

connections

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SAVE THE DATES

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Keep up the pressure!

Call your legislators and demand they get us out of Iraq!
No excuses!

Health insurance kills and bankrupts

Stanley Thomas

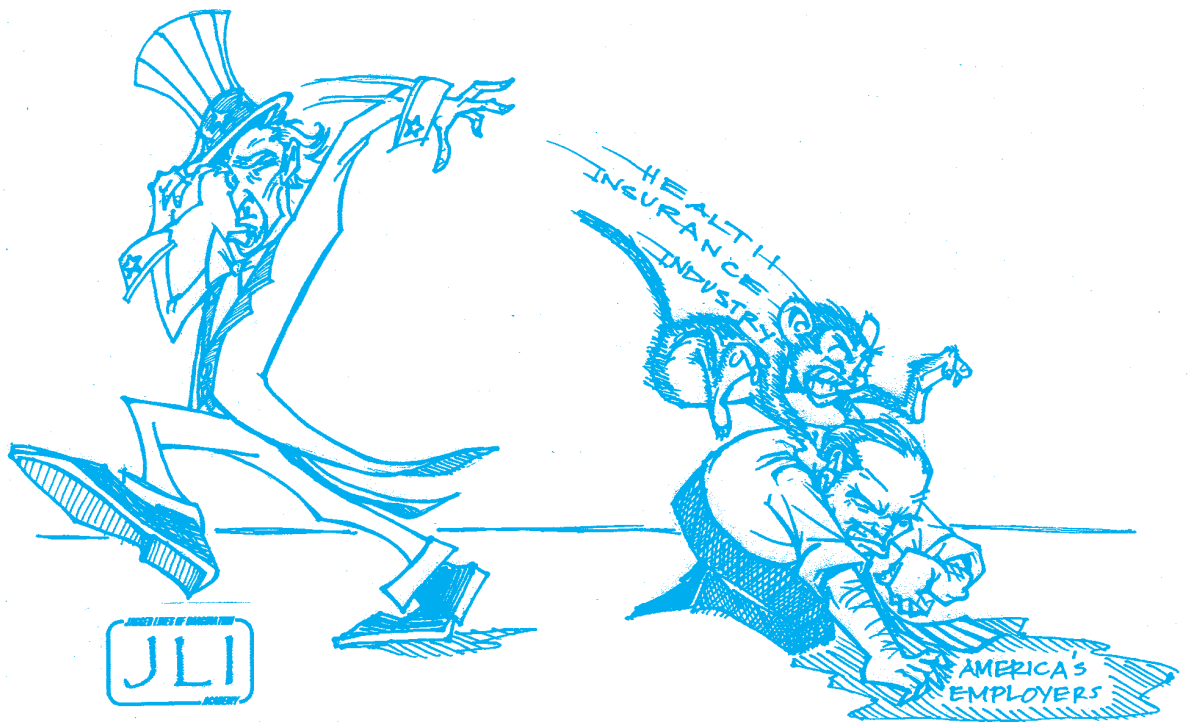
"Privatized" health insurance kills, causes suffering, and bankrupts. Publicly financed health insurance heals.

America's health insurance system is broken for two reasons: (1) it costs too much and (2) it provides too little. The key to curing the problem is public financing of health insurance—funded by fair and equitable taxation. This is exactly what SB840, "California Universal Health Care Act," does.

Under this nation's dysfunctional private, for-profit health insurance system, health insurance premium costs for employers and for private individuals increase relentlessly at double-digit rates (at several times the rate of inflation) every year. Tens of millions of Americans have no health insurance whatsoever; a significant proportion of these are children. Additionally, other tens of millions of Americans are seriously underinsured. Furthermore, untold millions are denied health insurance at any cost by the poorly-regulated, profit-centered private health insurance industry because they have "preexisting conditions."

Consequences

The consequences of America's deeply flawed, "privatized" health insurance system is horrific for Americans. Our privatized health insurance industry kills people, bankrupts families, businesses and



emergency rooms, creates untold suffering nationwide, and makes a significant contribution to civil unrest (strikes and near-strikes against school districts, hospitals, municipalities, manufacturers, and more).

- 47 million Americans (7 million Californians) are uninsured.
- 18,000 Americans per year (40 Californians per week) die prematurely because they have inadequate access to health care (NYT, 1/12/05);
- More than half of all personal bankruptcies are the result of inadequate health insurance;
- Emergency rooms have an unfunded mandate to treat the uninsured. In the summer of 2005, the ERs of East Los Angeles

and Northridge ER in the San Fernando Valley were bankrupted. These two bankruptcies brought to 65 the number of California ERs bankrupted since the mid-1990s. New hospitals are being built without ERs because of the financial hemorrhage they represent.

- Uniquely among first-world nations, the U.S. depends on businesses to provide health insurance to the population. The burden of health insurance to businesses makes General Motors and Ford uncompetitive on the world market and threatens these businesses with bankruptcy. The cost of health insurance to their employees contributes to the bankruptcies of America's airlines. Nationwide, businesses large and

small are vulnerable to the same health insurance cost issue.

The fundamental cause

The fundamental cause lies in America's ideological obsession with the so-called "free market" and the "privatization" of government functions. The U.S. "privatizes" health insurance. In so doing, Uncle Sam avoids its responsibility to America's citizens and unjustly throws the monkey of health insurance onto the backs of the country's business and private individuals. Uncle Sam hands the keys to the henhouse to the fox, the poorly-regulated health insurance industry. The private health insurance industry laughs all the way to the bank.

(continued on page 9)

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Change starts here

Bruce Giudici

How deep will we go? What is the limit of our complacency? Who will land the final blow to this house of cards? And will it matter?

Even if the events of today could stop, we will all live in a post-Katrina world. Our defenses, civil liberties and security, our natural world and its habitats, our retirement and health care, our leadership for freedom and democracy—six years of active destruction by none other than all of us has left this world a more fragile place.

Sure, Bush is the leader, the decider; he shows us daily how important is the Power of One. But we allow it to happen. And so, now, like New Orleans residents, we have a choice. We can pick up and move, or stay and rebuild.

The hard work of repair will take more than mere knowledge; now we must act.

As Congress discusses change, we must keep on them. As people run for office, we must support those who will take decisive

action to change direction. As we live our day to day lives, we must make bold commitments to change. Time is short, and the reminders of how far astray we are, are abundant:

Gas at \$3.50 per gallon and annual health insurance premium hikes of 15% increase the day-to-day debt of staying alive. The stock market soars as the rich profit off of our declining real wages. The Federal budget deficit balloons at exactly the time we should be saving for the baby boom retirement. The Everglades and Los Angeles burn mid-spring, as we all worship a nuclear power that will stop climate change. Our crooked Attorney General can't explain why he punishes 8 US prosecutors for not fixing the 2006 elections, as our dishonest President backs his latest star appointment (heckuva job, Al). The waste that is "defense" spending tops \$600 billion, as Congress continues to allow further war spending to happen without an Iraq exit strategy (lip service to the contrary).

Impeachment, which would end

Bruce Giudici,
editor



this a lot quicker (our maximum sentence is 607 days, as we go to press), seems only to be an option when the evidence is one soiled dress, rather than the over 4,000 soiled body bags (if one only counts Americans) we could have easily have avoided had we allowed the UN weapons inspectors to do their little jobs. But we didn't. Impeachment can still happen, of course, in a democracy. We must demand it.

And we can keep hope alive by believing in our institutions and ourselves. The coming time is crucial—a cornered animal is most dangerous. It will be important to keep your friends and yourself informed; with the media we have, a convergence of sensational events helps.

(Note: *Connections* will take its summer break two months early. Happy early summer!)

Fighting hunger, feeding hope

Letter carriers collect food for Emergency Food Bank

The National Association of Letter Carriers' Annual Food Drive was held on Saturday, May 12, 2007. Letter carriers across the city worked long and hard to not only deliver mail, but also to deliver hope. They collected 48,000 pounds of food in the Stockton area—that's 24 tons of food to help feed the hungry in our county.

