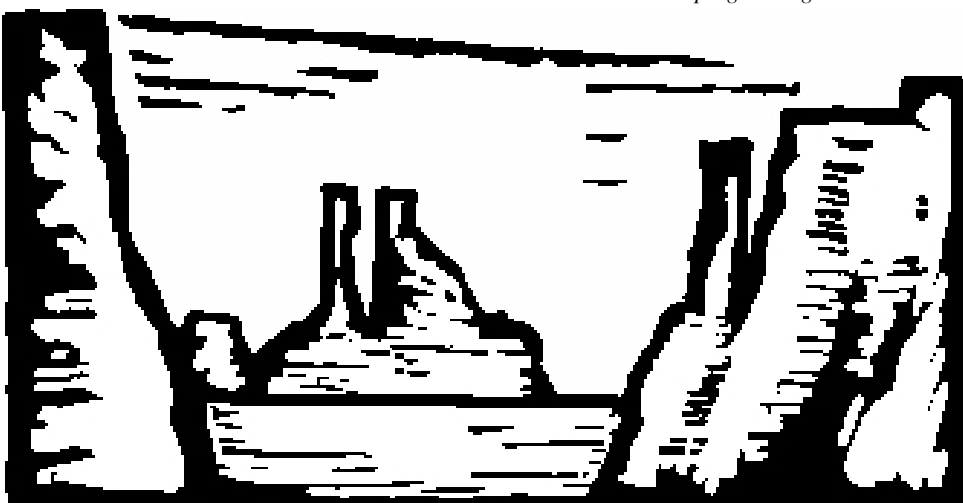
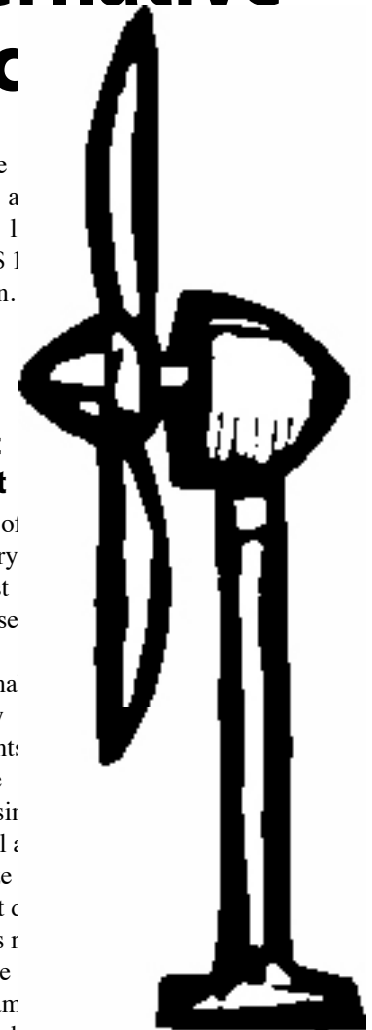
To "of the very modest increase in the sustainable energy account: we are proposing as well as the size budget groups that the program targeted for cuts:

Nuclear Power R&D:

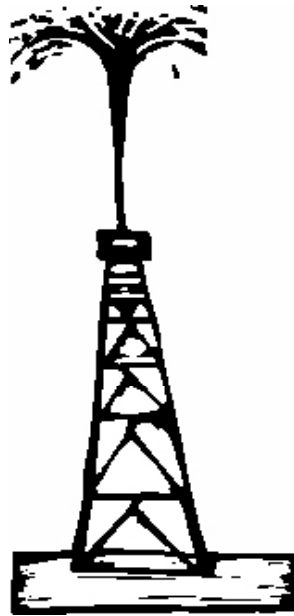
- * Advanced Fuel Cycle Initiative (FY'06 budget was \$60 million)
 - * Nuclear Power 2010 (FY'06 budget was \$66 million)
 - * Generation IV (FY'06 budget was \$55 million)
 - * Nuclear Hydrogen Initiative (FY'06 budget was \$25 million)
- Fossil Fuel R&D:
- * Clean Coal Initiative (FY'06 budget was \$50 million)
 - * FutureGen program (FY'06 budget was \$18 million)
 - * Oil Technology Research and Development Program (FY'06 budget was \$65 million)
 - * Ultra-deepwater Drilling Research and Development Fund (FY'06 budget was \$50 million)

ACTION: Contact your representatives to support alternative energy funding.

Source: Nuclear Information and Resource Service release 12/27/06, nirsnet@nirs.org



ExxonMobil global warming lies cost \$16 million



A new report from the Union of Concerned Scientists offers the most comprehensive documentation to date of how ExxonMobil has adopted the tobacco industry's disinformation tactics, as well as some of the same organizations and personnel, to cloud the scientific understanding of climate change and delay action on the issue. According to the report, ExxonMobil has funneled nearly \$16 million between 1998 and 2005 to a network of 43 advocacy organizations that seek to confuse the public on global warming science.

"ExxonMobil has manufactured uncertainty about the human causes of global warming just as tobacco companies denied their product caused lung cancer," said Alden Meyer, the Union of Concerned Scientists' Director of Strategy & Policy. "A modest but effective investment has allowed the oil giant to fuel doubt about global warming to delay government action just as Big Tobacco did for over 40 years."

Smoke, Mirrors & Hot Air: How ExxonMobil Uses Big Tobacco's Tactics to "Manufacture Uncertainty" on Climate Change details how the oil company, like the tobacco industry in previous decades, has

* raised doubts about even the most indisputable scientific evidence

* funded an array of front organizations to create the appearance of a broad platform for a tight-knit group of vocal climate change contrarians who misrepresent peer-reviewed scientific findings

* attempted to portray its opposition to action as a positive quest for "sound science" rather than business self-interest

* used its access to the Bush administration to block federal policies and shape government communications on global warming

ExxonMobil-funded organizations consist of an overlapping collection of individuals serving as staff, board members, and scientific advisors that publish and re-publish the

works of a small group of climate change contrarians. The George C. Marshall Institute, for instance, which has received \$630,000 from ExxonMobil, recently touted a book edited by Patrick Michaels, a long-time climate change contrarian who is affiliated with at least 11 organizations funded by ExxonMobil. Similarly, ExxonMobil funds a number of lesser-known groups such as the Annapolis Center for Science-Based Public Policy and Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow. Both groups promote the work of several climate change contrarians, including Sallie Baliunas, an astrophysicist who is affiliated with at least nine ExxonMobil-funded groups.

Baliunas is best known for a 2003 paper alleging the climate had not changed significantly in the past millennia that was rebutted by 13 scientists who stated she had misrepresented their work in her paper.

This renunciation did not stop ExxonMobil-funded groups from continuing to promote the paper. Through methods such as these, ExxonMobil has been able to amplify and prop up work that has been discredited by reputable climate scientists.

"When one looks closely, ExxonMobil's underhanded strategy is as clear and indisputable as the scientific research it's meant to discredit," said Seth Shulman, an investigative journalist who wrote the UCS report. "The paper trail shows that, to serve its corporate interests, ExxonMobil has built a vast echo chamber of seemingly independent groups with the express purpose of spreading disinformation about global warming."

ExxonMobil has used the laudable goal of improving scientific understanding of global warming under the guise of "sound science" for the pernicious ends of delaying action to reduce heat-trapping emissions indefinitely. ExxonMobil also exerted unprecedented influence over U.S. policy on global warming, from successfully recommending the appointment of key personnel in the Bush administration to

funding climate change deniers in Congress.

