

connections

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Netroots begin to "Crash the Gates"

Laurie Litman

A large majority of people in the U.S. agree that our country is going in the wrong direction, however, little has been done to turn that around.

Republicans, who control both branches of government, mindlessly rubber stamp anything the Bush Administration requests. Democrats appear unable, or unwilling, to effectively confront the Administration. For those of us who care about the future, it's easy to become discouraged.

But this is not a time for despair. There are some very exciting signs that people at the grassroots are forcing major changes in the current power structure. And these changes are just beginning.

YKos: people-powered politics in action

This month, more than 1000 people gathered in Las Vegas for the very first annual YearlyKos Convention. A gathering of progressive bloggers, readers, and activists, fully one in eight of the attendees were from the media—including reporters from the *NYTimes*, *Newsweek*, *C-Span*, and even *Le Monde*. Speakers

(continued page 2)

Internet freedom at risk

Fight for Net Neutrality

Without Net Neutrality, it could be as if you were on your way to your favorite burger joint, only to find that McDonald's paid for all the roads in your neighborhood to come to them. Whoever has the most money decides what you get to see.

—analogy from firedoglake.com

In early June, the US House of Representatives definitively rejected the concept of Net Neutrality, dealing a bitter blow to people in the blogosphere and internet companies like Amazon.com, eBay and Google that had engaged in a last-minute lobbying campaign to support it.

By a 269-152 vote that fell largely along party lines, the House Republican leadership rejected a Democrat-backed amendment that would have enshrined stiff Net Neutrality regulations into federal law and prevented broadband providers from treating some internet sites differently from others. The giant telecom companies have been pouring millions of dollars to defeat these regulations.

How this affects you

• Google users—Another search engine could pay dominant internet providers like AT&T to guarantee that competing search engine open faster than Google on your computer.

• Innovators with the "next big idea"—Startups and entrepreneurs

will be muscled out of the marketplace by big corporations that pay internet providers for dominant placement on the web. The little guy will be left in the "slow lane" with inferior Internet service, unable to compete.

• iPod listeners—A company like Comcast could slow access to iTunes, steering you to a higher-priced music service that it owned.

• Political groups—Political organizing could be slowed by a handful of dominant internet providers who ask advocacy groups to pay "protection money" for their websites and online features to work correctly.

• Nonprofits—A charity's website could open at snail-speed, and online contributions could grind to a halt if nonprofits can't pay internet providers for access to "the fast lane" of internet service.

• Online purchasers—Companies could pay internet providers to guarantee their online sales process faster than competitors with lower prices—distorting your choice as a consumer.

• Small businesses and telecommuters—When internet companies like AT&T favor their own services, you won't be able to choose more affordable providers for online video, teleconferencing, internet, phone calls, and software that connects your home computer to your office.

• Parents and retirees—Your

choices as a consumer could be controlled by your internet provider, steering you to their preferred services for online banking, health care information, sending photos, planning vacations, etc.

• Bloggers—Costs will skyrocket to post and share video and audio clips, silencing citizen journalists and putting more power in the hands of a few corporate-owned media outlets.

Blocking innovation

The threat to an open internet isn't just speculation—we've seen it happen when the internet's gatekeepers get control.

According to the *Washington Post* (11/30/05) "William L. Smith, chief technology officer for Atlanta-based BellSouth Corp., told reporters and analysts that an internet service provider such as his firm should be able, for example, to charge Yahoo Inc. for the opportunity to have its search site load faster than Google Inc."

(continued page 2)

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Where's your outrage?

Bruce Giudici

We are being bombarded by stay the course messages. Its election time—all the time—and conventional wisdom again says that a strong wrong warmonger will beat an uncertain right peacenik everytime. As with 2004, the war party needs only stay close enough so that hacking a few voting machines in a few precincts will keep Congress in the killer's hands. Mainstream media has kept its part of the bargain—repeating how difficult it will be to pick up 15 seats in the House, how much money incumbents have, how we can't change. It's the same message that feeds voter apathy, keeping the wealthy in and the poor out.

Let's look at the last election. Record low numbers were spurred by few choices, with the dearth of candidates in most races due to a combination of the high cost of running and a

feeling that government cannot serve any but those elected. In a past, more idealistic decade, Americans would have believed that they could fix the problems we face. War? Demonstrate in the streets. Corrupt politicians? Vote them out and change the rules. Environmental disaster? Get elected officials informed and make them work.

We face these problems now—and yet, where is the outrage? Buried in American Idol worship? Burnt out by two jobs, making less while life costs more? Ignored by citizens habituated to democracy in name, but rarely practiced? Everyone needs a rationalization on why they cannot stop the rape they overhear in the street. Pull the shade, turn up the TV, lock the door—and it didn't happen, at least not to us.

The Nazi story unfolds: First they came for the Blacks, then the Catholics, then the Jews.

When they came for me, no one was left to help. Now let's look at the past month: the Supreme Court rules that it's ok for police to illegally enter to your home; an immigrant law will pass to build a wall between people and families; we continue to borrow Social Security funds to pay for tax cuts for the richest 1%; whale hunting may begin tomorrow; and all social programs are taking funding hits to pay for a \$60 billion semi-annual "emergency" Iraq/Afghan killing spree that has no end in sight. The bleeding continues.

Most of this is reversible. Tax cuts and borrowings that are squandered today can be reversed after an election (Clinton even generated a surplus). At this moment in time, however, we should be saving our Social Security in a "lockbox" (remember that?) for the time when boomers retire (starting 2010). Regretably,

Bruce Giudici



the window on that saving time is closing fast—just when we have the most wasteful Administration in our history that runs deficits to cut taxes. Jobs exported can come back home—enact a global minimum wage and basic environmental laws. Court assignments take longer—at least 30 years for a life-long appointment to expire. But extinctions and long-term environmental damage (global warming, groundwater and nuclear pollution, clearcutting, and the like) are forever.

So, now, make your choices. Check out the alternative media noted in these pages. Get inspired and get idealistic. It may be the only thing between you and our communal fate. Happy Fourth of July!

Netroots (continued from page 1)

included Minority Leader Harry Reid, DNC Chair Howard Dean, Senator Barbara Boxer, former Ambassador Joe Wilson, and several aspiring political leaders. The blogging community has obviously captured the attention of the media and politicians.

What's going on and why should we care?

Over the last year, the grassroots progressive blogging community, also known as the netroots, has become ever more savvy, vocal, and organized. Several of the larger blogs have joined together to coordinate actions—from theater such as the delivery of a thousand rubber stamps to Congress to efforts to support legislation and progressive candidates.

These larger blogs, with a combined readership of something over 1,000,000 people a day, are reaching and empowering an audience looking for ways to effect change. The netroots are developing their power at

a startling rate. And, from the attention given to YearlyKos, we see that the Democrats are starting to notice the pressure.

Crashing the Gates

Crashing the Gate: Netroots, Grassroots, and the Rise of People-Powered Politics is an insightful book that discusses the major shift underway. Instead of giving up on the Democratic Party, this book identifies why the party is no longer responsive to its base and spells out the steps needed to bring it back to a party of the people.

A few things you can do

Become a part of this exciting effort to take back the Democratic Party and the country.

- Get your news from blogs rather than the mainstream media.
- Read *Crashing the Gate*.
- Get involved with the Roots Project, www.firedoglake.com.
- Work for a local campaign.

Want to discuss this more? Contact llitman@igc.org.

Net Neutrality (continued from page 1)

Such corporate control of the web would reduce your choices and stifle the spread of ideas. It would throw the digital revolution into reverse. Internet gatekeepers are already discriminating against websites and services they don't like:

- In 2004, North Carolina ISP Madison River blocked their DSL customers from using any rival web-based phone service.
- In 2005, Canada's telephone giant Telus blocked customers from visiting a website sympathetic to the Telecommunications Workers Union during a contentious labor dispute.
- Shaw, a major Canadian cable, internet, and telephone service company, intentionally downgrades the "quality and reliability" of competing internet-phone services—driving customers to their services by rigging the marketplace.
- In April, Time Warner's AOL blocked all emails that mentioned www.dearaol.com—an advocacy

campaign opposing the company's pay-to-send e-mail scheme.

This is just the beginning. Cable and telco giants want to eliminate the internet's open road in favor of a tollway that protects their status quo while stifling new ideas and innovation. If they get their way, they'll shut down the free flow of information and dictate how you use the internet.

For more on Net Neutrality, go to <http://www.savetheinternet.com>. No corporation, trade group or political party funds the SaveTheInternet campaign.

ACTION: Urge Senators Boxer and Feinstein to support Net Neutrality and S. 2197, the "Internet Freedom Preservation Act of 2006," which restores key protections for consumers. The bill prohibits preferential pricing for access tiers, and has a meaningful enforcement mechanism to deter network discrimination.

Source: Save the Net release 6/12/06 <http://www.savetheinternet.com/> =swag

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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."

Waiver will ensure valley water pollution

Bill Jennings

The Central Valley Regional Board's current waiver of water pollution regulations for agriculture essentially cedes the Board's statutory responsibility to protect waterways to industry advocacy groups. The Regional Board currently doesn't know who is discharging pollutants, what pollutants are being discharged, who is participating in the waiver program, or who has or has not implemented best management practices. The health of California's water supply and Delta depends on how the Central Valley Regional Board acts now to fix its broken agricultural runoff program. At the Regional Board hearing June 22, your attendance and support of the following talking points can make a difference.

Ag runoff is toxic

- Agricultural runoff is a major source of pollution statewide. Farm runoff contaminates water supplies for millions of Californians in the Central Valley, San Francisco Bay Area and Southern California.
- Recent U.C. studies show nearly all (97-100%) Central Valley sites affected by agricultural runoff violate water quality standards. Up to 80% of those sites are also toxic. Similar studies along the central coast found 100% of samples from ag runoff channels were toxic to aquatic life.
- Agricultural pesticides, pathogens, nitrates and salts have been detected in drinking water supplies serving 16.5 million people in 46 California counties.
- The Department of Pesticide Regulation found pesticides in 96% of Central Valley locations tested; over half of these waterways violated standards for aquatic life and drinking water consumption.
- A 2006 U.C. study of pesticide mixtures in agricultural runoff found "significant harmful effects" on frogs even when the individual pesticide levels in the mixture were 10 to 100 times below EPA standards.

Ag runoff a key factor in Delta's decline

- According to the U.S. EPA's 2002 list of impaired water bodies, over 635 miles of rivers and streams in the Central Valley, including the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and Delta, are so polluted by agricultural pesticides that they are unsafe for uses such as fishing, swimming, and/or drinking.
- California's vast Delta ecosystem is crashing rapidly. Biologists point to three likely causes: degraded water quality, water diversions, and invasive species. Recent U.C. studies of Delta species such as striped bass found all of the fish tested had gastric inflammations, parasitic infestations, liver lesions, infections or a combination.
- The Little Hoover Commission found last fall in its CALFED analysis that "The Delta is so critical to California's future that no water policy will be successful if the estuary is not restored."

CA law protects surface and ground water

- California law requires "[a]ny person discharging...or proposing to discharge waste...that could affect the quality of the waters of the state,"—including groundwater—to: (a) file a report of the discharge (i.e., ask permission) and, as needed, (b) implement waste discharge requirements that protect the use of those waters. It applies to everyone—municipalities, industry, small family-owned businesses—and agribusinesses.
- A regional board may "waive" these waste discharge requirements, with conditions, only if doing so "is consistent with any applicable state or regional water quality control plan and is in the public interest."
- Given the state and importance of the Delta, and the overwhelming scientific evidence of clear and significant impacts of agricultural runoff, the use of waivers for agricultural runoff in the Central Valley cannot achieve clean water and so is not "in the public interest." This is particularly true of the numerous waterways

already identified as "impaired" and in need of immediate cleanup, not continued contamination.

Proposed ag runoff waiver breaks law while destroying Delta

- The Central Valley Regional Board oversees 40% of California's land area and the second-largest groundwater basin in the U.S., which supplies 74% of California's groundwater needs. The Board's decision on agricultural runoff will significantly impact the supply of clean water for all Californians.
- In its 2006-07 Budget Bill Analysis, the Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) found that "the level of compliance is low" with the current Central Valley waiver. Though ten agribusiness coalitions have formed around the waiver, the discharger coalitions have repeatedly failed to comply with even the minimal terms of the current waiver, including:
 - failure to comply with the monitoring and reporting provisions of the waiver;
 - failure to present a detailed plan of action to address identified water quality violations.
- However, despite consistent and widespread noncompliance with minimal waiver conditions, the Regional Board has never initiated an enforcement action against a coalition or individual discharger. Although monitoring has identified many hundreds of violations of water quality standards, only once has the Regional Board directed a coalition to prepare a management plan that identifies how the violations will be addressed.
- The current and proposed new waivers also conspicuously fail to contain requirements essential to success, including: (a) requirements to prevent further pollution of the groundwater basin, and (b) a list of those participating in the waiver. The Central Coast agricultural runoff waiver already includes both of these essential elements, with approximately 90% of irrigated acreage already enrolled.