This year's effort was the most successful our city has ever seen. In 2006, the letter carriers of Stockton collected over 31,000 pounds of food for the Emergency Food Bank.

The NALC Food Drive is the largest one-day food drive in the nation. Letter carriers across the nation collected 70.5 million pounds of food in last year's drive, the third consecutive year the effort has exceeded 70 million pounds. The food is collected in over 10,000 communities.

Please join the Emergency Food Bank in thanking the National Association of Letter Carriers and the United States Postal Service for their efforts to "Stamp Out Hunger" in Stockton and San Joaquin County.

For more information please call Community Development Director, Traci Stahl, Emergency Food Bank, 464-7369.

Get a paper route

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

Connections

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

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Testimony of a conscientious objector



Helga & Agustin Aguayo.

Roberto Radrigan

Wei aee kae
Wei aee kae
Wei aee kae
Kaei heea!

This chant, spoken in the dialect of the Kaeewah describing the flight of an eagle, was perhaps the most appropriate opening for a dissident soldier's non-apologetic discourse.

Nearly 50 people gathered at the Mexican Community Center—known as La Jamaica—on Friday, May 11th, to listen to Agustin Aguayo's experience.

Mexican-born Aguayo joined the US Army because, after becoming an American citizen, he wanted "to do something great" for his adopted country. Shortly after being trained he realized a soldier's life wasn't for him—killing was not OK with him, so he asked to be discharged as a conscientious objector.

While his request was processed he was sent to Iraq where he served as military medic for a full tour. "Once I tended to several soldiers who had been injured in a road-bomb attack. They died on our hands," he said, "I look at them, so young, full of life until minutes past—Why? Why? This cannot be right!"

Back in Germany Aguayo was not only informed his request had

been denied, but was ordered back for a second Iraq war tour. He refused to obey and escaped back to the US, where he eventually surrendered to his superiors.

He was demoted and ordered to serve eight months in a military prison for desertion.

"I am not a coward. I didn't do what I did out of fear nor am I sorry for what I did," he explained to the mostly Mexican crowd, "I listened to my conscience. I did what was the right thing to do."

He warned all young people contemplating joining the US Armed Forces to be sure of what they are doing. A lot of recruiters' promises go unfulfilled, warned Aguayo. "A guy was promised a rehabilitation therapist training and had to settle for computers instead," he illustrated, "he was sent to operate a tank's computer."

"There are alternatives to finance a college career," he said of those who join because they cannot afford school. "It's hard, but if you are decided, you can get financial help to do it on your own."

Aguayo is touring the US along with other members of Courage to Resist, a grass-roots organization that supports Armed Forces war dissenters.

From the *Bilingual Weekly*.
Reprinted with permission.

Here's how to get out of Iraq

Mickey McGuire

They say that the toughest part of grabbing a tiger by the tail is figuring out how to let it go. And so it is with Iraq. Getting out is going to be more difficult than getting in.

Jim Hoagland, one of America's most influential foreign affairs writers, says there are three ways out of Iraq. The first is "disorderly flight." About half of Americans polled want us out of Iraq in six months. He opposes such a precipitous withdrawal.

Hoagland describes the second option as "providing a decent interval for local forces to determine their own fate." He doesn't specify, however, what would constitute a "decent interval."

The third option is "sustaining a static shield behind which positive change occurs over the long run." Hoagland says the Vietnam War was a combination of options one and two. But we were significantly engaged in Vietnam for a dozen years, longer than World War I, World War II and the Korean War combined. More than half of the casualties in Vietnam occurred during the five years after public opinion began to turn against the war.

Korea is Hoagland's example of a "static shield" approach. We were in Korea for a couple of decades before the democratic government and modern economy became self-sustaining. The British refereed the Catholic-Protestant troubles in Northern Ireland for more than three decades.

Former Deputy Defense Secretary John J. Hamre says, "the time scale for success is years." He continues, "The time scale here is 12 months for Democrats and 18 months for Republicans." In other words, we have two options: a long war or a short war. Larry Diamond, a Stanford University professor who worked with the occupation authority responds, "If we don't get a political breakthrough, nothing we do militarily is going to work." If the Iraqis don't make progress toward a political accommodation, long or short won't make any difference.

Skeptics say that President

Bush favors a long war—five to 10 years—because he doesn't want to be in office for the final act. The public, and politicians in both parties, don't fancy the prospect of debating Iraq policy during the next two or three presidential election cycles.

Some Americans can accept having troops in Iraq for the next five years as long as they are performing non-combat duties, such as training, technical assistance, intelligence collection and medical care. Many want to tell the Iraqi government that we intend to begin the process of drawing out so that our troops are off the streets in 12 to 18 months. It appears that we are witnessing what many military experts warned about early in our engagement. The Iraqi government is becoming too dependent on us.

I lived abroad for a while, and even though I spoke the language with some fluency and had studied

the culture, I often found myself in situations where I didn't fully understand what was going on. Asking our soldiers to perform policing duties, under much worse circumstances, is asking too much. Seventy percent of Iraqis want us to leave. Sixty percent think that it is permissible to kill Americans. The French learned in Algeria that the only way to defeat an insurgency is to earn the trust of the locals so they will become informants. Only the Iraqis can do this.

I suspect most Americans would say that 12 to 18 months would constitute a "decent interval," to use Jim Hoagland's term. There appears to be little public enthusiasm, however, for the five- to 10-year commitment required to provide a "static shield."

Mickey McGuire, a retired high school social studies teacher, is among a select group of local residents rotating their columns in the *Saturday Tracy Press*.

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



Beautiful PJN mugs!

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





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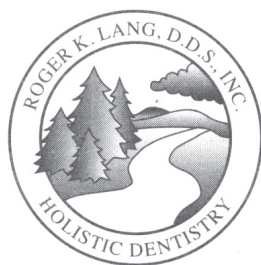


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Close CIA prisons still in operation

The Bush administration's continuing reliance on secret CIA prisons violates basic human rights standards, Human Rights Watch said late April.

The announcement that Abd al-Hadi al-Iraqi was transferred to the Guantanamo Bay detention facility from CIA custody raises worrying questions about how long he has been detained by the CIA, where he was held, what kind of treatment he endured, and whether other prisoners still remain in CIA detention. The CIA has previously detained numerous detainees for months and even years.

"The CIA's secret detention of Abd al-Hadi al-Iraqi is a blatant violation of international law," said Joanne Mariner, terrorism and counterterrorism director at Human Rights Watch. "This transfer shows that Congress will have to act to end the CIA's illegal detention program."

By holding people in unacknowledged, incommunicado detention, outside of the protection of the law, the Bush administration has violated the international legal prohibition on enforced disappearance. The CIA's reliance on enforced disappearance also raises serious concerns about the likelihood of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. Notably, numerous detainees previously transferred from CIA custody to Guantanamo have claimed that they were subjected to torture.

Human Rights Watch also criticized the administration for transferring new detainees to the Guantanamo facility. Just one month ago, the Department of Defense announced that it had transferred to Guantanamo a Kenyan citizen, Mohammad Abdul Malik, arrested in Mombassa.

Human Rights Watch today renewed its call to have suspected criminal detainees at Guantanamo transferred to federal courts and prosecuted under US federal criminal law.

"If al-Hadi and other detainees committed the crimes they're accused of, they should be tried for acts of terrorism in federal court, under a fair and transparent

system," said Mariner.

On September 6, 2006, President George W. Bush publicly revealed the existence of the CIA's secret detention and interrogation program. Although he stated that, as of that moment, there were no prisoners in CIA custody, he did not promise that the program was closing permanently.