"As a scientist, I like to think that facts will prevail, and they do eventually," said Dr. James McCarthy, Alexander Agassiz Professor of Biological Oceanography at Harvard University and former chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's working group on climate change impacts. "It's shameful that ExxonMobil has sought to obscure the facts for so long when the future of our planet depends on the steps we take now and in the coming years."

The burning of oil and other fossil fuels results in additional atmospheric carbon dioxide that blankets the Earth and traps heat. The amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere has increased greatly over the last century and global temperatures are rising as a result. Though solutions are available now that will cut global warming emissions while creating jobs, saving consumers money, and protecting our national security, ExxonMobil has manufactured confusion around climate change science, and these actions have helped to forestall meaningful action that could minimize the impacts of future climate change.

"ExxonMobil needs to be held accountable for its cynical disinformation campaign on global warming," said Meyer. "Consumers, shareholders and Congress should let the company know loud and clear that its behavior on this issue is unacceptable and must change."

Source: Union of Concerned Scientists release 1/3/07 <http://www.ucsusa.org>

Former Bush Interior Secretary now works for Shell

Todd Wilkinson

Gale Norton is back providing oversight of energy development issues on public lands in the American West, this time as a key legal advisor for a major global oil company.

Months after she resigned her cabinet post as President Bush's Interior Secretary—and then seemed to disappear from public view—the Coloradoan apparently has accepted an offer to serve as counsel for Royal Dutch Shell PLC.

Shell, one of the world's largest producers of oil, was also one of the companies that Norton's Interior Department routinely engaged on matters of drilling in sensitive ecological settings.

According to Dow Jones Market Watch, which published her job announcement Wednesday, Norton will serve as general counsel for Shell's unconventional resources division. By "unconventional resources," a Shell spokesman said it pertained to emerging technology that targets such things as oil shale and extra heavy oil. Shell's U.S. subsidiary, Shell Oil Co., is based in Houston, but Norton will be allowed to render her legal expertise from Denver.

The timing of Norton's career move is certain to raise eyebrows from government watchdogs and environmental groups that long have asserted that Norton, her former deputy at Interior J. Steven Griles, Vice President Dick Cheney through his national energy strategy task force, and Congress gave energy companies preferential treatment by opening up coastal areas as well as western and Alaskan lands to increased oil, gas, and coal development.

Shell has focused a significant part of its resources in the past on drilling offshore in the Gulf of Mexico and in other coastline areas of the world.

Early in 2007, Democrats who now control the House and Senate, plan to hold hearings that closely scrutinize Interior's dealings not only with oil and gas companies,

which have received billions of dollars in subsidies during times of record profits, but also the department's relationship to convicted felon and lobbyist Jack Abramoff and Indian tribes for which Interior has a trust obligation and a role in permitting gaming casinos.

During Norton's tenure at Interior, rules pertaining to the permitting of oil and gas were eased, allowing the Bureau of Land Management to speed up the leasing process for natural gas extraction in controversial areas like the Jonah Field and Pinedale Anticline in the Upper Green River Basin of Wyoming, across the state in the Powder River Basin and in New Mexico, Colorado and Utah.

Another matter that may indirectly involve Norton is the fact that the Minerals Management Service which operates under Interior's umbrella waived royalty payments assessed against private oil companies, for two years running, owed the U.S. government on federally permitted leases in the Gulf of Mexico.

"Shell, historically one of the biggest industry players in the Gulf of Mexico, was one of five oil companies that reached an agreement with the MMS on Dec. 14 to pay royalties on the 1998 and 1999 leases," Market Watch reports. "An MMS spokesman said lost royalties from the leases amounted to \$900 million, but other reports have quoted much higher figures. A Government Accountability Office report said the MMS omission cost taxpayers \$10 billion."

Still another lingering issue, timely in the wake of the Abramoff scandal and central to calls for ethics rules reform involving political appointees and retired civil servants, is the so-called "cooling off period" following government service and before an individual goes to work for a company that he or she previously regulated.

Source: New West article 12/27/06, <http://www.newwest.net>

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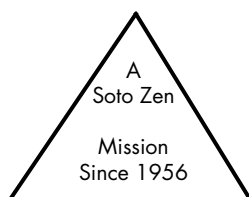
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Eating Green in San Joaquin

Feeding kids fast and healthy

Tory Sonstroem

This month's column is directed to parents of young children. Parents: You may not want to admit this, but the fact is that you feed your kids a lot of junk. I have seen you all over town, so I know this is true.

You are very busy being a good parent—you take your kids to soccer practice, music lessons, the library, and so on. You are PTA president, classroom parent, den mother, you name it. Your kids are thriving socially and intellectually, thanks to your excellent support. But when it comes to your kids' long term health, the marketers win and you lose. Drive-through fast food, vending machines, individually wrapped snack and "lunchiness" items, and the peer pressure to distribute treat bags at every opportunity, pack the fat onto, and sap the health out of, your kids, (not to mention sap the money out of your wallet.) And then there's the environmental issue of all that plastic and cardboard wrapping.

I know that you are too busy to read about how family meals promote good nutrition, good manners, togetherness, etc., so I won't go there. You will still eat on the run, and your kids do have to eat lunch at school. Fine. But take a moment to scan this list of better substitutes for your current food choices:

Fast food restaurant alternatives:

-Wendy's offers mandarin oranges instead of fries in its kids' pack.

-McDonald's has a great apple, yogurt, and nut salad.

-Subway offers a choice of juice or milk, and apples or raisins, in its new Healthy California kids' meal. Soda and a cookie were eliminated.

-Burger King serves Morningstar brand garden burgers.

-Taco Bell will substitute bean filling for any of its meat fillings—just ask.

Alternatives for cupcakes or doughnuts at school birthdays:

(I have done all of these with great results)

-caramel apples (made in classroom, not pre-packaged)

-frozen grapes

-Odwalla juices

-homemade lemonade (squeezed and made in class)

-coconut date rolls (a simple, natural, Middle Eastern treat sold in many stores in the produce section)

-Lara bars (date and nut bar sold in health food stores)

School lunch alternatives with less waste and/or less cost and better nutrition:

-Pack your own "lunchables" with baked crackers, real cheese, and other fresh fillings. Colorful, re-useable boxes are widely available in supermarkets, baby/toddler sections, and dollar stores. Make them the night before, or make a week's worth and freeze them.

-A source for dishwasher safe, very sturdy, re-useable drink bottles is in the juice section of grocery stores. Look for 6 packs of 8 oz. juices made by Welch's, Tropicana, and Minute Maid. And when the juice is gone, fill them

with water, the best drink on the planet.

-Apples, bananas, oranges, hard-boiled eggs, and peanuts in the shell come wrapped by Mother Nature.

-Grind-your-own peanut butter and almond butter are available at WINCO.

-WINCO also carries reduced-fat Oscar Mayer Lunchables, just in case this tip is the only one you can manage to do! I have not seen them anywhere else in the Stockton area.

-Compare the nutrition labels of any Oscar Mayer Lunchable with certain South Beach Diet pre-made lunch packs. Big difference in fat, protein, and sugar contents. Go with South Beach and add your own fruit and drink.