- The proposed new waiver fails to fix the problems with current waiver. The new waiver:
 - Fails to require enrollees to sign up as intending to comply with the waiver,
 - Fails to require management plans, even when standards are already being violated, and
 - Fails to include groundwater requirements (which are included in the Central Coast region waiver).
- The proposed new waiver also weakens the existing waiver by taking out all references to a timeline for compliance.
- Other ways in which the new waiver is weaker than the current program include the following:
 - The new waiver fails to include specific water quality objectives,.
 - The new waiver relies upon an as yet-unidentified monitoring plan, the drafts of which are currently weaker than the existing plan.
 - It exempts discharges during "large storm events," a critical term that is notably left undefined.

The preferred approach for Delta health

- Recommendation: Given the severity of pollution found to date and the keystone role of the Delta in California water policy, General Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs), rather than a waiver, should be developed as the most effective

and enforceable approach for addressing agricultural pollution. Staff did draft General WDRs, but no action was taken on them.

- Minimum steps: The Central Valley Board, if it extends the waiver, must include the following provisions:
 - All dischargers must file "notices of intent to comply" with the waiver,
 - Enrollees must prepare individual farm-based Pollution Prevention Plans,
 - Coalitions must develop management plans that address all water quality standards violations,
 - Enrollees must comply with set requirements for discharges to groundwater, not just surface water, and
 - The monitoring component must include independent third-party monitoring.
- Finally, fees must be set to support at least the 18.5 person years authorized to oversee the program.

ACTION: It would really, really help if you could personally attend the Regional Board hearing in Rancho Cordova on 22 June. We be gathering at 11020 Sun Center Drive #200, Rancho Cordova 95670 at 8am (google for map). Hearing will likely last most of the day. Bring lots of friends to join the merriment. We provide fact sheets & talking points. Do this for your spirit! Do this for your children! Please spread the word. More info, call 209-464-5067



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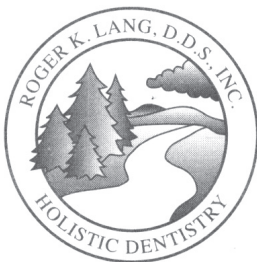


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Bush IRS goes after the poor

You've gotta love the consistency of the Bushites. When they ram through their multibillion-dollar tax giveaways, it's the superrich and corporations that gain. And when they unleash their IRS to look into tax cheating, they don't probe the tax shelters of millionaires or the multibillion dollar offshore tax havens of corporate finaglers— instead, they go after the working poor who're entitled to tax credits of only a few hundred bucks each.

With Bush & Co., them that's got is them that gets... and everybody else should watch out! That's the hard lesson learned by some 1.6 million low-income workers who have not only had their tax refunds frozen in the past five years, but also have had their tax filings officially labeled "fraudulent" by the IRS. This crackdown on the poor has allowed Bush to claim that, by gollies, he's tough on tax fraud.

But the IRS's own inhouse taxpayer advocate, Nina Olson, says—wait a minute—she and her staff analyzed the returns of these accused poor folks and found that two-thirds of them

were actually entitled to the tax credit they sought.... or entitled to even more money. Another 14 percent were due at least a partial refund, and of the remaining 20 percent, almost none had committed fraud, but instead had simply been confused by the complicated tax forms and made honest errors.

By the way, the average income of these supposed tax deadbeats was only \$13,000. The great majority were working parents who were using the earned-income tax credit, which was first advocated by the laissez-faire guru Milton Friedman and first implemented by Ronnie Reagan. But now these good folks are being browbeaten by the Bushites for crass political gain.

This is Jim Hightower saying... If you're a corporate tax cheat, the Bushites and their congressional

henchmen look the other way—but if you're a working stiff, you're presumed to be a fraud... and the IRS comes down on you.

Source: *Hightower Lowdown* 5/29/06 The hottest, best little newsletter in America! <<http://www.hightowerlowdown.org>>



Abolish torture now

"What does it say if torture is condemned in word, but allowed in deed?"

— Advertisement by 27 religious leaders in *The New York Times*

Religious leaders from across the faith spectrum today joined Nobel laureates Jimmy Carter and Elie Wiesel in a call for the U.S. government to abolish torture— without exceptions. Concerned by assertions from the U.S. government that torture and inhumane treatment could be permitted in some cases, the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) published this statement in an advertisement in *The New York Times* today: "Any policies that permit torture and inhumane treatment are shocking and morally intolerable."

Torture and inhumane treatment have long been banned by U.S. treaty obligations and

are punishable by U.S. criminal statute. Last year, Sen. John McCain (AZ) led a successful effort to pass legislation outlawing torture. But the U.S. government continues to argue that a little bit of torture may be okay, in some cases. For example, in the month of June:

- The Pentagon reportedly decided to amend the Army Field Manual so that in the future U.S. soldiers will not be required to abide by a key tenet of the Geneva Convention that bans "humiliating and degrading treatment" of prisoners.
- The Pentagon directed military doctors to violate codes established by the American Medical Association and participate in the forced feeding of detainees on hunger strike. According to press reports, under the new guidelines doctors and psychiatrists may observe interrogations and advise interrogators but are barred from

direct participation.

• Investigators from the Council of Europe, a human rights body established by European governments, confirmed reports in the *Washington Post* that 14 European nations colluded with U.S. intelligence to abduct prisoners and transport them to secret detention facilities in Europe where they would be beyond the protection of any laws.

ACTION: Write your members of Congress today. Urge your senators and representative to join these faith leaders in calling for Congress to pass legislation abolishing torture— without exceptions. You can find a sample message and contact your legislators directly through FCNL's online legislative action center. For more information see FCNL's web site.

Source: *FCNL Legislative Action*

Standing up to the Port of Stockton



Things are happening at the Port of Stockton that impact the environment and quality of life of our community. Here's what—and how you can get involved.

Clean air,

The Port of Stockton is planning to dramatically increase the number of ships that dock in Stockton from 20 to 150 large commercial ships a year. Cancer-causing diesel exhaust from these 150 ships will dangerously pollute our air. Already the Port has increased industrial shipping activities on Rough and Ready Island without completing the Environmental Impact Report as required by California State law. Now they're trying to force this project through as fast as possible. If we don't act today, our air quality will go from bad to worse.

A large commercial ship traveling at 20 knots can emit as much pollution as 350,000 new cars in just one hour, according to a leading environmental group, Bluewater Network. Because cargo ships operate on extremely dirty fuel called bunker oil, the dirtiest and least expensive form of fuel available, even ships traveling much more slowly emit massive amounts of pollution. According to EPA, smog and particulate matter account for 15,000 premature deaths, one million respiratory problems, 400,000 asthma attacks, and thousands of cases of aggravated asthma, especially in children, in the United States every year.

Open government,

Why is the City of Stockton hiding its involvement in the Port's expansion plan? Mayor Gary Podesto claimed that "the Port's a separate agency" and said the

Port's expansion plan was solely within the Port's jurisdiction. But the City of Stockton Housing and Redevelopment Department has paid the Port almost \$100,000 for work on its Environmental Impact Report. And the Port Commissioners who approve the Port's plans are appointed by the City Council. The City never even openly talked about its role in the Port's activities. It's \$100,000 payment for the Port's EIR was discovered by citizens who made a Public Records Act request.

and clean water.

The Port's plan to dredge up the Stockton Deep Water Channel threatens local fisheries and the health of nearby residents. This dredging will stir up toxic sediments buried in the silt lining the channel and recharge the water with these dangerous substances. Ballast water discharged by international commercial ships carries invasive species that can ruin our ecosystem. The Port has not adequately analyzed the ecological impact of the discharged ballast water. It's time to tell the Port to clean up its act.

ACTION: 1) Report air pollution from cargo ships to The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District at (800) 281-7003. 2) Join us today. Stockton Standing Up is a coalition of concerned San Joaquin Valley residents and environmentalists who want to make sure the Port's planned expansion doesn't come at the expense of the health and safety of Valley residents. Help us tell the Port to clean up its act. 209-573-6010

Source: Stockton Standing up release 6/8/06 <<http://www.stocktonstandingup.org/waterpollution.html>>

Massive campaign for universal single-payer health care

An open invitation to action

Dear Supporter of HCA and SB 840,

Health Care for All—California is launching a massive, historic grassroots campaign to achieve universal, single-payer health insurance. And the campaign, called OneCareNow, needs your financial support. Ten years after its founding, HCA has grown from a small core of committed single-payer activists into a statewide network of 30 chapters with over 10,000 members and supporters, such as you, in nearly 200 cities around the state. We have worked hard to educate Californians about single payer health care coverage, but as we continue to suffer from an ailing, failing health care system, we know there is still much more to do.

This summer, the OneCareNow Campaign and a powerful coalition of organizations will propel this process to a new level—and to inevitable success. OneCareNow means one plan and one high standard of care for all Californians. It means full care for all, for life, for less. The OneCareNow Campaign is dedicated to building public pressure to demand passage of Senate Bill 840, authored by Senator Sheila Kuehl. The response from other organizations and legislators to the OneCareNow campaign has been swift and enthusiastic. But to succeed, we'll also need your help now.

OneCareNow activities are already underway: a one million-signature petition drive for SB 840, a OneCareNow Campaign educational film production, a new OneCareNow.org website, and, most importantly, mobilizing a 365-city/365-day campaign of public education and activism.

The 365-city campaign, which starts on August 12, 2006, is bold and simple. There will be at least one "event" every day for a year, each in a different city, beginning with less populated cities and towns in California and ending with the largest, Los Angeles. Throughout the year, we will be educating people about SB 840. A week after the Los Angeles event, on August 19, 2007, supporters from the 365 cities—and elsewhere in the state—will hold a mammoth rally in Sacramento for universal, single payer health insurance.

The coalition helping us organize the 365 cities includes the League of Women Voters of California, the California Alliance for Retired Americans, and Health Access. But, as we know, massive public education and mobilization requires equally massive financial support.

Right now, we are producing Phase I campaign materials that HCA chapters and partners will use throughout the campaign (e.g., 1,000 tabling banner sets and petitioning kits, 1,000 press packets, 500 newspaper ad kits, and 500 spot radio CD's). We are also enhancing our OneCareNow.org website to be an effective educational tool for supporters throughout the state.

Help us build this grassroots movement to pass SB 840 and make single payer health care in California a reality. Go to www.OneCareNow.org, sign the petition and get involved.

To volunteer go to www.OneCareNow.org/volunteer.html

Then help us with a generous financial contribution to the OneCareNow Campaign.

We ask you to make a tax-deductible contribution of \$100 to this historic campaign today...more if you can afford it...less if you cannot. Above all, please give to this exciting OneCareNow Campaign. Contributors of \$100 or more will receive a gold OneCareNow Campaign pin. We also ask you to forward this message to your family and friends to let them know about the OneCareNow Campaign and what they can do to help.

To contribute, go to <http://www.onecarenow.org/donate.html>. Please consider making a monthly recurring donation.

Thank you again for your energy, commitment, and support. Together, we can make quality health care a reality for all Californians.

Sincerely,

Dan Hodges, HCA-CA Chair

Andrew McGuire, Director, OneCareNow Campaign

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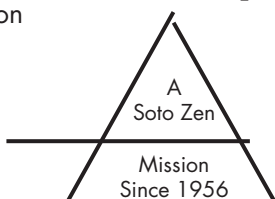
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Bush' brave new world

Cheney's office declares exemption from secrecy oversight

Thickening the haze of secrecy surrounding the executive branch, the Office of Vice President Dick Cheney has declared itself exempt from a yearly requirement to report how it uses its power to classify secret information. In its 2005 report to the president released last month, the Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO), a branch of the National Archives, provides a quantitative overview of hundreds of thousands of pages of classified and declassified documents. But the vice president's input consists of a single footnote explaining that his office failed to meet its reporting requirements for the third year in a row...."It's part of a larger assertiveness by the Office of the Vice President and a resistance to oversight," said Steve Aftergood of the Project on Government Secrecy, a division of the public-interest association American Federation of Scientists. "It's as if they're saying, 'What we do is nobody's business.'"