It is believed that more than one al-Qaeda suspect uses the alias of Abd al-Hadi al-Iraqi (or Abdul Hadi al-Iraqi), complicating the job of verifying the date of the present detainee's arrest. A person with that name was reportedly arrested in January 2002; another person with that name is currently on the FBI's "Rewards for Justice" list. The person on the FBI's list, for whom there is a \$1 million reward, matches the current detainee in certain particulars (both were born in Mosul, Iraq, and both were members of the Iraqi military).

US officials have told journalists that al-Hadi was arrested in late 2006, meaning that al-Hadi has been in secret CIA custody for at least five months.

As many as 38 other detainees who were believed to have once been held in CIA custody remain unaccounted for as of April 27, 2007 (see list below). Human Rights Watch wrote a letter (<http://hrw.org/reports/2007/us0207/bushletter.pdf>) to President Bush in February 2007, requesting information on the fate of these detainees, but has received no response to date.

It is possible that the president's statement that the CIA's prisons were empty in September 2006 was true only in a technical sense, and that in fact prisoners were being held in "proxy detention" — held in another country on behalf of the United States.

"We're skeptical that President Bush was telling the whole story when he said the CIA prisons were empty," Mariner said. "It's quite possible that his claim was based on legal niceties: that while detainees were in the custody of other countries, the CIA had the power to determine their fate."

Source: Human Rights Watch Press release 4/27/07

Five seconds

Five seconds is all you get
On the News Hour with Jim Lehrer

After they've collected several Photos and names of the men and women killed in Iraq and Afghanistan "Here in silence are (fill in the number) more."

Five seconds of your beautiful, handsome face on the screen
Your age ranging from 18 to 47
Your name, rank, branch and hometown.

How did you die?
Was it an IED, a "suicider" (as Bush calls them)

Or a sniper on a rooftop, lying in wait

for an American soldier, who is oftentimes ill-equipped (perhaps because of tax cuts for the rich?)

Five seconds, give or take, could have made the difference between life or death.

You may have only been wounded,

Only lost your legs or an arm or had the side of your face and head blown off

Maybe blinded or made deaf for the rest of your life.

Or your brain addled inside your semi-protected helmet (more tax cuts for the rich?)

and so it turned to jell-o in places that will never recover

And neither will your personality — gone forever.

You are now a shell of your former, strong, brave and proud soldier

War is a Racket, by Major General Smedley Butler (look it up on the Net)

This is not a "war," but it sure as hell is a full-blown racket.

It was an illegal and immoral invasion

and now occupation of a sovereign nation,

based on lies and nothing but lies.

To this very day it is nothing but lies.

And I am so very sorry, dear thousands of Americans,

and to the untold tens of thousands

(some reports say "hundreds of thousands") of Iraqi children, women and men.

Who all wished they had at least five more seconds to say

"Good-bye ! I love you!" to their loved ones before they were turned into pink mist.

—Marcia Savage

Support for marriage equality shows at Stockton Earth Day festival

Martina Virrey

The Earth Day Festival in San Joaquin County is one of the most popular community events of the year in Stockton. This year, the San Joaquin County Chapter of Marriage Equality USA (MEUSA) reserved their spot at this well-attended gathering. Staffed by teen volunteers from the local Red Cross and members of the local MEUSA Chapter, the booth offered participants free face painting and information about Marriage Equality. As soon as the booth opened there was a line that never ended, except for when we let the volunteers take their lunch break.

The many conversations that took place while parents waited for their children to get their faces painted were about real relationship between brothers and sisters, mothers and sons, fathers and daughters, and friends who had come out or learned that someone they loved was gay or lesbian. "I support gay marriage because I have a friend who told me they are gay," was what one woman said as she stopped to pick up a magnet with the Marriage Equality USA logo. She went on to say, "When she told me, I was surprised but it didn't matter. She had always been a good friend."

People were eager to stop by



and share their experiences, and questions about how marriage inequality can effect people they care for. Many had questions about adoption, or medical benefits, and other rights that heterosexual marriage automatically grants.

By the end of the day, our volunteers had painted at least 75 faces, handed out almost all of our business cards and gained commitments from 29 community members to volunteer with future MEUSA events. Nicole Devencenzi, a San Joaquin Chapter member of MEUSA said, "It was awesome to see so many people interested in what we are

doing." Another local MEUSA member, Cordelia Hunt said, "MEUSA is an awesome group of people trying to make an important difference in San Joaquin County. I think the outreach booth was great because it brought all kinds of families to our booth with questions, which made us more known in our local community."

If you would like to participate in future Marriage Equality USA outreach activities in San Joaquin County, contact Martina, Judy or Stormie at: casanjoaquin@marriageequality.org or (209)923-0448 or visit www.marriageequality.org



photographer is Rebecca Borlik



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.

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Media Matters <http://mediamatters.org/>

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

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

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

Raw Story <http://www.rawstory.com>

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

<http://www.reclaimthemedias.org>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We're on the web too!

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

<http://www.pjnsjc.org>

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An F in health care

Alec Dubro

The New York-based Commonwealth Fund released a comprehensive cross-border study of health care systems in rich countries and, no surprise, ranks the U.S. as pretty much last. Except when it comes to cost, that is. We pay more overall and get less.

What everyone who cares to look knows is that there are two health care systems in America—one for those with money and one for those without. The report spelled it out plainly:

The U.S. ranks a clear last on all measures of equity. Americans with below-average incomes were much more likely than their counterparts in other countries to report not visiting a physician when sick, not getting a recommended test, treatment or follow-up care, not filling a prescription or not seeing a dentist when needed because of costs.

Many people have enough money, or otherwise identify themselves with money, and they're grateful for what they believe is class-A health care. Thank god, they say, we're not plagued with bureaucratic stasis and long wait times as are people at public hospitals or in socialist countries like Britain or Germany. They're wrong. We're at the bottom in most everything and for everybody.

The Commonwealth Fund does, indeed, say that the poor are in bad shape when it comes to preventable illnesses and chronic conditions. But, even the insured do badly. For instance:

The U.S. and Canada rank lowest on the prompt accessibility of appointments with physicians, with patients more likely to report waiting six or more days for an appointment when needing care.

On the other hand, Canada achieves approximately the same level of waiting using less than half the amount of money as the U.S. What is even more striking is that American medicine, despite the huge amounts of money poured into it, is so poorly organized that much of what would be good care gets negated by the haphazard system. Specifically, the U.S. is technologically behind and organizationally backward. Said the report:

The U.S. ranks a clear last on all measures of equity. Americans with below-average incomes were much more likely to report not visiting a physician when sick, not getting a recommended test...

Other countries are further along than the U.S. in using information technology and a team approach to manage chronic conditions and coordinate care. Information systems in countries like Germany, New Zealand and the U.K. enhance the ability of physicians to identify and monitor patients with chronic conditions. Such systems also make it easy for physicians to print out medication lists, including those prescribed by other physicians.

In short, as you have probably experienced, your primary care physician has no idea what your specialists are doing and vice versa. Not only are patient records not mutually accessible among medical personnel, they're not even computerized. That's right, a majority of U.S. health care providers still rely on written records.

According to the U.S. Health and Human Services Department, 30 percent of current health care spending (up to \$300 billion) each year nationwide is inappropriate, redundant or unnecessary. One result, said the U.S. Institute of Medicine, is that up to 98,000 people in the United States die every year from medical errors. The governor of Wisconsin, Jim Doyle, found it necessary to institute a program of "paying \$10 million for a grant and loan program to increase the use of electronic medical record (EMR) systems." So, what we already pay for health care isn't enough; the public sector has to pay to bring

us even with the other rich countries.