-Last one: If you serve those frozen "uncrustable" PB & J sandwiches because you can't/won't even make one yourself—or your kids bullied you into buying them—then you are beyond help and I pity you.

I hope you find some of this information useful. It might even get you to make better choices for yourself. Bon Appetit!

Tory Sonstroem is an instructor of health and physical education at San Joaquin Delta College. She can be reached at vsonstroem@deltacollege.edu.



Join Restore the Delta

Just nine months after its first public meeting, the new Stockton-based grassroots organization "Restore the Delta" has caught the attention of California Congressional delegates, marking the group's rise as a potent political force.

Shortly before the holidays, Congressman-elect Jerry McNerney and Congressman George Miller met with representatives from Restore the Delta for an in-depth discussion of the future of this 738,000 acre region east of the San Francisco Bay Area.

"We were very pleased that Congressman-elect McNerney agreed to set aside a substantial amount of time during a busy period to hear from the coalition," explains PCL's Jonas Minton. "When Congressman Miller personally asked to join the discussion we were thrilled. It's a

very inspiring time for those who care about the Delta."

The lawmakers hailed the formation of the group as a milestone in protection of the Delta, an area known for its divisive politics, in addition to its crashing aquatic ecosystem and aging levees. "Both Congressman Miller and Congressman-elect McNerney were surprised by the diversity of our coalition which includes Delta farmers, cultural leaders, members of the faith community, hunters and fishermen, recreation enthusiasts, business leaders and environmentalists. They saw the power of a community to put aside its differences and come together to protect its waterway commons," notes Restore the Delta Campaign Coordinator Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla.

During the meeting, Congressman Miller described the California Delta as a "sacrifice

area" for other regions of the state and called for a shift from defensive action to an offensive strategy. That call to action resonates with Restore the Delta members who are currently fighting several uphill battles, including the California Department of Water Resources' SDIP plan to increase harmful water exports and a crumbling, under-funded levee system. Increased exports could drive endangered fish populations into extinction and the failure of Delta levees from an earthquake or storm threatens to permanently flood the freshwater tidal estuary with salty ocean water, impacting the local ecology and economy.

ACTION: See how you can help locally: join Restore the Delta and visit www.restorethedelta.org

Source: *The PCL Insider: News From The Capitol, Planning and Conservation League 1/3/07* " www.pcl.org

Action alert: peripheral canal

*Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla,
Restore the Delta*

Early December, Senator Joe Simitian (D-Palo Alto) introduced legislation (S27) to create a bond that "if approved by voters would authorize for purposes of financing a water conveyance and environmental improvement program." His bill, in other words, is a recasting of the peripheral canal, but this time it's being described as the means by which we can solve the Delta's ecological crisis.

While Restore the Delta is in favor of real environmental improvement programs that will restore and sustain the Delta for future generations, the devil is in the details of this piece of legislation.

ACTION: 1) Please join us in sharing your concerns with Senator Simitian. Below you will find a draft letter that you can edit and send along to him. 2) Also, please tell your friends about the re-emerging threat of the peripheral canal, and Restore the Delta's response. By joining together as concerned stakeholders, we can have a protect the future of the California Delta. We can make it

"fishable, swimmable, drinkable, and farmable, by 2010."

The most important letter: yours

Senator Joe Simitian, 160 Town and Country Village, Palo Alto, CA 94301 Senator.Simitian@sen.ca.gov

Dear Senator Simitian:

While I appreciate your effort to tackle the problems of water supply reliability and the Delta's ecosystem crisis, as a member of Restore the Delta, I am writing to express my opposition to your recently proposed legislation S27. We believe that this proposed legislation ignores basic problems in the Delta's ecosystem and could make environmental conditions in the Delta worse. Restore the Delta maintains that the threat to pelagic fish populations, due to current water export levels, is so dire that water exports need to be immediately reduced to 1999 levels. Restore the Delta also insists that until ecosystem needs are fully identified and met that no further decisions or assurances regarding water exports should be made for either new or existing water projects.

We first need to know: (1) how much fresh water must remain in the Delta to restore Delta fisheries; (2) how much fresh water must remain in the Delta to protect local agriculture; (3) and how much fresh water will improve and sustain the Delta's ecology for the future. There must be scientific determination of the requirements for water volumes and flows, and ironclad assurances that ecological requirements will become a priority over additional water diversions. In addition, as the stated reasons for this bill are water supply reliability, and restoration of anadromous and pelagic fish, Restore the Delta is advocating for a provision to reclaim water now being used to irrigate drainage-impaired lands and subsidized crops in the southern part of the state. The first step for assuring water supply reliability and protecting the environment is to use our existing water supply wisely. Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

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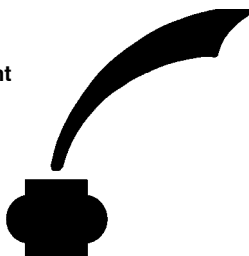
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Sen. Barbara Boxer, 1700 Montgomery St, Ste 240, San Francisco, CA 94111. 415-403-0100; 112 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510. 202-224-3553, senator@boxer.senate.gov

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

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

Hon. Jerry McNerney, 11th District, 312 Cannon House Office Bldg., Washington DC 20515; email: info@jerrymcnerney.org, 925-833-0643, http://www.JerryMcNerney.org

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

US: mark five years of Guantanamo by closing it

As the fifth anniversary of the Guantanamo Bay detention center approaches, Human Rights Watch denounced the ongoing detentions there as a shameful blight on US respect for human rights. Human Rights Watch called on the Bush administration to bring criminal charges or release the nearly 400 detainees, and restore their access to federal court. On January 11, 2002, the first 20 detainees in the "war on terror" arrived, hooded and shackled, at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Today, close to 400 men remain there without charge, unable to challenge the lawfulness of their detention before federal court.

"Detaining hundreds of men without charge at Guantanamo has been a legal and political debacle of historic proportions," said Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch. "It's time to close Guantanamo. The Bush administration should either charge or release the detainees trapped in a nightmarish limbo."

Since establishing the detention center at Guantanamo Bay, the Bush administration has sought to shroud it in secrecy and insulate its actions from judicial review. After the Supreme Court ruled that detainees could challenge the lawfulness of their detention in courts, the Bush administration pushed legislation through Congress that revokes that right. The same legislation strips detainees of the right to challenge their treatment, even if they have been tortured, and even after they have been released.

Congress: restore detainees' right to trial

"The first order of business for the new Congress should be to restore the detainees' right to habeas corpus," Roth said. "It's a vital mechanism for preventing abuse of detainees and for protecting people who shouldn't be in detention."

The administration has sought to justify its ongoing detentions at Guantanamo by labeling those held as "enemy combatants" without regard to the requirements of the laws of war. The Department of Defense claims it is giving the

"Not a single one of the allegedly high-level terrorists has been brought to trial for his crimes. The victims of September 11 and the American public deserve to see justice done."

—Ken Roth, Executive Director, Human Rights Watch

detainees basic due process rights through so-called Combatant Status Review Tribunals, cursory administrative hearings in which detainees can contest their designation as enemy combatants. However, these hearings do not even come close to anything like an independent judicial review: they are neither independent nor fair.

In the Combatant Status Review Tribunals, the government relied extensively on secret classified evidence—putting the detainee in the impossible situation of rebutting evidence that he had never seen. In many cases, the detainee was never even told what specific activities he was accused of doing that would supposedly make him an "enemy combatant." Coerced statements—even if obtained by torture—were admissible against the detainee and, like all of the government's evidence, presumed to be "genuine and accurate." And detainees could not be represented by lawyers, and in most cases were not able to produce any witnesses or evidence apart from their own statements.