Source: *The NewStandard* 6/7/06
<<http://newstandardnews.net/content/index.cfm/items/3261>> via *truthout*

Bar group will review Bush's legal challenges

The board of governors of the American Bar Association voted unanimously yesterday to investigate whether President Bush has exceeded his constitutional authority in reserving the right to ignore more than 750 laws that have been enacted since he took office....Among the laws Bush has challenged are the ban on torturing detainees, oversight provisions in the USA Patriot Act, and "whistle-blower" protections for federal employees....Bush has challenged more laws than all previous presidents combined...William Sessions, a retired federal judge who was the director agreed to participate because he believed that the



signing statements raise a "serious problem" for the American constitutional system. "I think it's very important for the people of the United States to have trust and reliance that the president is not going around the law," Sessions said. "The importance of it speaks for itself."

Source: *The Boston Globe* 6/4/06 <<http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2006/06/04/>> via *truthout* <http://www.truthout.org/>

Army manual to skip Geneva detainee rule

The LA Times reports that the Pentagon has decided to omit from new detainee policies a key tenet of the Geneva Convention that explicitly bans "humiliating and degrading treatment," according to knowledgeable military officials, a step that would mark a further, potentially permanent, shift away from strict adherence to international human rights standards.... President Bush's critics and supporters have debated whether it is possible to prove a direct link between administration declarations that it will not be bound by Geneva and events such as the abuses at Abu Ghraib or the killings of Iraqi civilians last year in Haditha, allegedly by Marines...."The rest of the world is completely convinced that we are busy torturing people," said Oona A. Hathaway, an expert in international law at Yale Law School. "Whether that is true or not, the fact we keep refusing to provide these protections in our formal directives puts a lot of

fuel on the fire."...For decades, it had been the official policy of the U.S. military to follow the minimum standards for treating all detainees as laid out in the Geneva Convention. But, in 2002, Bush suspended portions of the Geneva Convention for captured Al Qaeda and Taliban fighters. Bush's order superseded military policy at the time...

Military lawyers and other defense officials wanted the redrawn version of the document known as DoD Directive 2310, to again embrace Common Article 3 of the Geneva Convention. That provision—known as a "common" article because it is part of each of the four Geneva pacts approved in 1949—bans torture and cruel treatment. Unlike other Geneva provisions, Article 3 covers all detainees—whether they are held as unlawful combatants or traditional prisoners of war....The move to restore U.S. adherence to Article 3 was opposed by officials from Vice President Dick Cheney's office and by the

Pentagon's intelligence arm, government sources said. David S. Addington, Cheney's chief of staff, and Stephen A. Cambone, Defense undersecretary for intelligence, said it would restrict the United States' ability to question detainees...."The overall thinking," said the participant familiar with the defense debate, "is that they need the flexibility to apply cruel techniques if military necessity requires it."

Source: *LA Times* 6/4/06 via *truthout*
<http://www.truthout.org/docs_2006/printer_060506Z.shtml>

Iraq: conferees eliminate ban on permanent bases

Thwarting the will of the majority, a joint House and Senate conference committee early June decided to delete language barring permanent U.S. military bases in Iraq from legislation pending in Congress. Meeting behind closed doors, negotiators from the conference committee dropped language that would ban permanent U.S. military bases in Iraq, language that both chambers had approved in the emergency war supplemental spending bill.

Late May, both the House and the Senate voted to amend supplemental funding legislation (H.R. 4939) pending before Congress with specific language to prevent spending to establish permanent military bases. The supplemental funding legislation provides additional funding for the war in Iraq as well as hurricane relief and other programs. Significant differences in the versions of

the supplemental legislation approved by the two chambers required that negotiators from the House and the Senate meet in a conference committee to work out a single bill. Meeting behind closed doors early June, the conference committee quietly removed the provisions from this legislation that were intended to bar spending on building permanent military bases.

The supplemental funding legislation is expected to win approval from both chambers presently and President Bush has said he will sign the legislation. Although the ban on permanent bases will not become law in the supplemental bill, we at FCNL believe that both chambers of Congress passed an important milestone this spring when they approved a clear statement of policy that the U.S. does not seek permanent military bases in Iraq. In the next few months, FCNL will be continuing to work with

Congress to bar permanent bases and also to change the focus of U.S. policy from how the U.S. wins in Iraq to how the U.S. leaves.

The situation in Iraq is becoming progressively worse every day. As FCNL's Colonel Dan Smith (USA Ret.) describes in his blog this week, the killing of Abu Masab al-Zarqawi in Iraq does not address the underlying problems in Iraq or provide the political solutions Iraq requires. U.S. policy has brought civil war to Iraq. If the U.S. continues along the current course, the result will be more violence and more deaths. The time has come for Congress to determine a new course in Iraq. War is Not the Answer.

FCNL believes that three points should guide future U.S. policy in Iraq. We urge Congress to enact legislation that:

- States that it is the U.S. policy to remove all U.S. military troops and bases from Iraq;
- Requires the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. military troops and bases from Iraq; and
- Provides resources for reconstruction by the people of Iraq through appropriate multinational, national, and Iraqi agencies.

ACTION: Next week, the Senate is scheduled to consider several changes in U.S. policy in Iraq during a debate on military authorization legislation. 1) Please contact your senators today to urge them to support legislation that will shift the focus of U.S. policy from how to win in Iraq to how to leave Iraq. 2) Please also contact your representative. The House leadership has agreed to schedule an extended debate on U.S. policy in Iraq next week. This debate will be an opportunity for your representative to speak out publicly in favor of a change in U.S. policy in Iraq.

Source: FCNL release 6/9/06 Friends Committee on National Legislation, 245 Second St. NE, Washington, DC 20002-5795 <http://www.fcnl.org> (800) 630-1330

China with 4 to 5 percent each," the Swedish government-funded institute added. It said U.S. spending was behind about 80 percent of the gain in 2005.

Spending on weapons accounted for 2.5 percent of the world's gross domestic product, or average spending of \$173 per capita. A process of concentration of spending continued in 2005, it added, as 15 countries with the highest spending accounted for 84 percent of the world total.

Source: Reuters 6/12/06 <http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20060612/ts_nm/arms_spending_dc>

Global military costs \$1.12 trillion

[Editor's note: One trillion equals one thousand billion; one billion equals one thousand million—so one trillion equals one million million dollars of military spending, in a world of extreme need. What would you do with one million million dollars?—or even half that, which is the US share.]

U.S. spending in Iraq and Afghanistan helped push up global 2005 military expenditure by 3.5 percent to \$1.12 trillion, a research body said in early June. Several countries, including Saudi Arabia and Russia, benefited from the rise in prices for minerals and fossil fuels to boost their military spending, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said in its latest yearbook. "The USA is responsible for 48 percent of the world total, distantly followed by the UK, France, Japan and



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My day at the Stockton polls

*Kim Alexander,
California Voter Foundation*

On June 6, I spent several hours in Stockton, where I observed three polling places. Stockton is located in San Joaquin County, and used Diebold's TSx touchscreen voting machines for the first time since March 2004. The machines have been equipped with printers that produce a voter-verified paper record of each electronic ballot, as is now required under California law.

While I am happy that paper trail reform is now implemented, it was extremely disappointing to see how the printers were set up. There is a flap over the window on the printer unit where the paper record is displayed. If a voter wants to view the paper record, he or she must first lift up the flap. In the three polling places I visited there were no instructions being given to voters to lift the flap and inspect the record...Having a flap covering the window that displays the paper record of the electronic ballot drastically reduces the likelihood that voters will verify the record, thereby undermining one of the key reasons why the printers are on the machines in the first place.

I also noticed a loud noise coming from the machines when people voted. It turned out to be the printer unit. Like the printer flap, I do not recall this kind of noise coming from the demonstration unit when it was on display at the Secretary of State's office.

It was a slow voting day at the polling places I visited, and I had plenty of time and opportunity to talk with pollworkers, inspect the machines, and ask questions of the few voters who came by to vote. Most of the voters said they liked the touchscreens, a few said they did look at the paper record. Several pollworkers mentioned that voters were reluctant to return the voter access cards used to activate the machines, since many of them thought that their votes and possibly their names were stored on them.

While I was at the polling places I looked at the security seals that

were placed over the memory card slots. These security seals (stickers, actually) were required to be placed on the machines by the Secretary of State in response to security vulnerabilities with the memory cards recently identified by Harri Hursti.

In the first polling place I visited, at the White Rose Church of Christ, all of the security seals were in place over the memory card slots. Those slots were also locked and the key was in the possession of the polling place supervisor. The second polling place I visited was the Stribley Community Center, where I was accompanied by a crew from the Newshour with Jim Lehrer. At this polling site I saw that only one of the four machines had the security seal over the memory card slot. Another slot above that one, where the "start" button for the machine is located, was open. I asked the supervisor why the slot was open and what happened to the seals. She said the slot should be closed, and pulled out her key and closed it and locked it.

Then she told me that it was hectic in the morning when they were setting up. Two pollworkers had failed to show up and the ones who did had trouble getting the machines up and running. The pollworkers were frantically trying to get things going, and in their haste removed all the security seals from the memory card slots. The supervisor contacted the elections office to find out what to do, and she placed all the security seals on a piece of paper with a note explaining what happened. She showed me the paper with the seals, and how the seals had changed color because they had been removed. The seals also had a bar code and a serial number on them, which is supposed to correspond with the memory card inside the machine.

At the last polling place I visited, I asked the supervisor if they would be checking the serial numbers on the seals against the numbers on the memory card at the end of the day, and was informed that this is not a required procedure. At this last

Another tempest brews in the Valley teapot

Roberto Radrigán

Eighty five years ago this week one of our nation's most shameful episodes of government corruption started to unravel. On this week back in 1921, the U.S. Navy, custodian of publicly owned lands with known oil reserves, traded its stewardship of this valuable resource to the U.S. Department of the Interior—thus began the infamous Teapot Dome affair. Then-President Warren G. Harding had signed a decree that effectively transferred the administration of the oil rich lands—protected for the country's defense—to Albert Fall, the Secretary of the Interior. Fall then gave immediate exploitation rights to two rich and powerful friends who set up shop at Teapot Dome in Wyoming, and Elk Hills in California. No bidding, no press, no oversight—just a handsome bribe—and the nation's first chapter on the corrupting power of oil in politics was thus written.

These days aren't much different. Six years of Enron-

tainted Bush administration and five of Gayle Norton at Albert Fall's post have not been enough to trigger the outcry heard after Teapot Dome. But we in the Valley should be curious as history unfolds around us, curious about our own current character in an ongoing scandal. Seven-term U.S. Representative and Chairman of the House's Natural Resources Committee, Richard Pombo (R-Tracy) has done anything and everything—in the name of private rights and "national security"—to sell the nation's natural reserves to the best bidder. Oil and gas tycoons are so delighted with our representative at Capitol Hill that his reelection campaign suffers from anything but money.

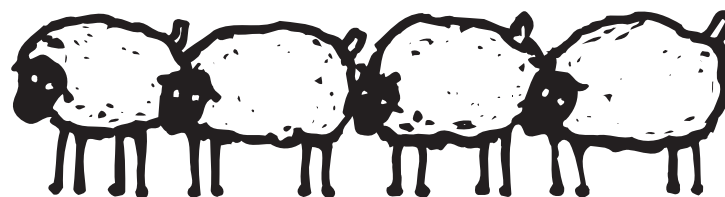
It is rather unusual, Pombo used to be a shoe-in at every reelection, but this may finally be the year that checks his ambition. His rival in the primary campaign, maverick old-timer Pete McCloskey—first seen as roadkill in the making—has worried Big Oil and other lobbyists to the point that they

pushed Pombo's war chest past the \$1.5 million mark. Even Vice President Dick Cheney made a 15-minute Stockton appearance on his behalf and, although no one got shot, Cheney raised a hundred thousand dollars more for the incumbent.

But, returning to the Tale of Two Scandals, the final outcome of both histories is where the differences could be just staggering: the Teapot Dome affair ended with a dubious, yet convenient suicide, an oil entrepreneur and a US Cabinet head in jail, and Harding's administration branded as the worst in US history.