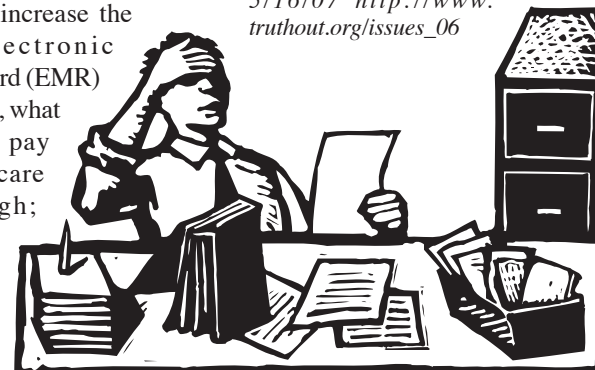
The U.S. wasn't last in every category. "The area where the U.S. health care system performs best is preventive care," said the Commonwealth report, "an area that has been monitored closely for over a decade by managed care plans." Although this was our best category, we still did worse than Canada and Australia.

In all, then, what do we get for the nearly \$2 trillion a year we spend? "Despite having the most costly health system in the world," the report sums up, "the United States consistently underperforms on most dimensions of performance, relative to other countries."

If we needed any more evidence that, dollar for dollar, we get the worst possible system, here it is. Whether or not we move to government-based health insurance, or keep some form of public and private insurers, we need a national health care system. We clearly cannot rely on this patchwork of duplicate and non-communicating operations that cost lives, money and health. If other countries can do it, so can we—if we can only muster the political will.

Alec Dubro is senior editor at TomPaine.com.

Source: TomPaine.com
5/16/07 http://www.truthout.org/issues_06



Petition

Toward a real local response to global warming

To: San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors
Presented by Residents of San Joaquin County

We, residents of San Joaquin County, have become deeply concerned about the impact of global warming and agree it has become the most serious threat facing our planet.

Around the world, individuals, families, organizations, businesses and governments are taking action to reduce amounts of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), determined to be a leading cause of global warming, and are taking action to curb their total energy usage, tapping into alternative and renewable energy sources, and preparing for expected/predicted consequences climate change will bring. These include serious threats of sea-level rise, flooding, droughts, temperature swings causing heat waves, extended freezes, water shortages, aquifer depletion, saltwater intrusion, and a cascade of other known and unknown consequences which will affect not only humans, but all life on Earth.

We, residents of San Joaquin County, pledge to:

- reduce our contribution of greenhouse gas emissions, proven to be the primary catalyst for climate change;
- curb our energy usage and switch to alternative/renewable energy sources whenever possible;
- help slow the rate of Earth's temperature increase through mitigating measures such as planting more carbon dioxide absorbing trees/plants, and by protecting existing forests/vegetation from being destroyed, thereby releasing harmful carbon into the atmosphere.

We, residents of San Joaquin County, strongly urge the Board of Supervisors of San Joaquin County, to adopt a Resolution that pledges to:

- recognize the severity of global warming and acknowledge the role in which human activity and industrialization has contributed to our rapidly changing climate;
- accept responsibility for taking local action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions produced by San Joaquin County government/municipalities;
- determine current greenhouse gas emission levels in our County;
- set strict reduction targets of GHG emissions by specific dates in the future;
- institute measures to mitigate, trap, prevent or absorb GHG emissions through various possible means, such as trapping methane at landfills, converting vehicle fleets to run on alternative fuels, installing energy efficient equipment and lighting, retrofitting municipal buildings, initiating extensive recycling and comprehensive waste reduction programs, planting trees/vegetation throughout the county and preserving existing trees/vegetation from destruction, among other possible actions;
- commit to reducing the County's total energy usage and to switch from fossil fuel to alternative/renewable energy sources wherever possible and to investigate/implement bio-fuel production, carbon sequestration and/or other energy innovations as possible solutions/alternatives available to our County;
- establish a plan of response and assistance to residents affected by consequences of severe climate change, such as heat waves, drought conditions, winter freezes, flooding, vector-borne viruses; and to provide educational materials/programs to residents on prevention, preparedness and agencies to contact for assistance;
- develop a plan of action to accomplish these goals, either through the creation of a Directive such as a Global Warming Strategy to be implemented by existing County administrators, or by creation of a newly designated team/committee, such as an Inter-agency Climate Action Team;
- implement, maintain and update the plan of action and monitor progress, report results, determine success rate or not, and adjust plans as needed/recommended by Climate Action Team or administrators;
- enlist/encourage city governments within San Joaquin County to draft similar Resolutions addressing global warming which outline ways those cities can reduce/mitigate their GHG emissions, reduce their total energy usage and utilize alternative/renewable energy sources as much as possible;
- enlist/encourage private businesses, school districts, agricultural interests and other sources of GHG emissions in the County to also take steps to control/reduce their GHG emission output and find ways to use less energy; and
- receive help with creating and attaining these goals, reaching out to organizations and groups committed to assisting counties and cities in the U.S. to take action to lessen the impact of climate change, such as KyotoUSA, Local Governments for Sustainability (I.C.L.E.I.), the Clinton Climate Initiative, to name a few, and make connections with other Northern California counties such as Alameda, Sonoma and Marin, who have already drafted global warming Resolutions and are currently working toward their goals.

The below signatories agree to the pledges and suggestions outlined above.

Signature	Name	Address
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Police brutality in LA's MacArthur Park

Jennifer Snow

Note: Here is a first-hand account of the police response to the peaceful demonstration on May 1 in MacArthur Park in Los Angeles. It is written by Jennifer Snow, Associate Director of Progressive Christians Uniting (a very effective ecumenical social justice consortium). She has a PhD in Religious Studies, is in her late 20s and describes herself as five feet tall and completely unarmed.

This is what happened.

The march ended at Wilshire and Alvarado, and the last organization in the march was a Native American drumming and dancing troupe. They stopped in the street to dance, and a huge circle, mostly of families with small children, gathered around them to watch, cheer, and clap. It was peaceful and jubilant, a celebration, not a protest. The police were there, but no one was paying any attention to them. Suddenly there were sirens, very loud and close. Police motorcycles drove into the crowd around the dancers. There was no announcement—or if there was, no one could hear it over the sirens.

Imagine the deafening noise of many sirens only a few feet from you, the motorcycle driving towards you, pushing you forward. Imagine the panic of women with small children in strollers. People tried to get away from the motorcycles, but the police would not allow you to walk through them. When I tried, I was pushed roughly back in front of the motorcycles. I saw three middle school girls standing hugging each other in front of a motorcycle, the wheel pushing against their feet and legs, the sirens blasting in their ears, the policeman screaming at them. I saw people being pushed off their feet.

When I saw the police start striking someone, I ran over to try to put myself between them. I saw people dragging their friends away from the police. Eventually they pushed us back onto the sidewalk. No one knew why they were doing this or what was happening. A line of police in riot gear faced us as we crowded on the sidewalk, bewildered and bruised and angry. We hadn't been doing anything

wrong. They hadn't asked us to move, or tried to communicate with us in any way other than violence. The noise was deafening, terrifying, disorienting. Teenagers with piercings yelled at the police. I pointed at the ground, trying to tell the police, look, I'm on the sidewalk. The police yelled at us. You had to yell to be heard. But the tension faded.

The National Lawyers Guild passed the word along that as long as we stayed on the sidewalk, there would be no problems. Most of the teenagers had calmed down. There was nothing to see—just the people lined up on the sidewalk, the police in the street. People were a little bewildered. Why were the police here? What were they doing? Why were there so many of them? Why did they have guns and canisters? But no one was doing anything. We just stood there, talking, laughing, drinking water, eating corn, taking pictures.

We wondered what on earth there were so many police for. And then suddenly the kids—the same teenagers that had been yelling at the police—ran along the sidewalk, yelling get back, get back, they've declared unlawful assembly, they're going to arrest everyone.

We heard shots. Within the park, from the corner of Alvarado and 7th, I saw people running. I ran towards them. I wanted to make sure that people were not responding violently to the police, that no one was being hurt. No one was violent, but people were indeed being hurt.