"If the US believes that these men have committed acts that legally justify detention, it is hard to understand why it is so fearful of meaningful and independent judicial review," Roth said.

Although they have been labeled "combatants," most of the detainees were picked up far from any battlefield. According to the Pentagon's own records, the US has not even accused

the vast majority of them of carrying a weapon or fighting US or coalition forces. Hundreds of the detainees were sold to the US by bounty hunters or turned over by rival clan members, while high-level Taliban and al Qaeda operatives with the resources to buy their freedom got away.

Detainees include: men who were arrested in Bosnia and have been cleared of wrongdoing by Bosnian courts; an Afghan who opposed the Taliban and joined the transitional government but was turned over to US forces by a rival clan; and more than a dozen Chinese Uighurs who have been slated for release but cannot be returned to China because they will likely be tortured. They have nowhere else to go and have been refused asylum in the US.

The Bush administration claims it plans to charge up to 70 of the Guantanamo detainees in the military commissions authorized by Congress in October 2006. That leaves more than 300 men still held in Guantanamo without charge and without any clear explanation of what they are accused of doing. Many should have been released long ago under the laws of armed conflict.

"Not a single one of the allegedly high-level terrorists has been brought to trial for his crimes," Roth said. "The victims of September 11 and the American public deserve to see justice done."

Source: Human Rights Watch release 1/5/07 <http://hrw.org/campaigns/guantanamo/2007/index.htm>

A History of Nonviolence

Wall of hope, windows of wisdom

The Wall of Hope is 40 feet of plywood painted pink. It zigzags, freestanding, just in front of the checkout desk at the Modesto Junior College (MJC) Library. It's astonishing, bewildering and inspiring and...it's worth a trip to Modesto!

For example, one panel of the wall reads: "You can no more win a war than you can win an earthquake"—Jeanette Rankin, U.S. Congresswoman.

Or Bishop Desmond Tutu: "If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If the elephant has its foot on the tail of the mouse, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality."

Again from Tutu: "When the missionaries came to Africa, they had the Bible and we had the land. They said 'Let us pray.' We closed our eyes. When we opened them, we had the Bible and they had the land."

From Nelson Mandela: "If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner."

Gandhi, in 1946: "The atom bomb resulted for the time being in destroying the soul of Japan. What has happened to the soul of the destroying nation is yet too early to see."

There's the daily prayer of the prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him): "Oh Lord, make me neither oppressor nor

oppressed."

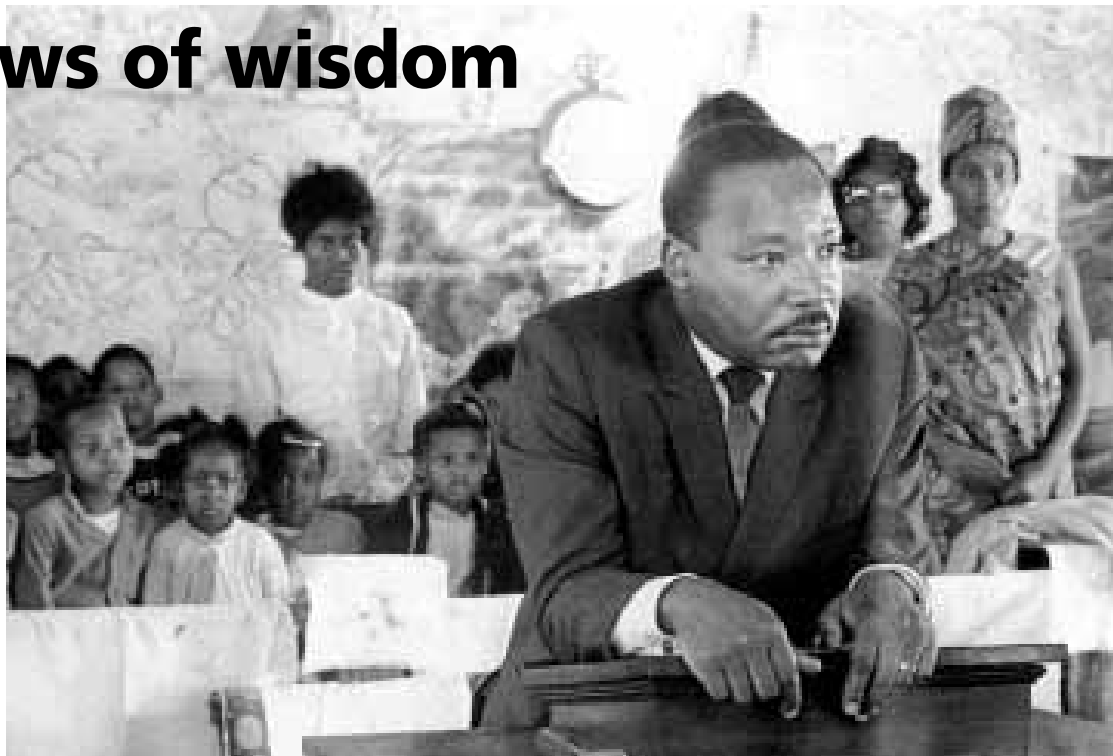
And Rigoberta Menchu, the tiny woman from Guatemala who won the Nobel Peace Prize: "It is said that our indigenous ancestors, Mayas and Aztecs, made human sacrifices to the gods. It occurs to me to ask: How many humans have been sacrificed to the gods of Capital in the last five hundred years?"

All this paradoxical wisdom is enough to give a person pause—and pause they do, students on the way to desks in the library. The Wall of Hope, put together as a course project by MJC teachers Dan Onorato, Sandra Woodside and their students, is covered with hundreds of quotes, biographies of peacemakers, histories of nonviolent organizations around the world.

And photos.

Dorothy Day, jaw sticking out, sitting on a folding chair surrounded by sheriffs, at a grape workers' picket in the Central Valley. Father Roy Bourgeois and Martin Sheen, leading a throng of resisters at the U.S. Army's School of the Americas. Martin Luther King Jr., the Dreamer who would not make it to the Promised Land, but whose eyes had seen the glory.

And Gandhi of course, Winston Churchill's "half-naked fakir"... again and again Gandhi, rascally little Peace Pirate with his stick, striding alongside six foot six Muslim peace warrior Abdul



Ghaffar Khan and aristocratic young socialist Nehru, walking to the sea to make salt, free from the taxes of Empire. Einstein said, after Gandhi was shot dead (by a fellow Hindu, because he was too kind to Muslims): "Future generations will scarcely believe that such a one in flesh and blood ever walked this earth."

But walk he did, as the others in this astonishing exhibit walked—and some still walk among us. For example, Kenyan woman Wangari Maathai, Nobel Peace Prize winner, leader of the Green Belt Movement: "We have come a long way from ignorance to deep insight, from fear to courage and from the streets to Parliament. We moved from self to others, from "my issue" to "our issues," from home to communities, from national level to global. Now we embrace concepts of our common home and future."

Shirin Ebadi, Nobel Peace Prize winner from Iran, walks for equality: "Whenever women protest and ask for their rights, they are silenced with the argument that the laws are justified under Islam. It is an unfounded argument. It is not Islam at fault, but rather the patriarchal culture that uses its own interpretations to justify whatever it wants."