By contrast—if Pombo survives this year's election challenge and the Bush administration continues its course --nothing may change—except that the next time you visit Yellowstone you may see Old Derrick instead of Old Faithful, or enter Yosemite Valley through "Chevron Gate."

Radrigán is the editor of Bilingual Weekly, San Joaquin County's bilingual newspaper.



site I also found another "start" button slot was left open, which a pollworker quickly shut and locked once I pointed it out. One pollworker at the last site, which was a fire station, mentioned that they had had some trouble getting the printer set up on one of the machines. He started describing it to me and I asked him if he could show me. So he got the key from the supervisor (apparently there is just one key for the machines, which opens the memory card slot, the start button slot and the printer unit), unlocked the printer, and opened it up. When I said that I thought the printers were supposed to remain shut during

the election, he said they are, but I asked to see it so he showed it to me.

After my visit to Stockton, I headed back to Sacramento to vote in my own polling place. My county is using ES&S optical scan ballots, and AutoMARK units for accessibility....But halfway through my ballot, I got an "operator error" alert and a message saying I should contact the elections official. The pollworker came over, then an inspector/troubleshooter showed up. The machine had to be rebooted—not just turned off, but unplugged—and started back up again, which took eight

minutes. I waited patiently and apologized, thinking I had done something to break it. It turned out that write-in votes were not allowed on the party's ballot I had selected, even though there were spaces for them on it. I'm not sure if my write-in votes, or the deselecting actions caused the machine to crash, or if it was some other problem. But we did get it back up and running, and I finished my selections, marked my ballot, fed it into the scanner, obtained my "I voted" sticker, and headed home.

Source: <http://calvoter.org/news/blog/6/6/06>

A right to vote

Beth Luna

There is a difference between reading in the paper about how the election went—the failures and confusion in making the new-fangled election equipment operate—and having one's own experience.

It started when my husband and I arrived at the polling place at 7 a.m. on voting day—arriving with some trepidation, wondering as to our voting ability on the new machines. We wanted to finish early, for there were plans for the day. We took no notice of the half dozen people milling around the entrance.

Then, a member of the election board met us at the door, mumbling something about waiting. Then we understood. This was not an overflow of a voting line. It was a statement that something was very wrong with the system.

We went back to the car and waited. Nothing to do. Others joined the group at the entrance. We saw someone try the door, but didn't get in.

We drove home and got the morning paper. Then swiftly doubled back with the thought that they might have let the 'would be' voters in during our absence.

Fewer people were there. Just our luck to be gone when it could have been our turn. It had been only 5 min. We hurried to the entrance and rushed through the door only to meet a member of the election panel with the information that a technician would be here in 15 minutes. I reminded myself that we might not be the only station in trouble.

There were 2 empty chairs, so we sat. The panel just let a few more in. There was talk about being late for work.

Fifteen minutes passed. Yes they had called the repairman more than once. I remembered that one of those outside had an ID badge around his neck. He had an official appearance. There was another who had his morning walk interrupted. He checked in to cast his vote—then came back later to wait some more. In retrospect, it seemed to me that there were always several waiting—just different ones in an on-going friendly group. One especially had a very special cell phone that could reach anyone (maybe not in the world) but in the USA. He even gave me a brief lesson on how to operate it, and then flipped it shut. My husband went back to the car and read the paper.

At long-last the repairman arrived. We recognized him because he carried a suitcase. There was another 'gum-chewing' wait, Conversation died. The guy packed up and walked out without looking to right or left. A few others had been allowed in and were hopefully waiting.

My turn came. One of the voting panel showed me how to use the voting machine.. Then she said, "You're on your own." I was tired enough—I didn't much give a damn. There was one part where I mistakenly chose the one

I hadn't intended. I shrugged: too late is too late. Later, I just happened to discover the way to erase. Oh well, I didn't know right from wrong on those two names. However as a precaution, I dropped how to correct an error into my memory bank. There was also a label that read back' but decided that once more around might lead me into confusion..

As I went out the door, one of the voting panel attached a has voted' sticker on me. I didn't look back. My husband had completed his voting and was waiting, but I told him to leave without me. I had decided to make the trip home my exercise for the day. My doctor said this was a must. Dogs barked their welcome as I passed... It was 8:30 when I got home. It had taken 1-1/2 hours to vote.



Diebold's Ohio payback

Forty-nine of the 85 people who this year have given Republican Ohio secretary of state Kenneth Blackwell the maximum \$10,000 allowed an individual donor have done so since May 2.

The maximum-donor list also includes Mitch Given, who is a registered lobbyist for Diebold Election Systems, one of the vendors of voting machines for election boards in Ohio.

Blackwell's office approved Diebold's selection as a vendor and negotiated the price for the machines, although the counties chose the machines. Blackwell spokesman Carlo LoParo said the May 15 contribution came well after Diebold signed a contract with the state to provide the machines in February 2004 after bids were submitted by the vendors. LoParo also pointed

out that Given lobbies for other companies and is a frequent contributor to GOP campaigns. "It's important to note that he did not contribute to Secretary Blackwell during the bidding process," LoParo said.

Source: WTOL News 6/10/06 <<http://www.wtol.com/global/story.asp?s=5012724>> via [truthout](http://www.truthout.org/) <http://www.truthout.org/>

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Army lieutenant won't go to Iraq

"Mr. President, you have violated: Article I of the Constitution by deceiving Congress, U.N. Gen. Assembly Res. 3314 and the Nuremburg Tribunal Charter barring wars of aggression, and many other international and domestic laws."

—Letter to President Bush by Ehren Watada

John Morearty

The first U.S. officer to refuse an order to deploy to Iraq, Army lieutenant Ehren K. Watada, was offered the choice of serving in a non-combatant position, but rejected that evasion of the issue. "The whole war is immoral and unlawful," he said. Watada, from Hawaii, is stationed in Fort Lewis, Washington. Facing the prospect of court martial and prison, he wrote this open letter to President George W. Bush: "Mr. President, you have violated: Article I of the Constitution by deceiving Congress, U.N. Gen. Assembly Res. 3314 and the Nuremburg Tribunal Charter barring wars of aggression, and many other international and domestic laws. As a commissioned officer of the U.S. Armed Forces my legal and moral obligation is to the Constitution—not to those who would issue unlawful orders. So let us be clear, I refuse to fight your illegal war." —Lt. Ehren K. Watada

Responses

Colonel Ann Wright—"As a retired 29 year U.S. Army Reserve Colonel and a U.S. diplomat who resigned in March, 2003 in opposition to the war on Iraq, I applaud the courage and

conscience of the Lieutenant for being willing to refuse an order to deploy to the illegal war of aggression on Iraq. Refusing to participate in military operations that violate international law—the war of aggression, the use of torture, the use of illegal weapons and purposeful targeting of innocent civilians—will save the Lieutenant his sanity and his soul."

Joseph A. Varni of Stockton—As a former Marine Corps officer in the Vietnam War, I understand the dilemma between serving in a futile and immoral war and jeopardizing one's life by being branded a criminal. Unfortunately for me, I served because I thought it my patriotic duty; I came home after a year in combat disillusioned and suspect of any war. Bush is the one who needs the dishonorable discharge...for this war and what he avoided in Vietnam. In fact, if Bush served in Iraq, based on his behavior in the Vietnam opportunity, I dare say this war would be over before his wheels touched the tarmac at Baghdad. Bush to me is a bully and a coward, despite the bluster of his Texas bravado we see glimpses of in the media. I'm amazed to see that the reptilian brain is still alive and well among my fellow citizens. Peace.

Fear for my daughter

Sara Rich

It started out with being scared for her life when she signed up for the military. She assured me that she was promised she would not go to Iraq. I was not as trusting.

She was sent to Iraq right out of her basic training. While she was packing, we cried, as she assured me she would be okay. One of her sergeants assured me, "Don't worry, ma'am, we'll take good care of your daughter." I desperately hoped that I could trust him to watch over her. I later found out he was one of the first predators to try to have sex with her and make her "his private."

She spent a long year in Iraq. I feared for her safety every waking minute. She frequently called me crying, telling me very little of the horror she was witnessing—only telling me it was hard. She told me that almost all of the other soldiers were sexually harassing her and that many of her sergeants and lieutenants were really pressuring her and making her life miserable for rejecting them. Calls from her often ended with "Oh, there goes gun fire—gotta go mom, love you."

When she returned from Iraq, she was much more quiet and anxious than when she left. I offered to get her help, but she refused. She told me that if she opened that can of worms she would not be able to function as a human being. I asked her if she wanted to deal with the horrible sexual harassment charges against so many of her fellow soldiers. She said, no mom, it would only make my life even more of a living hell. Then she finally blew the whistle on one of her superiors for sexually harassing her, and she was treated like a pariah, while he was moved to a different unit and promoted. She put her head down and worked as a Military Police officer on Ft. Lewis. She was always shocked by the number of domestic violence calls she went out on. The fear of a mother of a peace officer was there, but at least I could call her and knew she was safe. We knew that she was going to be re-deployed to Iraq sometime

after the mandatory 18 months' stabilization time is over. So, we were looking at November of 2006 for a second re-deployment. Our hearts were heavy at the thought.

She came home for a visit and couldn't face me to tell me she was going back to Iraq much sooner than expected. My fear was skyrocketing. I asked, how can they do that, you will have only had 11 months of stabilization time? She told me that she refused to sign the paper waiving her rights to 18 months. She was told that her life would be hell in a shit hole if she refused to sign. They screamed in her face and intimidated her to the point that she would shake when she told the story. Our family prepared. She was packed, ready to re-deploy, keys in hand. She said, "I can't do this, Mom, I can't go back there." We shifted into action to protect our daughter.

We networked with everyone imaginable. We knew that we would rather see her in jail than spending another minute in Iraq. We hired an attorney with experience in these kinds of military matters. And Suzanne went into hiding.

Now here we are, facing what we knew was a real possibility. Suzanne is in jail and waiting to be taken up to Ft. Lewis, and I am really scared. The military treated her horribly when she was a soldier, I can only imagine what they will do to her as a prisoner. She is a brave young

woman and my hero. But there is only just so much stress an Iraq war veteran can handle.

They are transporting Suzanne tomorrow in the early morning to Ft. Lewis and returning her to her unit. We are planning to be at the jail at 7:45—9:00 a.m. to see if we can catch a glimpse of her as she leaves the jail to show her that we are here for her.

ACTION: Letters of Support Needed— Please write to Lt. Colonel Switzer, Ft. Lewis, Washington, to ask that Spc. Suzanne Swift receive a medical discharge or an honorable discharge from the Army due to her Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. After writing the letter, please fax a copy to:

- Senator Gordon Smith, Federal Building, 211 East 7th Avenue, Room 202, Eugene, OR 97401
- Senator Ron Wyden, 151 West 7th Avenue, Suite 435, Eugene, OR 97401
- Congressman Peter DeFazio, 151 West 7th, Suite 400, Eugene, OR 97401
- Senator Patty Murray, 950 Pacific Avenue, Ste. 650, Tacoma, Washington 98402

If you want to donate to Suzanne's legal or medical fund, please contact me at formydaughtersuzanne@yahoo.com <<mailto:formydaughtersuzanne@yahoo.com>>. Thanks so much from Suzanne and her family. We appreciate your love and passion. This is so important for us to do—not only to end the war, but to defend women who are in the military.

Peace,
Sara Rich,
M.S.W.

Source: *truthout* letter 6/14/06
<http://www.truthout.org/docs_2006/032006S.shtml> |



Toward a spiritual covenant with America

Report from the Conference on Spiritual Activism: May 17-20, Washington, D.C.

Paula LeVeck

A progressive spiritual politics challenges the “old bottom line” in American society that teaches people that their life’s activities will be judged by how much they can advance their own material well-being, power and prestige.

Surrounded by an ethos of selfishness generated by the old bottom line, people increasingly treat each other as vehicles to satisfy their own personal needs. Instead of seeing other people as embodiments of the sacred, they are viewed instrumentally as “useful” or as “human resources” for the sake of advancing societal goals. Living in a society where people regularly absorb and then act upon this “marketplace rationality” in which “looking out for number one” seems the only rational way to live, many people feel lonely, alienated and scared even in the midst of friendships and marriages—because they see themselves surrounded by so many people who only seem to care about them to the extent that they can “deliver something.”

What we need, then, is a New Bottom Line, one which judges institutions, corporations, legislation, social practices, health care, our educational and legal systems, and our social policies by how much love and compassion, kindness and generosity, ethical and ecological sensitivity they inculcate within us, and by how much they nurture our capacity to respond to other human beings as embodiments of the sacred, who can and do respond to the universe with gratitude, awe and wonder at the grandeur of all that is.