Keep in mind that there had been no announcement—or at least, no effective announcement. I had been in the front the entire time, less than two feet from the police. Surely I would have heard an announcement if there was one. The only announcement had been rumor. Later on, I would hear a completely unintelligible announcement from a helicopter. I could tell that it was in English. Even if I had been able to understand it, many in the crowd would not have. There were no requests to disperse. There was no warning to the crowd. There was no explanation. There was no effort to communicate.

The police entered the park

shooting gas or smoke canisters. People panicked, running in all directions. I saw a couple, bewildered, start walking in the wrong direction. I held up my hands and said to the police, I'm going to get those people, I am going to help those people there, and went down to them, guiding them in front of the line and towards the exit. They didn't speak much English. I continued to walk slowly in front of the police.

Suddenly I saw a homeless man, sleeping under a tree. The police line approached, screaming at him. He woke up, confused. Someone with a camera tried to help him, but was beaten off. He tottered to his feet, trying to grab his suitcase and blanket. The police screamed at him. He held out his hands to them. Perhaps that seemed threatening. I saw two policemen start hitting him with their batons, one to his legs, one to his chest. I started back towards him, thinking I could put myself between him and the police, but that's all I saw, because then the police had me. I was thrown to the ground. A policeman screamed "move! move!," pushing me and hitting me with the baton. Every time I tried to stand, I fell back down—he was dragging me, I couldn't get to my feet. A girl, one of the teenagers, came over, tried to help me up, and the policeman started hitting her with the baton as well.

Even with everything I had seen, something in me instinctively turned to the police to help. Surely they would stop those people from beating the homeless man. I kept saying to the policeman dragging me, look, they're beating that man, reaching back towards him.

The last I saw of the homeless man, they were putting plastic handcuffs on him. I later heard that one "demonstrator" was arrested. Maybe that was him.

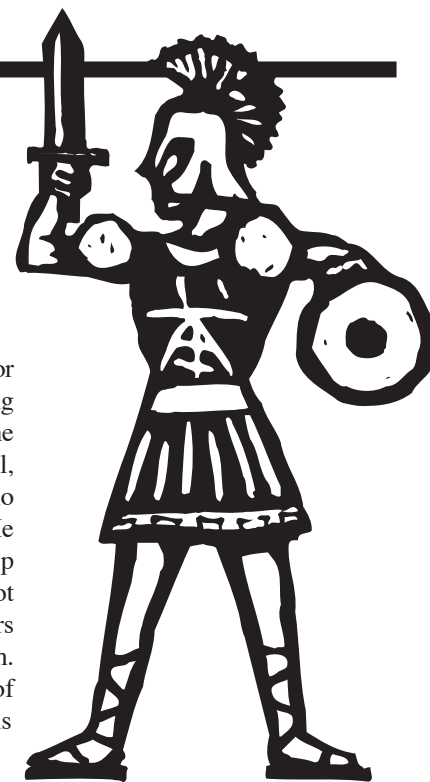
When I got to my feet, I continued to walk slowly in front of the police, my hands raised, very slowly. They were shooting on my left side. There seemed no point in trying to get out from in front of them, or running. I felt sure that my only safety was to be slow, calm, and clearly unarmed. I walked slowly across Wilshire in front of the police line, hands up. We came to the corner of Wilshire and Alvarado, where Wilshire runs

through the park.

Bystanders attacked

We approached a hot dog vendor and his wife and daughters, sitting behind their carts on the low stone wall. The vendor had the hopeful, friendly smile of someone who has no idea what is going on. He had brought his family to keep him company while he sold hot dogs. I tried to get his daughters to move, but it wasn't fast enough. The police were on us. One of them grabbed the vendor by his t-shirt and screamed "Move! Move!" while striking him the chest with his baton over and over again. The policeman was standing between the vendor and any hope of his moving—the vendor was trapped between the cart, the wall, his family, and the policeman. I stood with his daughters, my arm around one of them, all of us frozen. Eventually the policeman must have realized that the man was not able to move, and he left. The vendor was still smiling, as though to say, I mean no trouble, do not hurt me, I'm just a hot dog vendor. We were all in shock. The police were still coming, still screaming. I helped the family move their carts across the street, and they started walking up Wilshire, away from that corner.

I could see, though, that the police had already strung a line across Wilshire. Although they were screaming to people to get out, they were beginning to block all the exits. By now the helicopter was hovering. It was complete pandemonium. There was a deafening message from the helicopter, but no one could understand it. Someone was trying to speak from the rally stage. People were crowding around the news vans, as though they would be safe there. The police were entering the park, shooting. Women ran with their strollers and their babies and their children, trying to get away. Men sat on picnic tables or wandered in groups, not knowing where it was safe to go. I ran out at the corner of 6th and Alvarado. The police were starting to block the corner, yelling at people who ran towards them. I ran, a woman running beside me with her three children, running away from the police.



In the parking lot of a store on Maryland and Alvarado, I passed a young woman cradling an infant wrapped in a blanket, sitting on the curb, dazed, hiding behind a van. Are you OK? I asked. Yes, she said, and we nodded at each other, and I kept walking.

My courage was gone. I was glad to get out. I was glad to get out because I had no doubt that, if the police had had real bullets instead of rubber ones, they would have used them. For no reason at all. As we were walking earlier in the march, my friend said, "This is why I am proud to be an American." We saw peaceful people, laughing, singing, dancing, holding banners. We were protesting, but we were also celebrating. We were celebrating our constitutional right to come together in popular assembly, to make our needs and concerns known to our government. I was surrounded by people who believe in America, in being here, in becoming citizens. What prouder thing can you say of your country that people the world over want to be one of us, to join our community, to have the rights and privileges and safety and trust in our institutions that we do? This is what democracy is.

As I walked in front of the police line, my hands held up, I thought about being an American, about being free. I am five feet tall. I was completely unarmed. I had made no hostile move towards anyone. I could have been shot at any time. It was unreal. It was not America, and yet it was.

The hot dog vendor smiled at the police, hopeful, friendly. This is what happened.

Wal-Mart denies workers basic rights

Wal-Mart's relentless exploitation of weak US labor laws thwarts union formation and violates the rights of its US workers, Human Rights Watch said in a new report released early May.

In the 210-page report, "Discounting Rights: Wal-Mart's Violation of US Workers' Right to Freedom of Association," Human Rights Watch found that while many American companies use weak US laws to stop workers from organizing, the retail giant stands out for the sheer magnitude and aggressiveness of its anti-union apparatus. Many of its anti-union tactics are lawful in the United States, though they combine to undermine workers' rights. Others run afoul of soft US laws.

"Wal-Mart workers have virtually no chance to organize because they're up against unfair US labor laws and a giant company that will do just about anything to keep unions out," said Carol Pier, senior researcher on labor rights and trade for Human Rights Watch. "That one-two punch devastates workers' right to form and join unions."

As the world's largest company, Wal-Mart's conduct is especially troubling. Wal-Mart had \$351.14 billion in revenue and \$11.3 billion in profits in the fiscal year ending January 2007. It is the largest private US employer, with more than 1.3 million US workers and close to 4,000 stores nationwide. None of those workers is represented by a union. Human Rights Watch found that this is no accident.

Human Rights Watch's investigation revealed that, in most cases, Wal-Mart begins to indoctrinate workers and managers to oppose unions from the moment they are hired. Managers receive explicit instructions on keeping out unions, many of which are found in the company's "Manager's Toolbox," a self-described guide to managers on "how to remain union free in the event union organizers choose your facility as their next target."

If workers try to organize, store managers must report it

to Wal-Mart's Union Hotline at headquarters. The company responds by sending out its Labor Relations Team almost immediately to squash the organizing effort.

Most of the Labor Relations Team's tactics comport with weak US law. Team members hold small- and large-group "captive audience" meetings, which workers are strongly urged to attend. Workers hear of the terrible consequences of union formation and see videos dramatizing the message. Wal-Mart envelops workers with its anti-union mantra and allows little space for union supporters and organizers to respond—under US law, it does not have to.