Aung San Suu Kyi, Nobel Peace Prize winner from Myanmar/Burma, has walked in her garden under house arrest for many years now: "The only real prison is

fear, and the only real freedom is freedom from fear."

And we walk, we Americanos, right here in the Valley. As Marian Wright Edelman says,

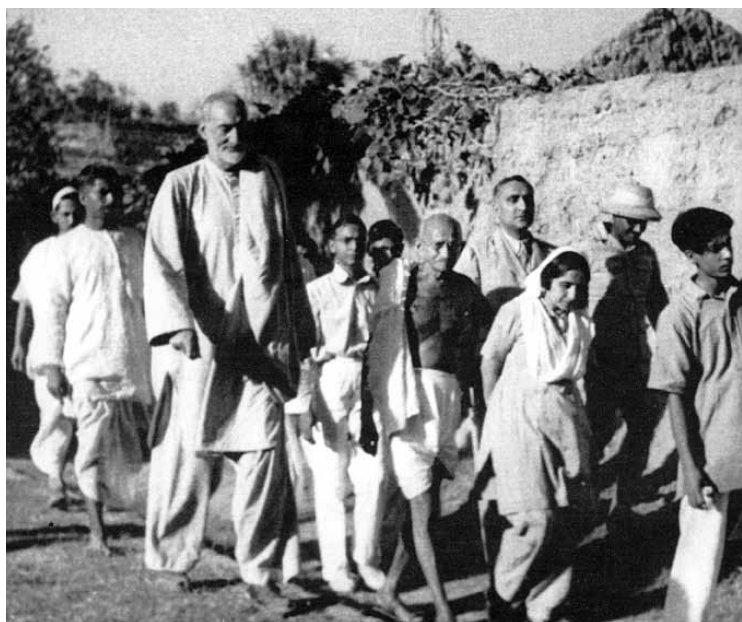
"A lot of people are waiting for Martin Luther King or Mahatma Gandhi to come back—but they are gone. We are it. It is up to us. It is up to you."

Dorothy Day said, "No one has the right to be hopeless; there's too much work to do."

Finally, Anita Roddick: "If you think you're too small to have an

impact, try going to bed with a mosquito in the room."

ACTION: Walk the Wall of Hope! MJC's Library (take Briggsmore/Orangeburg to College Avenue and turn right) is open Mondays through Thursdays from 8 AM to 9 PM, Fridays 8 to 5, Saturdays 9 to 5. (Library info 209-575-6868.) The exhibit has been extended through the end of the spring semester. Plan to stay, have lunch and go back—it's a huge treasure house. Take your grandchildren.



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is for good people to do nothing.*

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On belief and immigrants

Joe Palooka

The Republican "Contract with America" has been officially declared null and void and Joe Palooka couldn't be happier. Perhaps now things like ethics and honesty and peace and environmental concerns will mean something again. Something other than lining the pockets of unscrupulous politicians, lobbyists, corporate fat cats, developers and all the other bottom feeders who populate our nation's capital. Repub's now claim the Dems have the ball in their end of the court and it's up to them to slam dunk all the country's ills. Not so fast!

Twelve years of GOP "leadership" have left us in a mess. This won't get fixed overnight. Dems must begin by addressing the nation's most pressing concerns immediately and they must do it in a straightforward and aggressive manner. The time for double talk is over. We got our foot back in the door and our country simply can't afford to let the kind of bums we've been answering to the last twelve years back in.

Last month, Joe talked about foreign policy and crime and punishment. Now as promised, I'll offer opinions on religion and immigration. The First Amendment of the Bill of Rights states, among other things, Americans' right to freedom of religion. Yet freedom of religion also means freedom from religion as well. President Bush claims to respect all peaceful religions yet governs based upon his own personal beliefs. His judicial appointments do not reflect the diversity of religious or non-religious beliefs he so often states as a reason for America's greatness.

Women, in particular, should be sounding the alarm as their reproductive rights are disappearing faster than Joe's cold beer on a hot summer day. These rights are being systematically preyed upon because Bush, in tandem with the far right fundamentalist base that catapulted him to prominence, has decided that God doesn't approve of abortion or—worse yet—simple contraception. Those beliefs are shoved down all our throats, like it or not. That's not freedom of religion. Poll after poll shows a substantial majority of Americans

are in favor of a woman's right to choose.

Let's let churches teach the business of religion and let government govern. The Ten Commandments belong in the church, not next to little Sally's finger painting. Our leader's must find common ground between rational, informed Americans and then weed out those who would use something as personal as religion to further their own private agenda. Joe envisions God, in whatever form that turns out to be, as a sort of long suffering parent; an increasingly anxious parent waiting for it's child—humanity—to someday exceed the sum of its knowledge and take responsibility for it's own action's. Perhaps on that day, if it ever comes, our descendants may yet solve the eternal mystery.

When it comes to immigration and all its complexities, the answer seems pretty simple to a everyday guy like Joe. America, that vast experimental melting pot, is getting crowded. While it's true we're a nation of immigrants, even the largest "ship" has limits as to the number of passengers she can safely carry. Safely is the operative word here. Checked into or out of a hospital emergency room lately, say, in Arizona or California? This is where uninsured immigrants from south of the border go for health problems. It's also where you'll find many resentful American citizens.

As Joe sees it, each state should annually set immigration quotas as to how many "guests" they can realistically support and safely administer. A clear path to citizenship, devoid of tricks, should be set in place. All immigrants should have state and national ID's. Illegal immigrants and those who employ them must be dealt with. Illegals should be returned home, with details explaining the legal paths available to them. Employers should be subject to fines, jail time or both. Fair wages, minimum wage or better, should be paid to those who perform the "jobs Americans won't do." Lastly, the United States and Canada should join forces and do more to encourage investment in Mexico. The majority of Mexicans coming to this country aren't looking for a handout, just a hand.

Now put on those thinkin' caps cause' it's time for the Joe quiz!

1. The recent defeat of a well known rancher/congressman caused Joe and da' missus to go "lap" dancing. What does L.A.P. stand for?

- A. Limp and Plod
- B. Lug-a-Palooka
- C. Life after Pombo
- D. Line and Polka

2. On February 19, 1942, President Roosevelt signed executive order 9066. What did this do?

- A. Restrict sale of steel to Japan.
- B. Allows for the continuation of major league baseball in wartime
- C. Creates a hotline between Washington and London
- D. Places Japanese Americans in internment camps.

3. On January 21, 1977 President Carter grants unconditional pardons to this group:

- A. Designers of the American motors Gremlin
- B. Vietnam draft dodgers
- C. Disco music listeners
- D. The makers of Billy Beer

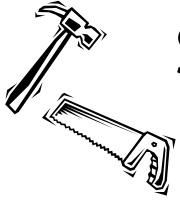
4. Vice-President Cheney stated to the press in 2003 that soon after being liberated, the Iraqis would greet U.S. soldiers with what?

- A. Buckets of Kentucky Fried Chicken
- B. Flowers
- C. Overnight "guest" passes to Abu Graib prison
- D. Oil slickers

[Answers: 1C; 2D; 3B; 4B]

Well it's time for Joe to quit poundin' the keys and go pound a few brewski's. Let's all say a prayer to whatever God you pray to that the wars engulfing the middle east somehow come to an end. So until next time here's hoping your holiday's are wonderful, there's a six pack in the fridge, and all the little palooka's in your world are safe and happy. This is Joe Palooka, signing off.