This New Bottom Line is the central message of the Network of Spiritual Progressives. It leads us to present policies to our elected officials that are embodied in the Spiritual Covenant with America—an alternative to both Newt Gingrich’s “Contract with America” and the economic visions of American society that have been developed by liberal and progressive think tanks that

are trying to help the Democrats out of their dogmatic slumbers.

Here is the Spiritual Covenant with America

1. We will create a society that promotes, rather than undermines, loving and caring relationships and families. We will challenge the materialism and selfishness (often rooted in the dynamics of the competitive marketplace) that undermine loving relationships and family life.

2. We will take Personal Responsibility for ethical behavior, reviving the sacred element in sexuality, shaping a purpose-driven life connected to our highest values, building an inner spiritual life, devoting time and energy to caring for each other as well as in self-development, affirming pleasure and humor and joyfulness and celebration of the grandeur of the universe and the mystery of being, and recognizing that government cannot replace our own efforts to build a spiritually-grounded life.

3. We will build Social Responsibility into the normal operations of our Economic and Political Life. The Social Responsibility Amendment (SRA) to the U.S. Constitution that we propose requires corporations to get a new corporate charter once every ten years which would only be granted to those corporations which could prove to a jury of ordinary citizens that it had a satisfactory history of social responsibility. This is one step toward our larger goal of transforming the bottom line in our economy, government, and social institutions.

4. We will reshape our education system to teach the values of love, caring, generosity, intellectual curiosity, tolerance, gratitude, awe and wonder at the universe, democratic participation and environmental responsibility. We will emphasize education for these values without abandoning necessary reading and writing

skills-and focus on learning respect, thanksgiving and awe for the wonders of the universe, and celebration of all the goodness that has passed on the cultural and scientific wisdom of the human race.

5. We will seek a single payer national health care plan and also broaden the public’s understanding of health care. Our physical health cannot be divorced from environmental, social, spiritual, and psychological realities-and the entire medical system has to be reshaped in light of that understanding, focus on prevention, encourage alternative forms of health practice along with traditional Western forms, and insist that because human beings have many levels of reality, health care must reflect that rather than seek to reduce the human to the merely material.

6. We will be stewards of the environment. We will champion voluntary simplicity and ethical consumption while seeking to change the global economy so that it is ordered in rational and sustainable ways.

7. Foreign policy and homeland security transformation: We will build a safer world and a rational approach to immigration through a strategy of non-violence and generosity that eliminates poverty both in the US and in every other country. The well-being of Americans depends on the well-being of every other person on the planet and of the planet itself.

8. We will seek the separation of Church, State and Science. We will protect our society from fundamentalist attempts to impose a particular religion on everyone, but will not fall into a first-amendment fundamentalism which attempts to keep all spiritual values out of the public sphere.

Realistic?

This vision, needless to say, is “unrealistic” in the sense that it does not conform to the assumptions of politicians and pundits in the mainstream mass

media. For most politicians, that ends the discussion, because they’ve consistently been unwilling to risk any electoral loss for the sake of some higher good in which they believe. But that is precisely why so many Americans have come to distrust their Representatives—because if they won’t fight hard for their own beliefs, how can they be counted on to fight for the best interests of American society when the going gets rough?

The women’s movement in its early years, the civil rights movement in its early years, and the environmental movement in its early years were all dismissed as “unrealistic” because they too stepped outside the frame of politics as it was then currently understood by the media and the politicians. We are following that same path.

We are a consciousness-raising movement, and so our primary task, like that of the other major movements that have had a lasting impact on American society, is to not compromise what we believe in for the sake of short-term political gain. We must instead advocate for our fullest vision and insist on why it makes the most sense as the path to heal American society.

We encourage people to meet with elected officials every year, but this is only a small part of what we need to do to get our ideas into the public consciousness, and we are sure that you can devise many more imaginative steps to take.

—*excerpted from A Spiritual Covenant with America. The full version of the Spiritual Covenant can be found in The Left Hand of God: Taking Back our Country from the Religious Right, by Rabbi Michael Lerner.*

For those interested in learning more, please email Paula LeVeck (Stockton) at pjveck@sbcglobal.net or write to the Network of Spiritual Progressives, NSP@tikkun.org or 2342 Shattuck Ave, Suite 1200, Berkeley, CA 94704, (510) 644-1200.

We will create a society that promotes, rather than undermines, loving and caring relationships and families...

We will take Personal Responsibility for ethical behavior...

We will build Social Responsibility into the normal operations of our Economic and Political Life...

We will reshape our education system to teach the values of love...

Organic news

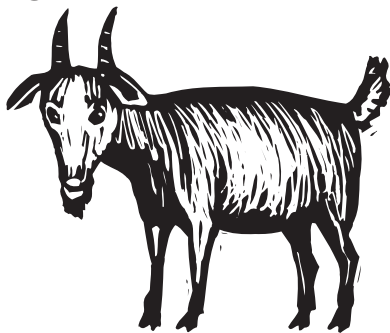
EPA administrators overlook toxic pesticides

Government scientists are blowing the whistle on the Environmental Protection Agency's attempts to allow the continued use of 20 hazardous organophosphate pesticides. Nine thousand EPA scientists have submitted a strongly worded letter to the EPA's Administrator, Stephen Johnson, protesting that "industry pressure" is compromising the "integrity of the science upon which agency decisions are based." Research indicates that these specific organophosphate pesticides, similar in composition to bio-warfare nerve gases, pose serious health threats, especially to babies in the womb, infants, and children, yet most of them are contained in common products used by the average consumer. EPA scientists complain that they are being forced to skip key risk assessment tests on these dangerous toxins due to pressure from the chemical industry. This rebellion inside the EPA comes on the heels of the agency's

new controversial regulations that would allow the intentional dosing of pregnant women and children with pesticides.

TAKE ACTION! <http://organicconsumers.org/epa7.htm>

GE Cotton kills sheep & goats



In India's Warangal district of Andhra Pradesh, government officials have ordered an investigation into the deaths of hundreds of sheep and goats who appear to have been poisoned by eating genetically engineered (GE) cotton. "They just became very dull and lifeless and died," said one shepherd, Pendala Venkatamma. Sheep and goats regularly graze on traditional

cotton, but after 4-5 days of eating Monsanto's genetically engineered bT cotton, the animals' stomachs swelled, and they died. Although Monsanto denies its cotton could have this effect, government officials have launched a scientific investigation. "We have immediately alerted the animal husbandry department to give us the details of villages where this has happened and... their findings regarding this" said Poonam Malakondaiah, Agriculture Commissioner.

Learn more: http://www.organicconsumers.org/2006/article_646.cfm

GE corn producing herbicides in your gut?

A widely cultivated variety of genetically engineered corn may be slowly poisoning American consumers. Dupont's Pioneer Liberty Link corn was bioengineered to withstand high levels of the toxic herbicide glufosinate. Enzymes in the plant actually break down the herbicide, making it less toxic to the plant, thereby allowing

Scientists are now finding that enzymes in the human gut are likely "reactivating" the herbicide within our bodies.

—GE corn producing herbicides in your gut

farmers to apply higher levels of herbicides to the plant and surrounding weeds. Scientists are now finding that enzymes in the human gut are likely "reactivating" the herbicide within our bodies. A recent study on rats found that 10% of the chemicals were reconverted back to the toxic herbicide within the digestive tract of the animal. Another study on goats found a full 30% of the herbicide was rebuilt in the gut. Glufosinate is known to cause nerve damage and is a likely endocrine disruptor. Scientists are also concerned that by reactivating the toxic chemical in the digestive tract, it is likely killing off beneficial bacteria necessary for healthy digestion.

Learn more: http://www.organicconsumers.org/2006/article_637.cfm

Sugar: a better way to drive

President Bush has made a surprising call to eliminate a two decade long tariff on ethanol produced from sugarcane in Brazil. Sugarcane produces eight times more energy per pound than corn, making U.S. corn-based ethanol appear to be irrational and inefficient. But according to Monte Shaw, executive director of the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association, a biofuel trade organization, competition in the global marketplace will only create demands for U.S. farmers to generate biofuels more efficiently. A potential competitor to sugarcane ethanol is cellulosic ethanol, derived from switch grass and farm waste. "No threat. It's an opportunity," Shaw said. "We are in Iowa. All you see is cellulose." Meanwhile, Archer Daniels Midland, one of the most

powerful corporate agribusiness lobbyists in Washington, continues to successfully push Congress to approve subsidizing the less efficient corn-based ethanol with billions of dollars of taxpayer money. Some studies have estimated that in order to replace all U.S. oil imports with domestically produced corn ethanol, as much as five times the entire area currently farmed for all crops in the U.S. would be needed.

Learn more: http://www.organicconsumers.org/2006/article_661.cfm

Respect your kids to lose weight

A new study released in the journal Pediatrics shows that overly strict parenting can produce obese kids. "Children of authoritarian parents had five times the risk of being overweight compared to children of authoritative [a more diplomatic style] mothers," said Dr. Kyung Rhee, the study's lead author. Authoritarian parents are described as strict disciplinarians, Rhee said, while authoritative parents are more respectful of a child's opinions while maintaining boundaries. Children of permissive and neglectful parents were twice as likely to be overweight as children of authoritative mothers, they also found.

Learn more: http://www.organicconsumers.org/2006/article_684.cfm

Source: *ORGANIC BYTES #83 Health, Justice and Sustainability News Tidbits with an Edge!* 6/7/06 Organic Consumers Association, 6771 South Silver Hill Drive, Finland, MN 55603: <http://www.organicconsumers.org/organicbytes.htm>

Good CA enviro bills survive

Overall, we had big success with environmental bills on the Senate and Assembly floors. Though a few important bills fell short of the requisite "fifty percent plus one" votes necessary to move off the floor and into the second house, most of the priority environmental bills surpassed that threshold and will continue their journey to the Governor's desk.

Legislative allies in both houses played very important roles in helping to secure enough votes to move the more difficult bills along. In the Assembly, a number of good bills secured the requisite 41 votes including AB 1899 by Assembly member Wolk, AB 1953 by Assembly member Chan, AB 2485 by Assembly member Jones, AB 2644 by Assembly member Montanez, and AB 2865 by Assembly member Torrico.

AB 1899 would require proof of real 100-year flood

protection before approval of new developments in the Central Valley; AB 1953 would reduce the allowable lead content in plumbing and faucet fixtures; AB 2485 would enhance efforts to protect sea otters; AB 2644 would require additional inspection and consumer information about vended water; and AB 2865 would bring private day care facilities under the protection of pesticide safety laws.

In the Senate, a number of good bills also moved off the floor including SB 1125 by Senator Chesbro, SB 1205 by Senator Escutia, SB 1379 by Senators Perata and Ortiz, SB 1478 by Senator Speier, SB 1535 by Senator Kuehl, and SB 1796 by Senator Florez.

SB 1125 would dedicate \$12 million in revenues from the Tidelands Oil Account to various fisheries, marine protection and habitat protection programs; SB 1205 would enact the

Children's Breathing Rights Act, which increases various air pollution penalties and deposits the collected penalties in the Children's Breathing Rights Fund to combat asthma and other air pollution-related diseases; SB 1379 would establish the Healthy Californians Biomonitoring Program to identify toxic chemicals present in the bodies of Californians; SB 1478 would require certain users of specified chemicals to report to the State on their annual use and disposal of those chemicals; SB 1535 would make needed improvements to the structure of the Department of Fish and Game; and SB 1796 would rename the Reclamation Board the "Central Valley Flood Protection Board" and expand its expertise and public accountability.

Source: *PCL Insider* 6/6/06, Planning and Conservation League <pclmail@pcl.org>

AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH, a film to change the world

Dale T. Steele

I went to see *An Inconvenient Truth* at Tower last week not sure what to expect. The buzz on the net/street was that this is something special. I was not disappointed. The film is a must see. Its mix of inspiration, passion, and compelling facts is a bit staggering. The message of dire need for leadership and action rings loud and clear.

Former vice-president Al Gore deserves much credit for his relentless effort to enlighten and inform the global community. With wit, smarts, and hope, *An*

Inconvenient Truth ultimately brings home Gore's persuasive argument that we can no longer afford to view global warming as a political issue—rather, it is the biggest moral challenge facing our civilization. (Note: He took a powerpoint presentation [*Mac Keynote actually!*] and made it into a blockbuster!)