"Employers can make their anti-union case loud and clear in the workplace, while banning union reps from company property," said Pier. "That's hardly a free and democratic election climate, and it would be unfair in any political contest."

Wal-Mart's relentless anti-union drumbeat creates a climate of fear at its US stores. Many workers are convinced that they will suffer dire consequences if they form a union, in part because they do not hear pro-union views. Many are also afraid that if they defy their powerful employer by organizing, they could face retaliation, even firing.

Human Rights Watch found that Wal-Mart heightens this fear with its arsenal of unlawful anti-union tactics. Wal-Mart has sent managers to eavesdrop on employees. According to former workers and managers at one store, it has even ordered the repositioning of surveillance cameras to monitor union supporters. It has told workers they will lose benefits if they organize. The company has discriminatorily banned talk about unions and prohibited union flyer distribution, while allowing discussion of other issues and circulation of non-union materials. It has disciplined union supporters for policy violations that it has let slide for union opponents. And it has illegally fired workers for their union activity.

Penalties under US labor law are so minimal that they have little

deterrent effect, and Wal-Mart only receives a slap on the wrist when found guilty of illegal conduct. In most cases, offending employers must simply post in-store notices promising to abide by the law in the future and must restore the status quo before the illegal acts, for example by rehiring wrongfully fired workers and paying them lost earnings. They face no fines or punitive sanctions.

Denied the right to form unions, Wal-Mart workers have been unable to join forces to raise their concerns that the company may be forcing out long-term employees, address their struggles to make ends meet on Wal-Mart wages, or call for an end to high healthcare costs.

Congress can help

A key way to improve protections for worker organizing would be for the US Congress to pass the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) and the Bush administration to sign it into law. The EFCA, which passed the US House of Representatives in March and is now under consideration in the Senate, would increase penalties for labor law violations. And it would help restore a democratic union selection process by requiring employers to recognize a union if a majority of workers signs cards showing their support. Currently, employers can force union elections and then intimidate workers with their aggressive anti-union message during the campaign period.

Human Rights Watch also urged the National Labor Relations Board, charged with enforcing US labor law, to seek more court injunctions when allegations of serious employer misconduct arise, particularly against repeat offenders such as Wal-Mart.

To view the Human Rights Watch report, "Discounting Rights: Wal-Mart's Violation of US Workers' Right to Freedom of Association," please visit: <http://hrw.org/reports/2007/us0507/>

Source: Human Rights Watch Press release 5/1/07 hrwpress@hrw.org

Health insurance *(continued from page 1)*

The chickens at risk from the fox are the unemployed, the nation's school districts (SUSD, locally), the nation's cities and counties, employer-insured employees (SEIU 790, for example), and more.

Americans betrayed

The U.S. Constitution assumes that we Americans are "all in this together." Under our Constitution, the government "provides for the General Welfare" and spends the common wealth for the common good. Through fair and equitable taxation, the Federal government provides for the national defense, protects our national interests worldwide with diplomats and embassies, provides for a common monetary system and currency, provides a well-oiled system of interstate commerce, provides an indispensable national infrastructure of roads, bridges, and dams, provides relief from natural disasters—hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, and wildfires, and much more. However, Uncle Sam—unjustly and immorally—excludes the health care all of its citizens from the Common Good. States provide public K-12 education to all children, funded by fair and equitable taxation. Municipalities provide police and fire protection to all citizens, funded by fair and equitable taxation.

Quality affordable health care for all

The health care goal of every first-world nation should be quality health care at an affordable cost for all residents. Twenty-one of the world's 22 first world nations succeed; America fails.

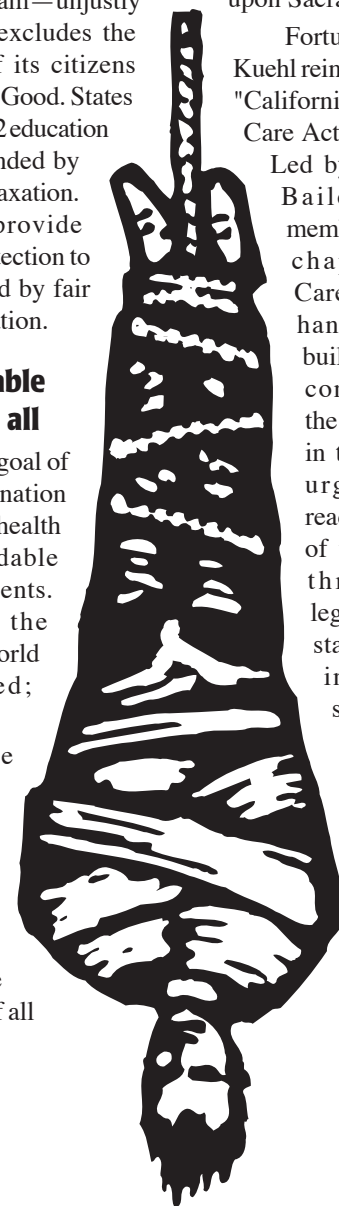
Unlike the U.S., every one of the other 21 first-world nations provide some form of government funding for the health insurance of all

of their citizens. As a consequence, their infant mortality rate is far lower than that of the U.S. (the US, at #42, scores lower than Cuba), and our blizzard of health care related bankruptcies are unheard of. Annual health fairs for the uninsured are, of course, non-existent. The World Health Organization ranks the U.S. 37th in overall health performance; in the fairness of health care, we're 54th. The citizens of all these other countries enjoy greater longevity (we're #35) and the health care cost per capita is barely more than a third of ours (\$2,307 vs. \$6,280 in 2004).

California Senate Bill 840 was passed last August by both the state Assembly and Senate. The bill was vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger. SB840—"California Health Insurance Reliability Act" (Health Care for All)—provided publicly financed (single payer) health insurance for all Californians. It's an outrage that the citizenry, led by the media, didn't descend in droves upon Sacramento in protest.

Fortunately, Sen. Sheila Kuehl reintroduced SB840, as "California Universal Health Care Act," on February 27.

Led by Jerry and Carol Bailey (951-0499), members of the Stockton chapter of Health Care for All were on hand in the Capitol building for the press conference and for the bill's first hearing in the legislature. We urge Connections readers to stay abreast of the bill's progress through the state legislature, keep your state representatives informed of your strong support for SB840, and, at the appropriate time, be very vocal to the Governor that you will not stand for another veto of this landmark legislation.





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

Nuclear weapons materials getting into landfills

Radioactive materials are being released from nuclear weapons facilities to regular landfills and could get into commercial recycling streams, finds a new report released mid May by Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS).

The report: Out of Control—On Purpose: DOE's Dispersal of Radioactive Waste into Landfills and Consumer Products—was commissioned to track if and how the Department of Energy (DOE) releases some of the radioactive wastes from nuclear bomb production.

The report authors researched seven sites and the DOE national headquarters. The seven sites were: Oak Ridge TN, Rocky Flats CO, Los Alamos NM, Mound and Fernald OH, West Valley NY, and Paducah KY.

"People around regular trash landfills will be shocked to learn that radioactive contamination from nuclear weapons production is ending up there, either directly released by DOE or via brokers and processors," said Diane D'Arrigo, NIRS' Radioactive

Waste Project Director. "Just as ominous, the DOE allows and encourages sale and donation of some radioactively contaminated materials."

The report tracked the laws, guidance and technical justifications that DOE uses to rationalize allowing radioactive scrap, concrete, equipment, asphalt, plastic, wood, chemicals, soil, and more out to landfills, commercial businesses and recreation areas, recycling and reuse in places unprepared to handle radioactivity. Applauding DOE's ban on recycling of radioactive metal from nuclear weapons, the report cautions there are loopholes and it is again threatened.