Joe Palooka is the alter ego of Dave Waldon, whose musings haunt this space most months.



Sawznhammers

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

Transformations

John Morearty

Scientists now agree that birds are descended from dinosaurs. From pterodactyls to warblers? What else is possible?

"U.S. OUT of Iraq!" said the red white and blue sign on my stick. Drivers honked, smiled, waved the peace sign or thumbs up; only one guy ranted. An older Mexican American stopped his walk to chat: "I grew up out in Farmington, and I think people have more sense now; I like your sign."

The peace wave surged at the polls November 7, across the land and here in Fat City. Wind-power engineer Jerry McNerney carried one Brookside polling place two to one, I was told. Ria and I poll-watched all day in North Stockton, where Republicans made a clean sweep-except for McNerney, who carried the site by 2%. He lost the county by a mere 1,200 votes, and stunned warmonger Richard Pombo 6.4% overall, in a district with a 6% Republican edge in registrations.

But will McNerney get us out of Iraq? Here's what he said on December 30th, when he gave the weekly Democratic radio address in response to Bush: "I share the concern of my Democratic colleagues that President Bush may use his same failed logic to increase our troop strength in Iraq by up to 30,000 soldiers. The incoming chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Ike Skelton, has said that an increase in troops at best won't change a thing, and at worst could exacerbate the situation even further in Iraq."

"The Iraqis need to understand that the responsibility for the future of that country is theirs. Beginning the redeployment of American forces would send that message."

"Beginning"? And redeployment to where-just across the border to Kuwait? Not to Iran, surely? And what about the fourteen huge permanent U.S. bases in Iraq? McNerney said nothing about

whether he will vote for more billions for the occupation; he did say the U.S. must train Iraqi security forces. For how long, and at what cost?

Congressman John Murtha now heads the House Appropriations subcommittee that handles defense spending. Murtha, a former Marine and 16-term lawmaker, recently complained that attacks against U.S. troops have doubled from 400 per week to 800 since he first spoke out against the war a year ago. He said after the deaths of 3,000 troops, the time has come to leave. America can't solve its domestic problems until it stops spending \$8 billion a month on Iraq. "Staying in Iraq is not an option politically, militarily or fiscally," Murtha said. "Iraq is plagued by a growing civil war and only the Iraqis can solve it."

Conscientious people object: "The U.S. can't just leave. We have a responsibility to solve the chaos we caused." Yes we do. But as Einstein said, no problem can be solved in the same mode of thinking that created it. We made chaos with our troops and guns, and it goes on. More guns and troops will solve the problem?

What we owe the Iraqis is reparations. One proposal I like is that the U.S. pull all troops out now, invite the U.N. and Arab nations in, and give Iraqi people a direct incentive to keep the peace. The U.S. could say, "We will set aside a quarter of what we have been spending on this war. If civil war deaths in Iraq drop below, say, 6,000 in the coming year, we will pay five hundred green American dollars to every Iraqi man, woman and child. If deaths don't drop below that level, no one gets a dime. The following year, the maximum will be, say, 3,000 deaths." In other words, keep peace among yourselves, and you get reparations from the country that reduced you to civil chaos. Is that so silly?

Meanwhile, how about San Joaquin County's other Congressman, Dennis Cardoza? He has consistently supported

the war. But MoveOn.org has launched a nationwide grassroots campaign to persuade people like him to change their minds-the nation wants peace. These local groups are called Democracy Councils, and their first job is to implement the results of the recent election: Out Of Iraq; HealthCare for All; Clean Energy Now; and Restore Democracy in the USA. An initial meeting of the San Joaquin Democracy Council was recently held, and sixteen people showed up. Dr. Mario D'Angeli was unanimously elected president. He says, "Every member of the Council is a leader, and any member who is not a leader soon will be." For further information call D'Angeli at 209-477-4015.

Years ago I heard Daniel Ellsberg (the Pentagon insider Nixon called a "traitor," for revealing the secret Pentagon Papers to the American people) explain that Congressional funding is the key. When American voters finally persuaded Congress to shut off the money for the Vietnam war, that war ended.

"De-fund the war now," say Dennis Kucinich and other progressive congressmen. What will representatives McNerney and Cardoza say? It's up to We The People to persuade our representatives to do the right thing. We are the heroes we've been waiting for.

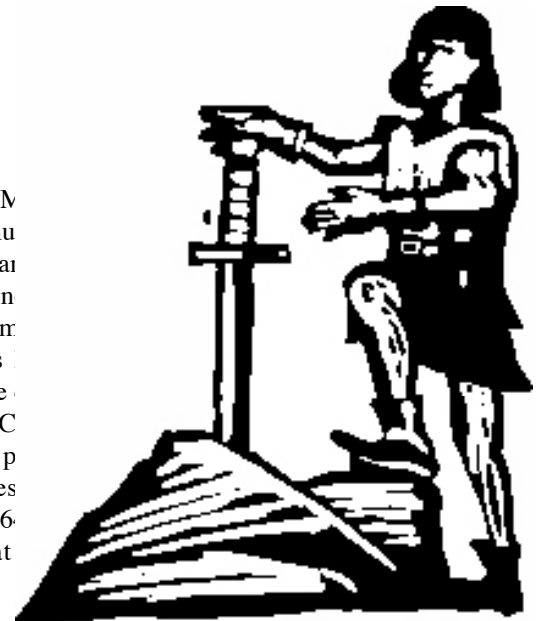
On January 27 there will be a march on the White House, demanding U.S. troops leave Iraq. There will be another on March 17, the fourth anniversary of the invasion, and the marchers plan to "stay at the White House till the troops are out."

In Stockton, I hope readers will join the call for peace!

On January 27 a committee is planning a peace vigil all day, 10-5, in the traditional spot where we have protested the Iraq war since before it was launched: the lawn of Delta College, along Pacific Avenue just north of the bus stop at Yokuts. There will be hot cider and coffee, info booths,

and a program at 2 PM by a singalong and mu come! Bring family ar signs, flags and bann pairs of shoes, to cor the war dead; shoes end of the day will be St. Mary's Interfaith C Service Center. The p committee welcomes workers! Call me at 46-3326, Jim Walsh at 981-0544, or Harold Bell at 333-2353.

My friend Tom Ambrogi, who spoke against the American Empire at Delta College a couple years ago, just recovered from nine grueling months of illness. He wrote the other day: "We live in what are probably the most tumultuous and dangerous times in the history of the planet. Having now well passed the biblical age of three-score-years-and-ten, where to center my social justice energies? Two voices resonate in my soul: Dietrich



Bonhoeffer saying in 1934 Berlin, 'Christians should give more offense, shock the world far more,' and a murmur of Karl Barth, 'If you are defending everything but what is under attack, what are you doing?'

Tom concludes, "What are the really central issues most worth working on? Where is the valuable place to be in the time still remaining to me?"

Happy pondering, and a peaceful new year!

Alternative energy in California

Sally Galiste

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger recently signed a suite of energy-related bills making California the first state to enact legislation specifically intended to limit greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) requires the state to reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. Other energy-related bills signed include SB 1368, requiring GHG emissions standards for electricity used in California, and SB 107, accelerating the timeline to reach the state's existing 20% renewable energy standard requirement sooner, now to 2010 (from 2017). Each Act became effective January 1, 2007.