The facts about global warming speak for themselves but we are not listening and, as *Connections* readers know all too well, the media is much to blame. The so-called controversy about global warming is quickly

and effectively laid to rest. The parallels between the denials of big business now and the tobacco industry earlier are all too clear.

The reviews are coming back strong and positive for this well-made production. Much more important however, is the impact it is having on the audiences everywhere. Don't miss your chance to see it and then follow through with action. Our children will thank us.

For more information about this movie and the effort associated with it, visit the website at: <http://www.climatecrisis.net>.



Got Clean Water?

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., announced the launch of a major campaign to stop industrial-scale dairies from dumping pollution into the ailing waters of the Central Valley. The campaign is a joint effort of Baykeeper's Deltakeeper Chapter and the Sierra Club's Motherlode Chapter, both based in the Central Valley. Kennedy, president of the international Waterkeeper Alliance, will be holding two events—tonight and on June 22—to raise funds for the campaign.

The groups say California's trend towards high-density, factory dairies has resulted in fewer farms, more cows and much more wet manure. In fact, the 3 million dairy cows statewide excrete more waste than all the people in California combined. Unlike human waste, animal waste from mega-dairies does not go through modern sewage treatment plants.

The groups express concern that this large amount of untreated waste is illegally polluting the already impaired Bay-Delta waterways, the drinking water source for 23 million people. "Factory farms are devastating California's most valuable

resource—water," says Kennedy. "Mega-dairies cannot just ignore the hormones, antibiotics, bacteria and toxins in their millions of gallons of manure waste at the expense of the health of California families."

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board is preparing new water quality standards for these factory dairies to cover state and federal requirements. To make certain the new permit effectively stops illegal water pollution from the dairies, these citizen groups united to insist standards will be set at a high level of protection with effective, enforced accountability measures.

"Dairy pollution regulators have been all hat, no cattle," says Carrie McNeil, DVM, Director of the Deltakeeper Chapter of Baykeeper. "They now have the chance to make sure the number one dairy state also leads the nation in environmentally responsible dairy production."

"I've seen how dairy manure has effected our local creeks over the last decade," says San Joaquin County resident Dave Wagner. "The creeks just don't support the

same level of healthy birds and wildlife as we used to enjoy. The fish, that were once so abundant, have significantly declined." The campaign will include advocating for strong water quality controls on dairies, community outreach, litigation and legislative action.

For the last 20 years, the California factory dairies have been booming while the small family farms that used to dot the Central Valley have all but disappeared. The groups say strong regulations are critical, especially with dairies of more than 10,000 cows being considered to protect the environment and to level the playing field for the few exiting, environmentally responsible dairies.

"Our groundwater is all too often contaminated by factory farm pollution," says Sierra Club Motherlode Chapter Director Vicki Lee. "Chemicals and bacteria from dairies can threaten drinking water wells—posing serious health risks to neighboring families."

Source: *Baykeeper News* 6/9/06 <news@baykeeper.org> Carrie McNeil, Director of the Deltakeeper Chapter of Baykeeper: (916) 952-2185



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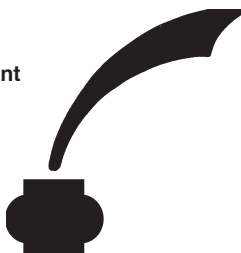
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Sen. Dianne Feinstein, One Post Street, Ste 2450, San Francisco, CA 94104. 415-249-0707; 331 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510. 202-224-3841, senator@feinstein.senate.gov

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.

Rep. Richard Pombo (R-District 11), 2321 W March Lane, Ste 205, Stockton, CA 95207. 209-951-3091; 1519 Longworth Bldg, Washington, DC 20515. 202-225-1947, rpombo@mail.house.gov

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

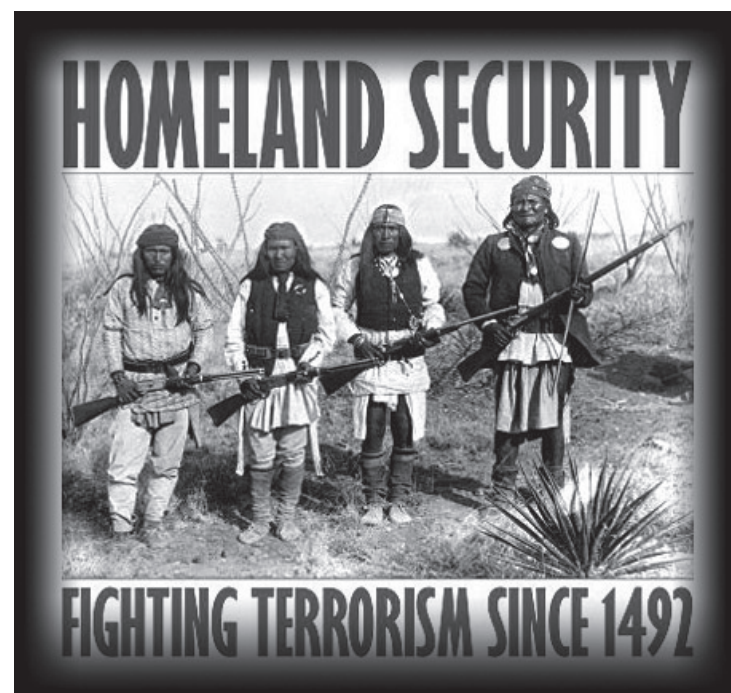
400 years of illegal immigration

Imagine the thoughts of a native resident of the Lower Peninsula of Virginia some 350 years ago as she watches another English ship sail up the James River.

"These illegal immigrants from England are becoming a real problem. When they showed up on our shores a few years ago, they seemed like a desperate small band of foreigners so we greeted them with hospitality as is our tradition, even though they came here illegally, not having gotten the permission from our chiefs to stay and work prior to coming. We saw that these illegals lacked the basic skills to survive here. They probably were not smart enough to find work in England and came here looking for jobs that we would not do. So we took pity on them and allowed them to stay, but they continued to come in greater numbers, and they are breeding like flies. Now their forts, farms, and houses dot our land. These English brought all sorts of problems with them. They are overtaking our medicine men and women, being agents of all sorts of disease, from smallpox to syphilis. I am sure it was these English, Spanish and other illegal immigrants that caused the great epidemics that killed so many of our people.

The English also bring ruin to our land with their drug trade. They easily addict to our sacred tobacco, smoking it all day long, rather than using it only on rare occasions in ceremonies, as any civilized person would know to do. They deal these nicotine drugs back to their home country, using their profit to acquire more of our land. Sometimes their drug-trafficking ways lead them to plant tobacco instead of crops, resulting in much starvation. I do not know if these people ever had morals, or if their drug economy took away their sense of right and wrong. The shameless tobacco kingpins in the immigrant community buy people from Africa and use them as slaves to cultivate the plants.

The drugs, crime, disease and uselessness aside, we could welcome these Europeans to become citizens of our land, but



they don't even want to learn the language of our country. How can they expect to function in our society if they can't communicate with us?

Maybe they don't want to really be part of our society and, instead, just live in a "Little England" on our land. If that is true, I can see what the future holds. The English will take most of our land and force us to live on small reservations. They will even destroy those by damming rivers when they want more fresh water. They will destroy the sacred Chesapeake by robbing it of all the oysters, crabs and fish, and by sending their urine and feces there. Something must be done to stop these illegal immigrants from England."

Does any of this lament sound familiar? The U.S. citizens of European extraction currently debate the problem of undocumented workers, as they have ever since their own ancestors arrived here.

Most of the attention is focused on undocumented workers from Mexico. While undocumented workers from that country find jobs throughout the United States, most look for employment in the western states, such as California, Arizona, Texas, New Mexico and Oregon. This seems fitting, since most of their lands used to be

part of Mexico before the United States won them in the Mexican-American War.

Remember that war? Pioneers from the United States settled in Mexican-owned territory that now comprises those western states. The "Manifest Destiny" crowd in government supported these pioneers (maybe the Mexicans called them illegal immigrants), wanting to claim the lands of the west for the United States. In 1846 we went to war with Mexico ostensibly over a border dispute with Texas, but one brilliant U.S. victory after another brought that fractured nation to its knees, and the United States got to keep all those western states.

It seems that now many white folks complain that the land that our ancestors took from Native Americans is being infiltrated by Mexicans, but those Mexicans are mainly returning to land that we took from their ancestors, and their ancestors took that land from the Native Americans of the west. Got it?

So, unless you descend from the native peoples of America, be careful about who you label an illegal immigrant.

Source: Benjamin Cuker, Ph.D, Professor of Marine & Environmental Science, Hampton University, Hampton, VA 23668 benjamin.cuker@hamptonu.edu

Iran: a step back from war

In the past few days, the U.S. and the Iranian governments have halted their mutual march toward war. But there are still voices arguing for confrontation, not cooperation. Members of Congress need to hear from constituents that war with Iran is not the answer.

Early June, the European Union (EU) proposed a framework for negotiations to defuse the escalating crisis over Iranian nuclear development. The Bush administration, under domestic and international pressure, has been forced to pursue diplomacy over military threats and accept the EU proposal. The cause of human security has a victory—for now. All who oppose war have reason to celebrate this step. But many more steps will have to be taken to realize the peace-building potential of the EU proposal.

The EU proposal offers economic normalization with Iran in return for comprehensive surveillance of its nuclear facilities

by international inspectors. Iran would be allowed to build additional nuclear reactors and enrich uranium for its civilian nuclear program.

The proposal also includes support for a weapons of mass destruction-free zone in the Middle East. The EU secured the support of Israel for the package before it was delivered to Iran.

The EU offer, backed by the U.S., and the conciliatory words coming out of Tehran are encouraging. Through public pressure we have at least stopped, if not reversed, the march toward war.

However, the crisis is not over. The deal with Iran is not final yet. Hawks in both Washington and Tehran are trying to undermine this diplomatic solution. Already some voices in Washington are denouncing the carrots-and-sticks package, arguing for a sticks-only approach.

ACTION: Members of Congress, in particular Republican senators,

have influence over the direction the administration takes in solving the Iranian crisis. They are listening to constituents to gauge what their own positions should be. You have an opportunity to influence those decisions. 1) Write a short letter to your representative and senators supporting diplomacy over military threats. You can find a sample message and contact your members of Congress directly on FCNL's website. 2) Modify your letter to refer to news coverage of this agreement and submit it as a letter-to-the-editor to your local newspaper. You can find a sample message and submit your letter directly through FCNL's website. The looming U.S.-Iranian war is a war that can be prevented. However, this opportunity may last only a few weeks. Now is the time to state the truth that "War is not the answer."

Source: FCNL release 6/8/06 Friends Committee on National Legislation, 245 Second St. NE, Washington, DC 20002-5795 <http://www.fcnl.org> (800)630-1330

Signs of the times—protesting Cheney

John Morearty

"POMBO IS A CROOK," our homemade signs read, and "Impeach Cheney the Torturer." Thirty of us wearing don't-shoot-me orange staged a nonviolent Free Speech invasion of downtown Stockton the Monday V.P. Cheney and Alex Spanos came to the Fox. We circled in our vehicles (we had The Fascist Foxes surrounded), we stood on streetcorners waving our signs. Drivers gave us almost universal thumbs up, the cops were friendly.

TV 2 interviewed Ria deGroot outside the Fox Theater. "I object to Mr. Cheney's war policies... I believe we are a one world community." A young Iranian Berkeley student from Tracy joined us and held high our sign, "No War on Iran." A six-year old girl in a white dress seized our prettiest sign, a red, green, and blue "Save Mother Earth," and would not let go; she promised to bring it to future demonstrations, and took it home.

Three days later, Jim Walsh and I showed up for our first monthly (every 4th Thursday, 5-6:30 PM) Freedom from War demonstration at the Olde Peace Stamping Grounds, the grassy edge of Delta College just north of the Yokuts Avenue stoplight and bus stop. My sign was bold red, white, and blue: "U.S. Out of Iraq!" As always, most of the drivers who responded were enthusiastic.

But for the first time, the few who disagreed were very angry. Shouts, fists, middle fingers, "we're gonna stay there forever!" They sounded

threatened and defensive to me. I think the tide is turning.

ACTION: Come join the tide



Thursday June 29, and hear Nadia McCaffrey of Tracy, whose son died in Iraq.