"DOE is ignoring public opposition to unnecessary exposures and releasing radioactivity even though the U.S. Congress revoked such release policies," said Mary Olson, director of the NIRS Southeast office and a co-author of the report. "DOE is using its own internal guidance to allow radioactive weapons wastes out

of control, claiming the doses to people will be 'acceptable' even though they are not enforced or tracked."

Under the current system, the DOE and other nuclear waste generators release materials directly, sell them at auction or through exchanges or send their waste to processors who can then release it from radioactive controls to landfills, to recyclers or for reuse.

"As long as DOE and other nuclear waste generators can slip their contamination out - letting it get Out of Control—On Purpose—there is really no limit to the amount of additional radiation exposure members of the public could receive," D'Arrigo concluded. "Only an informed, outraged public can force DOE and agreeable states to shift the goal from dispersal to isolation of radioactive waste."

Source: NIRS release 5/14/07 Nuclear Information and Resource Service, 6930 Carroll Ave, #340, Takoma Park, MD 20912, 301-270-6477, www.nirs.org/radwaste/outofcontrol/outofcontrol.htm

Oppose missile defense & new nuclear weapons funds

Soon, the U.S. House of Representatives will vote on a defense authorization bill that includes the Bush administration's proposal to build a new generation of nuclear weapons—a proposal that is unnecessary, costly, provocative, and could lead to the resumption of nuclear testing. The bill also includes more than \$9.5 billion for flawed ballistic missile defense programs. Write today and urge your representative to oppose funding for unnecessary new nuclear weapons and to support amendments to reduce funding for unproven, flawed missile defense programs.

Dear Representative,
Urge you to support amendments to the defense authorization bill

that cut or restrict funding for the Bush administration's so-called Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) program and that reduce funding for unproven, flawed missile defense programs.

The RRW program makes little technical sense because the U.S. nuclear stockpile is highly reliable, and will remain so well into the future. By sending the message that the United States needs a new generation of nuclear weapons, the program legitimizes these weapons and undermines U.S. efforts to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. The United States does not need new nuclear bombs; it needs a fundamental re-assessment of the future of the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

Also, I ask you to support amendments that reduce funding for several technically flawed missile defense programs, including additional ground-based interceptors in the United States or Europe, the Airborne Laser program, the Multiple Kill Vehicle program, and the Kinetic Energy Interceptor.

I urge you to oppose the unneeded RRW program and ineffective missile defense programs.

Sincerely,
[Your name here]

Source: Union of Concerned Scientists Action Network release 5/14/07 <action@ucsusa.org>http://ucsaction.org/campaign/5_14_07_md_nuclear_weapons/forward/w33ds884p3ebede?

A young man's story of substance abuse, recovery

Brandon Oare

My name is Brandon Oare. I'm 17 years old and in recovery from the disease of addiction. I'm about to let you know how my struggles in the past made me who I am today. Growing up for me was a struggle in many ways. I was born in Riverside California and moved to Stockton when I was only a couple months old. My sister and I were taken away from our parents when I was one. We were in foster care for about five years until my parents finally gained us back. That's when it all started.

My mom and dad were always fighting. I looked up to my oldest brother. There were times when I'd seen him and his friends smoking crack in the back yard and he always told me not to tell my mom. At the age of 7, I picked up my first drug which was weed. I started stealing bikes because I thought that's how kids made money. As you can tell, my addiction started getting over on me at an early age. I started to become hard-headed. I believed that the only way to get through my struggles was to smoke a little weed at that time. I was always getting jumped by my own race because of who I hung out with. For some reason, I never made anyone happy.

My addiction became more serious at the age of 11. I started doing crystal meth to blend in until I became addicted. There were many times when I felt like I couldn't talk to any one except my homeboys and still I couldn't talk to them about the loneliness and pain I felt inside. The only way to escape that pain I felt inside was to be a menace to society under the influence of drugs. My life wasn't all fun and games. My struggle was life and my life was my struggle. At times I would be at my house watching my mom and dad fight but I was so young I couldn't do anything about it. After doing meth for a while I became someone I

I believe I was put on earth for a reason and that reason is to carry the message of recovery to other young addicts trapped in the disease of addiction.

wasn't. I started fighting my dad every time he fought with my mom. I started running away from home just to escape the drama. Due to my drug abuse, everywhere I went drama followed. I became just another victim of the streets.

Many of my family members died over drug abuse. My family was a big problem in my life. The reason for the loneliness I feel is because I have no family members in Stockton.

About two years ago I got into a relationship with someone I met through a friend. When I first got with her I was still using meth. Even though she and I broke up, I believe I was put in her life for a reason. After I got with her I found out her parents were in recovery, with 20 years clean.

I started going to Narcotics Anonymous meetings with her parents while I was under the influence of meth. During that time I was going to meetings I was arrested and put into the Juvenile Justice Center. After JJC they put me in a drug program called KADAP.

KADAP is a drug program for kids; they drug test you everyday of the week except for weekends. For the first six months I was playing the system by using on the weekends so I could be clean by Monday. While going to KADAP I was attending N.A meetings. While attending those N.A meetings I started to hear a message of hope, a message that I never heard before;

it was a message of recovery. I started believing that I maybe could get clean too with a little bit of courage and willingness. My clean date is August 24 2006, ever since than I haven't found a reason to pick up any mind altering drug of any kind.

Today, I believe in a higher power who I choose to call God. I'm a proud member of a 12 step program. I came to NA with nothing but a big grudge on life. Today, that grudge is no longer with me.

I believe I was put on earth for a reason and that reason is to carry the message of recovery to other young addicts trapped in the disease of addiction. Like they say in N.A. "One addict helping another addict is without parallel." Today, my goal is to let all the young people know that using drugs is not the way to escape the pain inside but to open their hearts to another way of life and allow a higher power of their under standing to free them just as mine did for me.

This is a little something I tell myself everyday: Just for today, my thoughts will be on my recovery, living and enjoying life without the use of drugs. Just for today, I will have faith in someone who believes in me and wants to help me in my recovery. Just for today, through N.A, I'll try to get a better perspective on my life. Just for today, I'll be unafraid, my thoughts will be on my new associations, people who are not using and who have found a new way of life. So as long as I follow that way I have nothing to fear, just for today.

As you can tell, I take my recovery one day at a time. Thank you for being part of my recovery. My name is Brandon, and I'm an addict.

Substance abuse

California high school students' consumption of alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs is at an all time high, according to a nationwide studies of teen substance abuse released in April.

The report, released by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, compared substance abuse statistics from their latest survey, in 2006, with statistics collected in 2002. It was based on interviews of more than 135,000 young people.

Today the drug of choice in most cities in California is methamphetamine. More and more young men and woman pick up different and more effective drugs each day. Meth is easy to access wherever you may be. Now is the time for men and women around the state to put an end to young meth abusers by offering help and programs aimed for youth addicts.

Meth

Methamphetamine is one of the most addictive stimulants and has a high potential for abuse. This drug dramatically affects the central nervous system. It is a unique drug because it is easy to obtain and relatively cheap to buy. The fact that meth can be manufactured literally in a person's backyard from relatively inexpensive, over-the-counter products makes it a lot more accessible. Some of these over-the-counter products or products found in stores can be your common cold medicine, as well as paint thinner, cat litter and lighter fluid.

What are its effects on the user?

Meth can make a user awake and alert, making it possible to keep the user awake for hours and even days without a wink of sleep. At first, it can give the user a rush and a sense of euphoria, decrease their appetite, and provide feelings of confidence. After a "binge," a user will inevitably crash, and can become severely depressed and even suicidal.

Why is it used?

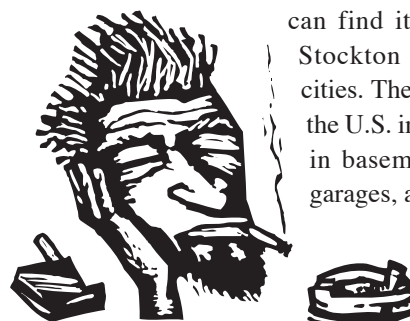
Like most drugs, people use meth for the rush. However, due to its effects on the body, people use it for energy, weight loss or to self-medicate—all of which have serious consequences.