Additionally, in August 2006, the Governor signed SB 1, the Million Solar Roofs Bill, which establishes a large, long-term solar power program to build a million solar homes and businesses over ten years, and

includes \$2.5 billion in rebate funding. Schwarzenegger has also made it clear he will fight any attempt of Big Oil to drill off our environmentally-sensitive coasts. California's high standards have in recent years given rise to hybrid cars, efficient refrigerators and air conditioners, the catalytic converter, tough pollution controls and other improvements. Our governor wants California in the limelight, a focus for other states to see what can be done and then follow suit. Paralysis in the federal government has caused over 100 climate-related bills to languish in Congress, including one that would designate a national cap on GHG emissions. Schwarzenegger said he is ready to go to Washington to drag Congress out of its reluctance to act on climate change.

ACTION: Contact your state representative and the governor to support national alternative energy legislation.

Sierra Club Annual Meeting on Jan. 22

You are invited to the General Meeting of the Delta Sierra Group (local Sierra Club) on January 22, 2007 - 7:00 pm at Central Methodist Church, across from the UOP tower, 3700 Pacific Ave., Fireside Room.

The topic will be the Lower Mokelumne River Water Trail Project. Sue Shalvey, Kathy Grant and Dana Nichols (of the

Stockton Record), three water trail enthusiasts in their own rights, will give us an overview of the effort to establish a non-motorized Water Trail on this special river from the Camanche Dam to the Woodbridge Regional Park.

Come hear the many details and have questions answered by the experts.

Peace and Justice Network



of San Joaquin County

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



Beautiful PJN mugs!

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



UPROOTED—The story of the Japanese Americans in WW II

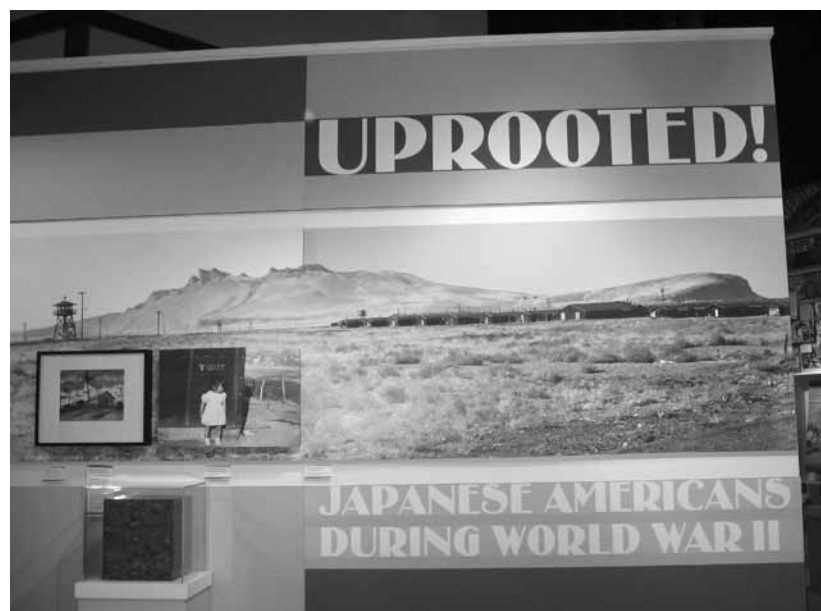
Joyce Takahashi

On February 19, 1942, two months after the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 stating that all Japanese Americans, regardless of their age and living on the West Coast must leave their jobs and their homes.

The government did not charge any of these people with a crime, and even after years of investigations no government agency or law enforcement officials ever found a single person who had been a spy.

Approximately 120,000, most of whom were US citizens, were forced to leave their homes to live in assembly centers which were surrounded by barbed wire and guarded by armed soldiers in towers. After about six months, they were moved to one of the ten internment camps in various remote locations.

Their story is told in the current exhibit entitled "Uprooted" at the California Museum of History, Women, and the Arts on 10th and O Streets in Sacramento. It is a message of personal strength and perseverance in keeping with the museum's original theme of rights and responsibility. Particularly poignant are photographs of the



Japanese American soldiers of the 442nd RCT visiting their families in the camps after serving on the Pacific and European fronts, and the faces of the internees during the confinement.

There is a replica barrack constructed by Ted Kubota in August 1983, a scale model guard tower and a previously unopened trunk of belongings of a Japanese American family who left California. Items and photographs on display from the CSUS Library Special Collections (<http://digital.lib.csus.edu/jaac/about-jaac.html>) have been supplemented by loans from the Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley and from private collections. The film "Something Strong Within" by Robert A. Nakamura features

excerpts from the few "home movies" taken by the internees, in spite of the general ban on cameras.

In addition to the exhibit, from January 16 to March 16, the museum sponsors workshops for area students grades 4-12 in the context of ideas of citizenship, constitutionality and redress. Presenters from the Japanese American community share personal stories of the internment. Cosponsors of the program are California State University, Sacramento, Library Special Collections, and the Elk Grove Unified School district.

The museum website is www.Californiamuseum.org. To reserve a time for student groups contact Shelley Atkinson at 916-654-5688 or satkinso@ss.ca.gov.

Singer-Songwriter Jim Scott in Concert

Guitarist, singer, and composer Jim Scott writes powerful music that furthers the ideals of ecology, justice, and peace. He has visited over 300 churches across the country, leading services, presenting concerts, and offering workshops. Now he is coming to Stockton!

On Saturday, January 27, 2007, at 7 p.m., Jim will be giving a family-friendly concert at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton. Tickets are \$15. This concert is a fundraiser to benefit the church and our music program. Childcare will be provided. 209-466-7743 minister@stocktonuu.org

Flyway Festival

San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival, January 27-29th, 2007. Held right on Mare Island (previously a Naval installation just across the bridge from Vallejo), this festival features wildlife programs, birding tours, exhibits, an art show, and more. Check it out at www.stbayflywayfestival.com.

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(mostly) February 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.]

Jan 8 - Feb 3

Jonathan Espalin acrylic & mixed media painter. M-F 10-5, Sat 11-3 Tidewater Gallery, 223 E. Weber Ave, Stockton. 463-4033

Sat, Jan 13

New Dance Company Crab Feed fundraiser, 6-9 pm. Proceeds benefit ValleyDance 2007, a free dance festival at Weber Pt. \$40. Waterloo Gun & Bocci Club, 4343 N Ashley Lane, Stockton. 373-0884.

SJCOE Honor Band and Choir concert, 9 am, Atherton Auditorium, 5151 Pacific, Stockton. 954-5110.

Jan 19 - Feb 16

Pintando con Luz photo exhibit, sponsored by the Mexican Heritage Center at the Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. W-Sat, 1-6 pm Reception Jan 19 6-9 pm; meet the artists symposium Feb 2, 7-9 pm. 467-4455

Jan 20 - Feb 25

McKee student art exhibition, W-Sun 1:30 - 5 pm. Reception 1/20, 1:30-3 pm. Haggin Museum, 1201 N Pershing Ave, Stockton. \$5 adult, \$2.50 ages 10-17, over 65. 940-6315

Sun, Jan 21

Peace & Justice Network Annual Meeting and Potluck, 3 - 7 pm. 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. Come welcome in the new year with old and new friends. Food, discussion, merriment. All are welcome. 467-4455.