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

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

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

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

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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>

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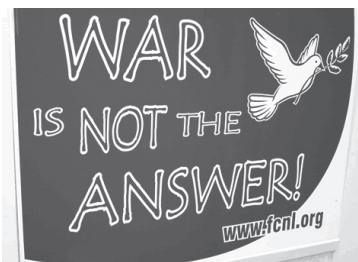
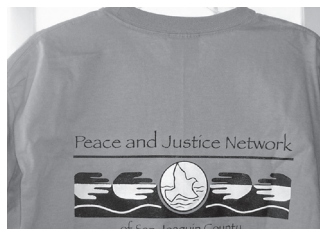
If you submit your ad after this date, please allow one month before seeing your ad in Connections. Send camera-ready copy to: bgiduci@caltel.com or PJN, P.O. Box 4123, Stockton, CA 95204

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



NEW!!! 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.



Presidential words of wisdom

Dave Waldon

"Rolling Stone, wanna see my picture on the cover. Rolling Stone, wanna buy five copies for my mother ..." well, maybe not this one. The May 4th issue of Rolling Stone asks the question, "The worst President in history?" Emblazoned across the cover is Dubya sitting on a stool in a corner, a look of idiocy on his face, a dunce cap on his head. The image seems to imply that Mr. Bush may not only be the worst President, but seemingly one of the stupidest.

The article inside, written by Sean Wilentz, Professor of American History and Director of American Studies at Princeton University, compares the President with other notable failures such as James Buchanan, Andrew Johnson, Herbert Hoover and Richard Nixon. It is a well written article, carefully researched, that makes a compelling case in giving a "yes" answer to its own question. As to the question of Mr. Bush's stupidity, his linguistic gaffes have been frequent and are now legendary. A few examples of "Bushisms" include:

"But Iraq has—have got people there that are willing to kill, and they're hard-nosed killers. And we will work with the Iraqis to secure their future." —Washington, D.C., April 28, 2005.

"It's in our country's interests to find those who would do harm to us and get them out of harm's way." —Washington, D.C., April 28, 2005.

In all fairness, though, it might be enlightening to look back on remarks that past Presidents have made so that we might fully gauge presidential wit and witticism.

George Washington, our illustrious first President—he of the cherry tree and the one dollar bill—was an oft quoted leader and, seemingly, a pretty sharp one. He once said, "Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation, for 'tis better to be alone than in bad company." We'd all be better off if the current George W. had listened

to the first George W.

Or what of the imposing wit of Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence. Tom once stated, "Question with boldness even the existence of God, because if there be one, He must approve of the homage of reason than that of blindfolded fear." Maybe Dubya isn't so dumb. Just imagine the votes lost across the Bible Belt had he said that on the campaign trail.

Andrew Jackson, President number seven, the "heroic" Indian killer whose stoic portrait graces the twenty dollar bill, was once heard to remark, "The wisdom of man never yet contrived a system of taxation that would operate with perfect equality." Rest easy, Andy. Number forty-three has it all figured out.

Perhaps President Bush would do well to read the words of Abraham Lincoln. Old Abe, doffing his stovepipe hat, looked 'round the room and said, "Such will be the great lesson of peace, teaching men that what they cannot take by an election neither can they take by war." An astute observation by a man smack-dab in the middle of America's greatest carnage.

Or maybe Mr. Bush feels more akin to the musings of Rutherford B. Hayes, our seldom quoted nineteenth Chief Exec. "Ruthie" once blurted, "People forget self ... people are more generous, more sympathetic, better, than when engaged in the more selfish pursuits of peace." Ah, that's more like it! Lemonade Lucy, serve up the K-rations.

Now it's on to Grover Cleveland, who was President not once, but twice with the luxury of a four-year vacation in between. I wonder if he had a ranch near Crawford? Mr. Cleveland, in a rare insightful moment, offered this pearl of wisdom, "The lessons of paternalism ought to be unlearned and the better lesson taught that while the people should patriotically and cheerfully support their government, its functions do not include the support of the people." Is it possible that President Cleveland was reincarnated as FEMA Chief Michael Brown?

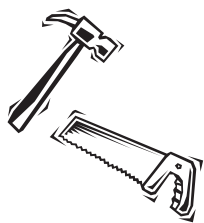
It is said that President Bush has a bust of Teddy Roosevelt in the Oval Office. This makes sense. The "Rough Rider" once lamented, "Oh, if I could only be President and Congress, too, for just ten minutes." Nowadays, Teddy would be green with envy. Mr. Bush has done it for six years.

The dour and implacable visage of Calvin Coolidge, big guy number thirty, will not go down as one of America's great visionaries. On the other hand, Ol' Cal did have the audacity to say this, "I think the American public wants a solemn ass as President, and I think I'll go along with them." Hmmm, I don't know about you, but I'd trade our jack ass for a solemn ass any day.

The laugh-out-loud honesty of Harry Truman was refreshing. "Give 'em Hell Harry" once stated, "My choice early in life was either to be a piano player in a whorehouse or a politician. And to tell the truth, there's hardly any difference." I can picture Jerry Fallwell drawing a mustache and devil horns on Harry Truman's portrait during one of his frequent overnight stays at the White House. Well, it might happen.

Or perchance the words of a Bush idol, that stalwart defender of American values, Ronald Wilson Reagan. The Gipper once proffered in between naps, "Regimes planted by bayonets do not take root." Would thousands lay dead in a country on the other side of the world if those words were heeded? Would thousands have died in Central America if Reagan himself had taken those words to heart? Are the militaristic methods of the United States really that different from past imperialistic powers?

Questions about President Bush and his role in history may well be written with the blood of those he has sacrificed. Statements like, "Bring it on" were not only stupid, but deadly. Perhaps President Bush should remember once again the words of George Washington, "Labor to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire called conscience."



Sawznhammers

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

Taking heart in tough times

"I'm so tired of reading about war," an elderly friend murmured.

Me too. I'm weary of war in *Connections*, war on TV and the web, weary of "support the troops" bumper stickers on gas guzzlers and modest working class cars. War is wearing me down, it clouds my days and haunts my nights.

But I'll bet American soldiers and their families are damn tired of war too. And the Iraqi people, and the people of Darfur, Palestine and Israel. I'll bet the Iranians are tired of threats of war, from an America that overthrew their government and stole their oil way back in 1953.

And that's exactly why *Connections* has to keep writing about war—because it is raging out there in the real world, and more wars are gearing up. Our crazy crooked government promises us the War on Terrorism will take fifty years; my grandchildren will be grandparents by then—if they survive. War is the reality horror show. And yet, and yet—

Our hearts need more than dread. Of course we have to face the miseries and evil deeds of our time, and say no to them in a thousand ways—by volunteering at St. Mary's Dining Hall, by cleaning the rivers, by writing checks, dumping Pombo, wearing orange shirts protesting Dick Cheney, even by beating on missile silos with poor little hammers.

But we also have to say yes to a world of hope. We have to build "Gaian" structures of a living sustainable planet—tending community gardens, creating this free alternative newspaper, building businesses where workers and mother earth are respected, establishing by law a single-payer health care system for all, creating in the federal government (at long last) a Department of Peace....

Moreover, we have to Change our Minds. We have to develop new ways of thinking, because as Einstein said, "we cannot solve the problems we have created with the

same thinking that created them." We must dialogue with people of other races and religions; we must dig in history and rediscover wise roads not taken; we must eyeball our technologies and envision how they can serve not domination but respect for the common good of all earthlings; we must understand, as Thomas Berry says, that the universe is not a collection of objects, but a communion of subjects; we must cultivate the physical, mental and spiritual disciplines which serve communion and harmony.

In all these ways, we must learn to "take heart in tough times."

That was the title of a magnificent workshop which Ria and I attended a few weekends ago, led by Buddhist sage and systems theory Ph.D. Joanna Macy. Out of sixty people in the big circle, about half were young peace and environmental activists. What a sign of hope!

Joanna is 75, with bright eyes and a musical voice.

"I care deeply," she began, "about the work of our sponsors, the Nevada Desert Experience. For decades, they have been witnessing at the Nevada Test Site to a nuclear free future."

Caring deeply, she told us, has become the most important thing to her. "I used to think the point was being effective, but we simply do not know how effective we are. In this time when all planetary systems are in crisis, we have no guarantees. We don't know whether we are the midwives of a new world, or merely hospice workers. We simply keep on, with determination and compassion.

"We have to say No, say Yes, and Change our Thinking. All three are essential, none is more important than the other, and we must respect all these forms of work. They are all part of what many people are calling the Great Turning. Just do your particular form of the Great Work, and don't worry that you can't do everything; realize that you are part of a mighty movement all

around the planet."

Indeed, she said, human beings who stand up for the earth are in fact earth standing up for itself—in the great scheme of cosmic evolution, we are the redwoods' way of defending themselves. We have in simple truth common genetic roots.

She taught us the Elm Dance, which comes from the survivors of Chernobyl. We moved in a great circle, stopped and swayed, moved and swayed, then came to the center, arms raised and swaying like trees in the wind. "All over the world people are doing the Elm Dance," she told us; skeptical Australian aborigines saw young white environmental activists doing the dance and said, well, if they are dancing in the street, they must be okay.

Joanna taught us to communicate across Deep Time. Half of us were people of the present, half were living two hundred years from now, and we listened to each other. The beings of the future asked, What was it like for you, living in the time of crisis? What moved you to begin your work for the living earth?

Then the beings of the present asked, What message do you have for us now?

In her memoir *Widening Circles*, Joanna Macy tells of having tea in India one day with friends, including a Tibetan monk. She saw a fly in her teacup and tried to ignore it, but the monk saw her distress.

"Oh dear, a fly in your tea!"

"Oh, it's nothing, no problem."

"Oh, dear." Gently he dipped a finger in her cup, lifted out the offending fly and carried it outside. Soon he came back.

"It is okay. I put it on a bush, and its wings are drying. Soon it will fly again."

John Morearty hopes to bring Joanna Macy to Stockton to lead a workshop. To help, contact him at 464-3326 or 462-3340, or john@morearty.com.

Divine Strake stopped

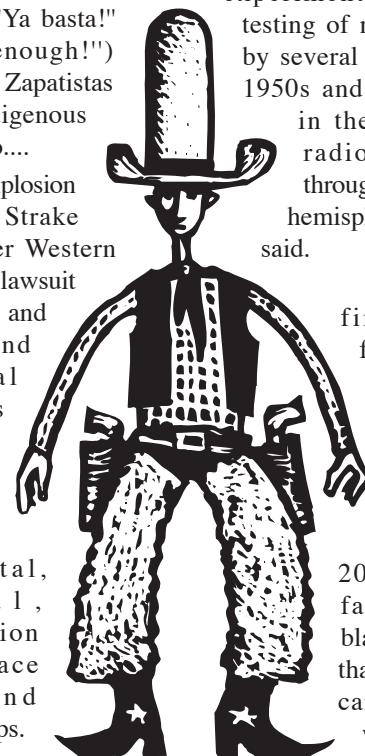
The "Divine Strake" detonation has been halted, but Western Shoshone continued their protest at the Nevada Test Site over Memorial Day weekend to demand respect for Western Shoshone land rights at the site, as stated in the Treaty of Ruby Valley of 1863. Carrie Dann, Western Shoshone grandmother, was among 45 people arrested after they crossed the boundary onto the Nevada Test Site in an act of civil disobedience.... "Enough is enough," Dann told the crowd before being arrested, which resounded the "Ya basta!" ("Enough is enough!") battle cry of the Zapatistas fighting for indigenous rights in Mexico....

The 700-ton explosion named Divine Strake was halted after Western Shoshone filed a lawsuit in federal court and 42 national and international organizations joined forces, including environmental justice, environmental, political, nonproliferation activists, peace activists and indigenous groups. The "Not so Divine Strake Protest" turned into a victory celebration as downwinders, those who could be affected by the release

of radioactive particles from previous blasts, celebrated in Western states including Utah, Idaho and Montana...

The Nevada Site Office of the National Nuclear Security Administration announced it would withdraw its Finding of No Significant Impact related to the environmental assessment. "This action is being taken to clarify and provide further information regarding background levels of radiation from global fallout in the vicinity of the Divine Strake experiment. Atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons by several countries in the 1950s and 1960s resulted in the dispersion of radioactive fallout throughout the northern hemisphere," the NNSA said.

The blast was first scheduled for June 2, then cancelled and rescheduled for June 23 after the lawsuit was filed on April 20. Radioactive fallout from the blast was predicted that would result in cancers. Children were the most likely victims.



Source: Indian Country Today 6/5/06
<http://indiancountry.com/content.cfm?id=1096413084>

Connections delivery routes. HELP needed !

We are searching for people willing to assist in delivering Connections in the following areas:

Lincoln Center/Ben Holt

Miracle Mile

Please call 467-4455 if you can help !

Peace from the Inside Out

"We can live together, eat together, breathe together, meet together, see together, fight together, clean together, and save our world."

Meditation workshop will be offered at the Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Road on four Wednesdays from June 14–July 5, 6:30–8:30 pm.

Registration fee is \$40. Call 467-4455 to register.

Art garage sale set for Horton Gallery

Delta Center for the Arts and the LH Horton Jr Gallery will host the Art Garage Sale on June 23 and 24, 9 am to 3 pm. This event is free, open to the public and will benefit the Art In Public Places and Art Loan Program of Delta College, as well as support the operations and programming. Dozens of works will be available ranging from framed posters, to original paintings and ceramics by student

and professional artists, at very affordable prices. These works have been deaccessioned from the campus collection or have been donated.

The LH Horton Jr Gallery is located in Shima Center at Delta College. The Gallery is currently closed and will open the 2006-07 Exhibition Season in August. For more information call (209) 954-5507 or visit <http://finearts.deltacollege.edu/gallery>

Weber art show

Weber Institute High School Art Show was held May 30–June 3rd. Reception—Saturday, June 3 at the Peace & Justice Center. Teachers and students alike participated.



Where's the tofu?

So, you've made a choice. You want to go out to dinner or lunch or even breakfast but you are finished with fast foods— the way they grow, warehouse and process their food has convinced you that you do not need to put that stuff in your body. You don't want to go to a chain restaurant, you enjoy supporting local businesses and you want to eat something healthy, good tasting and good for you. Where do you go?

To start things off, you can try **San Felipe Grill**, 4601 Pacific Ave. Stockton. They use Niman Ranch meat and a certain P&J person swears by their mochas.

That's for starters. But you need choices. Do you have a suggestion? If so, please let us know of restaurants in the greater Stockton-Lodi-Manteca area that fit the following criteria:

Your restaurant must meet at least one of these guidelines:

1. Provides true vegetarian and/or vegan dishes (No meat in the ingredients).
2. Uses "good meat", beef, pork, chicken that has been raised humanely, fed all-natural feeds, allowed to mature naturally and is slaughtered and processed cleanly. (It is meat you're eating, you should know what happens to it before it gets on your plate). <http://www.nimanranch.org/>
3. Uses some if not all organic produce.
4. The ultimate place would also follow the Monterey Bay Aquarium guidelines for fish <http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/cr/seafoodwatch.asp>

Send your "good food" suggestions to: bgiudici@caltel.com and we'll get them into the paper. Let's develop a resource we can all use, including hours of operation, address, and favorite menu items.



veg·an

NOUN: A vegetarian who eats plant products only, especially one who uses no products derived from animals, as fur or leather.

veg·e·tar·i·an

NOUN: One who practices vegetarianism. A herbivore.

ADJECTIVE: Of or relating to vegetarianism or vegetarians. Consisting primarily or wholly of vegetables and vegetable products: a vegetarian diet.

health·y

ADJECTIVE: health·i·er, health·i·est

Possessing good health. Conducive to good health; healthful: healthy air. Indicative of sound, rational thinking or frame of mind: a healthy attitude.

OTHER FORMS: healthi·ly (Adverb), healthi·ness (Noun)

being in or indicative of good physical or mental health. Healthy stresses the absence of disease and often implies energy and strength Usage Note: all definitions from the on line *American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language*

Stockton Art League Exhibition

Dates: August 6–September 17, 2006

Location: The Haggin Museum Victory Park, 1201 N. Pershing Avenue, Stockton

Reception: Saturday, August 5, 2006 6:00 — 8:00

CORRECTION: In the last issue, the visual arts teacher at Franklin HS was mistakenly identified as Luz Lua in art show article...the teacher was Michelle Tsutsui. We apologize for the error.

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July 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.]

June 5–July 1

Marilyn Pellouchoud mixed media painter. M-F 10-5, Sat 11-3 Tidewater Gallery, 223 E. Weber Ave, Stockton. 463-4033

Wed, June 21

Peace from the Inside Out workshops, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. \$40 registration for all 4 workshops 467-4455

Thurs, June 22

Peace demonstration along Pacific Ave. on edge of Delta campus, just north of stoplight at Yokuts. Nadia McCaffery, mother of soldier killed in Iraq, will speak. 5-6:30 PM. Info: Jim Walsh 467-1440, John Morearty 464-3326. Fourth Thursdays

Sat, June 24

Summer Ragtime Festival, 2-4 pm. Come celebrate the music of Scott Joplin with a concert by local and regional musicians. 605 NEI Dorado, on the upstairs patio outside Ola's Coffee Shop. Free admission.

June 23–July 2

American Blues Theatre, Stockton Civic Theatre and Delta College presents Side by Side, a Stephen Sondheim musical revue. Fri/Sat 8 pm, Sun 2:30 pm. Tillie Lewis Theatre, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$14 adult, \$12 student/senior/child. 954-5110.

Tue, June 27

Candlelight Peace Vigil, Annunciation Cathedral, Lincoln/Rose. 7 PM sharp. Bring a candle and friend. All are welcome regardless of faith tradition! Info: Ria deGroot, 462-3340.

Wed, June 28

Peace from the Inside Out workshops, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. \$40 registration for all 4 workshops 467-4455

Free Concert in the Park featuring the Air Force Band of the West, 6 - 8 pm, Victory Park, Pershing & Argonne, Stockton.

Low-cost vaccination clinic, 4-6 pm at the Stockton Animal Shelter, 1575 S Lincoln St, Stockton. 937-8274

Thur June 29

Peace demonstration along Pacific Ave. on edge of Delta campus, just north of stoplight at Yokuts. Nadia McCaffery, mother of soldier killed in Iraq, will speak. 5-6:30 PM. Info: Jim Walsh 467-1440, John Morearty 464-3326.

Tue, July 4

Stockton Symphony performs at Waterfest 2006. 8:30 pm, gates open at 5 pm. Weber Point Events Center. \$5 admission, kids under 12 free. Fireworks at 9:45 pm.

Wed, July 5

Peace from the Inside Out workshops, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. \$40 registration for all 4 workshops 467-4455

Free Concert in the Park featuring Dixie, Inc., 6 - 8 pm, Victory Park, Pershing & Argonne, Stockton.

Thur, July 6

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

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

Sun, July 9

San Joaquin Vegans monthly potluck, 5:30, Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. \$2 with food, \$9 without food. Please bring your own table service and enough food for 8. All are welcome. RSVP to vsonstroem@deltacollege.edu. For more information on SJ Vegans or to receive email announcements about other veg events in the area, contact Bobbie at sjvegans@aol.com. Second Sundays.

Wed, July 12

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

Low-cost vaccination clinic, 4-6 pm at the Stockton Animal Shelter, 1575 S Lincoln St, Stockton. 937-8274

Thur, July 13

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

Fri, July 14

Downtown Stockton Art Walk. Pick up a yellow Art Walk guide at 306 E Main St and visit any number of galleries. 937-8958 Second Fridays

Sat, July 15

Summer Ragtime Festival, 2-4 pm. Come celebrate the music of Scott Joplin with a concert by local and regional musicians. 605 NEI Dorado, on the upstairs patio outside Ola's Coffee Shop. Free admission.

Wed, July 19

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

Thur, July 20

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

Wed, July 26

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

Free Concert in the Park featuring Art Bregante, 6 - 8 pm, Victory Park, Pershing & Argonne, Stockton.

Thurs, July 27

Peace vigil sponsored by the Anti-war working group, Delta College at Pacific & Yokuts, 5 - 6:30 Fourth Thursdays

UOP Summer 2006 Film Schedule

Wed, June 21 Pride and Prejudice

Wed, June 28 & Sat, July 1

War of the Worlds

Wed, July 5 Red Eye

Wed, July 12 Hitch

Sat, July 15 Rebel Without a Cause

Wed, July 19 Match Point

Wed, July 26 Dave Chapelle's Block Party

Sat, July 29 What Ever Happened to Baby Jane

Wed, Aug 9 & Sat, Aug 12

Chronicles of Narnia

Wed, Aug 16 Broken Flowers

Showtime: 7:00pm

Phone: 946-2025 for show recording

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

Sat, July 29

Summer Ragtime Festival, 2-4 pm. Come celebrate the music of Scott Joplin with a concert by local and regional musicians. 605 NEI Dorado, on the upstairs patio outside Ola's Coffee Shop. Free admission.

Sat, September 9

Party to celebrate *Connections'* 20th Anniversary. Oak Park. Details next issue.

Weekly

Tuesdays

Stockton City Council Meeting, every Tuesday at City Hall, 5:30 pm. <http://www.stocktongov.com/clerk/pages/CouncilAgenda.htm>

Tai Chi, 6-8 pm, Northeast Community Center, 2885 E Harding Way.

Saturdays

Birding Field Trips with S.J. Audubon Society. sanjoaquinaudubon.org

Tai Chi Chuan at the Confucius Church on Lafayette St., 8:30 am–11: am. (209) 952-8582.

Sundays

Tai Chi, 2:30–4, Northeast Community Center, 2885 E. Harding Way & Golden Gate.

Monthly

Second Monday

PFLAG meeting 209-870-3339.

Second Tues

Audubon Society, 7:30 pm, St. Paul's Church, 2220 W Alpine, Stockton.

Second Thurs

Health Care for All, 6 pm at the P&J Center, 231 Bedford.

Second Sunday

San Joaquin Vegans monthly potluck, for health, ethics, and the environment. For more information on SJ Vegans or to receive email announcements about other veg events in the area, contact Bobbie at sjvegans@aol.com.

Third Monday

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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Check the TV page of Wednesday's Record for latest info.

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



It's All Happening At the P&J Center

Summer French Film Series

July 11: "Etre et Avoir" (To Be and To Have)

Directed by Nicolas Philibert, 2002. A poignant, inspired documentary about a soon-to-retire teacher and his young pupils in a one-room schoolhouse. Set in the Auvergne, a beautiful but little visited upland region in south-central France. Not to be missed! 104 minutes, in color with English subtitles.

July 18: "Le Fabuleux Destin d'Amélie Poulain" ("Amélie" in the U.S.)

Directed by Jean-Pierre Jeunet, 2001. A chance discovery induces a painfully shy young waitress (Audrey Tautou) to devote herself to helping others (and herself) find happiness. A charming example of French romantic realism redux to be enjoyed again and again. 122 minutes, in color with English subtitles.

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

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

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

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

connections

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

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

Join us in Stockton

Vigil Demonstration June 22 2006

5:00 pm until 6:30 In front of Delta College Yokuts and Pacific



In loving Memory of Patrick Ryan McCaffrey

and Ken Ballard

Bring our troops home now

Nadia McCaffrey Gold Star Mother, member of Gold Star Families Speak Out www.GSFSO.org board member of www.Freedomfromwar.org will speak about her son Sergeant Patrick McCaffrey www.PatrickSpirit.org who was shot multiple times and killed in an ambush near Balad, June 22 2004. Patrick is the first combat-death in 58 years history of the California National Guard's 579 Engineer Battalion, based in Petaluma, Ca. Patrick was listed as: "Casualty" number 848.

Gold Star Mom Karen Meredith www.GSFSO.org, Mac Gregor Eddy <http://www.space4peace.org/actions/2004.htm> will be present

This will be our first "Camp Patrick"

Any clergy or leaders of faith traditions would be welcome to speak.

Please contact Jim Walsh 209-981-0544

No Peace on Earth in Bethlehem: A Report Back from the West Bank



Why is there no peace in the Holy Land? What relevance does the message of Jesus have for the people who live there today?

Long time Jewish-Christian activist Wendy Kaufmyn, will report on her experiences volunteering with the International Women's Peace Service in Palestine.

IWPS documents and nonviolently intervenes in human rights abuses, provides international accompaniment to Palestinian civilians and supports them in nonviolent resistance.

Wendy will first present a brief history of the conflict starting with Zionism in the late 1800s.

**Wednesday
July 26, 2006
7:00 – 9:00 pm
Peace & Justice Center
231 Bedford Road ~ Stockton**

Call 467-4455 to reserve space

This program is presented in conjunction with IDST 27B Asian Humanities
For more information about classes, see www.ccsf.edu

Children's artwork and Palestinian embroidery will be on display