St. John's Chamber Orchestra Festival, presenting Pachelbel's Canon in D; Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik; Barber's Adagio for Strings and more. 5 pm. \$15 St John's Episcopal Church, Stockton. 466-6916

Mon, Jan 22

Delta Sierra Annual Meeting 7pm at Central United Methodist (see page 18).

Tue, Jan 23

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

Fri, Jan 26

St. John's Chamber Orchestra Festival, presenting an Evening of Treble Voices. 7:30 pm. \$10 St John's Episcopal Church, Stockton. 466-6916

Fri & Sun, Jan 26-Feb 18

Stockton Civic Theatre presents The Secret Affairs of Mildred Wild. Thurs 7:30 pm, Fri/Sat 8 pm, Sun 2:30 pm. 2312 Rose Marie Lane, Stockton. \$22 adult, \$18 senior, \$15 students, \$8 children 12 and under. 473-2424.

2353, 464-3326 or 981-0544 for info.

Guitarist, singer and composer Jim Scott concert, 7 pm. \$15. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 2707 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Childcare provided. 466-7743

Sun, Jan 28

St. John's Chamber Orchestra Festival, presenting Grieg's Holberg Concerto; Vivaldi's Concerto for Two Cellos; Williams, Respighi and a special work by Max Simoncic. 5 pm. \$15 St John's Episcopal Church, Miner & El Dorado, Stockton. 466-6916

Thu, Feb 1

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

Stockton Symphony Classics 4, with works by Copeland, Bach and others. Richard Ormrod piano. 8 pm Atherton Auditorium, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$15-44. 951-0196

Sat, Feb 3

Stockton Symphony Classics 4, with works by Copeland, Bach and others. Richard Ormrod piano. 6 pm Atherton Auditorium, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$15-44. 951-0196

SJ AIDS Foundation Crab Feed fundraiser, 6-9 pm. \$40 Stockton Ballroom, 9650 Thornton Road, Stockton. 476-8533.

Sat, Feb. 3rd

PJ Center Swap Meet, for people pledging to reduce their consumerism and waste: bring any used or handmade items you wish to swap, barter, sell, or give away. 10 am - noon, first Saturdays at the PJ Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. No table charge (but bring your own table if possible). Sponsored by RE CON WAY (reduce consumerism and waste) pledgers. Contact Sally Galiste: sgaliste@sbcglobal.net.

Tue, Feb 6

No Struggle, No Progress Fredrick Douglas film festival. Peace and Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. February Tuesday nights. Free admission. 7 pm 430-3354

Thur, Feb 8

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

Sat, Feb 10

Shane Dwight Band blues concert, \$20. Stockton Ballroom, 9650 Thornton Rd, Stockton. 476-8533.

Sun, Feb 11

San Joaquin Vegans monthly potluck, 5:30, Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. \$2 with food, \$9 without food. Tableware and beverages provided. Please bring enough food for 8. All are welcome.

PJN Annual Meeting... Don't Miss It!

Sunday, January 21, 3-7

It's a potluck, a party, a new year, and we're on a roll! Please join us at the P&J annual meeting at the lovely Peace & Justice Center.



Photography Exhibit (see page 20)

Pintando Con Luz (Painting With Light)

January 19th to February 16th 2007
1:00 pm-6:00 pm Wednesday-Saturday

The Artistas del Valley/ Mexican Heritage Center, Inc. announces the opening reception of Pintando Con Luz (Painting with Light) an Exhibit featuring the photography of the Artistas del Valle. A reception will be held on Friday January 19, 2007 at the Peace and Justice Center, 231 Bedford Road (off the Miracle Mile/Pacific Ave.), Stockton, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

A symposium will be held on Friday February 2, 2007 at the Peace and Justice Center, 231 Bedford Road, Stockton, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Meet the photographers and enjoy an evening of music and poetry.

For information contact Alicia Arong (209) 463-3390 or Maria Flumiani (209) 467-4455

RSVP to sjvegans@hotmail.com
Second Sundays.

Tue, Feb 13

No Struggle, No Progress Fredrick Douglas film festival. Peace and Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. February Tuesday nights. Free admission. 7 pm 430-3354

Tue, Feb 20

No Struggle, No Progress Fredrick Douglas film festival. Peace and Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. February Tuesday nights. Free admission. 7 pm 430-3354

Feb 23 - Mar 4

Somerset Maugham's The Constant Wife, Fri, Sat, Thurs 8 pm, Sun 2 pm. SJ Delta College's Studio Theatre (3rd floor Locke), 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. 954-5110

First Thursdays

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

Second Sundays

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

Second Thursdays

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

Third Mondays

Hispanics for Political Action - HEPA meets 6 pm at Archie's Café, 334 S. Hwy. 99. (near Arch Road) For info, call Louis Gonzales 464-9205

Second Sundays

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

Third Mondays

Hispanics for Political Action - HEPA meets 6 pm at Archie's Café, 334 S. Hwy. 99. (near Arch Road) For info, call Louis Gonzales 464-9205.



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

It's All Happening At the P&J Center

Stand Up for Peace ! U.S. Out of Iraq NOW! De-fund the War!

Saturday January 27, 10 - 5

Along the grassy edge of the Delta campus
Pacific Avenue, just north of bus stop at Yokuts
(Delta parking lots are free on Saturday)

- TAKE A STAND, with old friends and new
- Hold up signs to passing cars, 10 AM till 5 pm
- Hot cider and coffee
- Info booths
- Program at 2 pm, followed by music and singalong

Bring: family and friends, peace signs, flags and banners,
pairs of shoes, to commemorate the war dead.
Shoes left behind at end of day will be donated to St. Marys'
Interfaith Community Service Center

Sponsored by

- The Peace and Justice Network of San Joaquin County,
publishers of Connections free newspaper since 1986
- Pax Christi, San Joaquin County chapter
- Freedom from War, San Joaquin County chapter

Info: Harold Bell, 333-2353
John Morearty, 464-3326
Jim Walsh, 981-054

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ARTISTAS DEL VALLE
PRESENTS

PINTANDO CON LUZ



January 19, 2007 - February 16, 2007
Peace & Justice Center

231 Bedford Road, (off Pacific Ave.) Stockton, CA

Reception: Friday, January 19 – 6-9 p.m.

Meet The Artists

Symposium Friday, February 2nd – 7-9 p.m.

Hours: Wednesday - Saturday 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

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Celebrate Black History Month at the Center

"No Struggle No Progress" Frederick Douglas Festival Every Tuesday night in February

Come out and celebrate the accomplishments of African Americans with films and entertainment that will broaden awareness, provoke thought and educate.

Each night will begin with live drumming and libations. WOW (with our words, inc) will sponsor the first night of our festival with a featured poet and live drumming. The second Tuesday, Delta Sigma Theta will present Akeelah The Bee followed by a panel. Third week TBA. The last week will feature a dynamic documentary *Now is the Time*, with commentator actress/dancer Debbie Alan, followed by a panel of health care professionals.

Bring the entire family, this is a free event. Sponsored by B-Healthy B-Holistic, WoW Inc, Jack and Jill of America Inc, and Delta Sigma Theta. For more info on movie listing contact: Brandi Mack, 209-430-3354 BHealthyBHolistic@yahoo.com

*Volunteers
always
needed*

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