What does it look like?

Meth is a white, odorless, bitter-tasting powder that easily dissolves in alcohol or water and can be smoked, injected or snorted.

Where is it made?

Two-thirds of our country's meth supply was produced in super labs in Mexico and Southern California run by organized crime groups and street gangs. But today you can find it in almost every hood in Stockton and in most surrounding cities. The remaining third is made in the U.S. in makeshift meth labs found in basements, bedrooms, kitchens, garages, and trunks of cars.



My addiction became more serious at the age of 11. I started doing crystal meth to blend in until I became addicted.

Bush alternative fuel plan makes things worse

In a Rose Garden appearance mid May, President Bush cynically portrayed his "20-in-10" alternative-fuel standard as improving current federal fuel-economy standards. In fact, the proposal is considerably weaker than current targets signed into law in 1992 by the first Bush president.

"The president's policy is a retreat, not an advance. It would weaken existing federal targets for alternatives to petroleum fuel, not improve them," said Julie Teel, an attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity's Climate, Air, and Energy Program. "This shameful ploy proves that the president still doesn't understand the dire consequences of global warming."

Reiterating the State of the Union address, Bush called for the replacement of 20 percent of U.S. gasoline consumption with alternative fuels by 2017—hence "20 (percent) in 10 (years)." This is much weaker than current federal targets established by the Energy Policy Act of 1992, which was developed in response to energy dependence issues raised by the first Persian Gulf War. The 1992 law mandated the replacement of 10 percent of petroleum motor-fuel consumption with alternative fuels by the year 2000 and 30 percent by 2010. To attain this goal, the law first required a replacement of 75 percent of federally owned vehicles with alternative-fuel vehicles by 1999. The Department of Energy was then required to determine if extension of the regulation to municipal and corporate fleets is necessary to meet the national 30-percent reduction target. If so, the Department is required to institute alternative-fuel standards for municipal and corporate fleets.

The federal government violated the Energy Policy Act by not converting its own fleets to alternative-fuel vehicles and failing to establish a municipal and corporate standard when it was clear that federal action alone was insufficient. The Center for

Biological Diversity and Friends of the Earth sued over these violations, winning one court order in 2002 and two more in 2006 requiring compliance with both aspects of the law.

In response, the federal government has increased the number of fuel-efficient vehicles in its fleets. However, it has continued to refuse setting alternative-fuel vehicle requirements for municipal and corporate fleets. Instead, on March 15, 2007, it issued a ruling that delayed the compliance date for a 30-percent reduction from 2010 to 2030. The rule is vigorously opposed by environmental groups and will likely be challenged in court.

"The time for political games and pandering to opponents of meaningful alternative-fuel requirements and greenhouse gas emissions caps is over," said Teel. "Climate science shows that emissions must be reduced by 80 percent or more in order to avoid the worst effects of climate change. Reducing gasoline use is part of the solution, but to safeguard our children's future, we need rapid progress toward that goal, not a delay of 20 years."

Information on the Energy Policy Act and the Bush government's refusal to implement it may be found at <http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/swcbd/programs/policy/energy/EPAct.html>.

Information on the Bush government's decision to delay Energy Policy Act goals by 20 years may be found at <http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/swcbd/press/energy-policy-09-07-2006.html>.

Source: Press release by the Center for Biological Diversity 5/15/07 <<http://www.biologicaldiversity.org>>



Bush sets record: zero new endangered species listed in past year

May 9 2007 marked one year since the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service protected any new U.S. species under the Endangered Species Act. The last time the agency went an entire year without protecting a single species was in 1981, under infamous Interior Secretary James Watt. There are currently 279 highly imperiled species designated as candidates for listing that face potential extinction. Fittingly, the House Natural Resources Committee is now holding important oversight hearings on implementation of the Act by the Bush administration.

"The Bush administration has closed the doors on endangered species," said Noah Greenwald, conservation biologist with the Center for Biological Diversity. "With the pressing threats of rapid habitat destruction and global climate change, it's an outrage that not a single new species has been protected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for an entire year."

The last species protected were 12 Hawaiian picture-wing flies, listed in a single rule on May 9, 2006. Overall, according to a Center for Biological Diversity report released today, the Bush administration has protected far fewer species under the Endangered Species Act than any other administration in history, to date only listing 57 species compared to 512 under Clinton and 234 under Bush pere.

"President Bush has killed the program for protecting new species as endangered," says Greenwald, "and in the process has contributed to the extinction of at least two species. This government's war on science is also a war against wildlife."

In October 2006 the Fish and Wildlife Service announced that the Hawaiian plant Haha (*Cyanea eleleensis*) is likely extinct and thus under consideration for removal from the candidate list. The summer run of Lake Sammamish Kokonee salmon in Washington are also believed



extinct. In 2001, a group of concerned citizens petitioned to have the population protected as endangered, but the Bush administration ignored both those pleas and the dire status of the fish. Many more species are at increased risk of extinction because of federal inaction.

The Center's report documents political interference in two other key aspects of the Endangered Species Act: designation of critical habitat and development of recovery plans. Interference by Bush appointees like discredited former Deputy Assistant Secretary Julie MacDonald has led to the reduction of up to 90 percent of all critical habitats designated by the administration and to widespread tampering with the scientific conclusions of recovery plans for the Apache trout, Northern spotted owl and West Virginia flying squirrel, among others.

"The Bush administration is systematically undermining the recovery of mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles, invertebrates and plants," said the Center's William Snape. "Not only is it refusing to list species in need of protection, it is also ignoring or undercutting recovery plans at the request of its political supporters

in industry."

Not coincidentally, these actions are consistent with recently leaked draft regulations that would allow the Departments of Interior and Commerce to gut every significant protection contained in the statute. Natural Resources Committee Chairman Nick Rahall, Senate committee chairs Barbara Boxer and Joe Lieberman, and Republicans such as Rep. Wayne Gilchrest and Rep. Jim Saxton have all publicly complained about the problematic draft regulations.

"One shudders to think of the antics this administration will attempt in its waning days of power," concluded Snape. "Now is the time for Congress to step in and prevent eleventh-hour political abuses and special favors that have the potential to destroy species, their habitats, and the opportunity for recovery."

A copy of the Center's report can be found here <http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/swcbd/PROGRAMS/esa/pdfs/PoliticizingExtinction.pdf>

Source: Press release by the Center for Biological Diversity 5/9/07 <<http://www.biologicaldiversity.org>>

"One shudders to think of the antics this administration will attempt in its waning days of power..."

Environmental warning signs

Climate: UN panel demands urgent climate change response

The world will need to overhaul its energy and land-use policies within the next few decades to avoid a sweeping shift in the Earth's climate, according to a United Nations report approved May 4 by more than 100 government officials, scientists and economists. In sharp detail, the 35-page report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change summarizes six years of modeling data and other studies to spell out the link between energy production, temperature and the level of heat-trapping greenhouse gas emissions building up in the atmosphere.

Atop a long list of conclusions, the report said emission reductions of 50 percent to 85 percent across the globe will be needed to keep mean temperatures from rising more than 4 degrees Fahrenheit. That is the temperature that scientists say would avert some of the most dramatic changes in sea level rise and coastland loss.

Bush administration officials played up the report's findings about nuclear power and carbon capture but showed reluctance in embracing other statements about the different scenarios needed to curb greenhouse gases.

Biofuels: UN disses ethanol

Biofuels can jump-start rural economies but their benefits may be outweighed by serious environmental problems and increased food prices for the poor, according to a U.N. report on bioenergy released May 8. The report, compiled by U.N. Energy, a consortium of 20 U.N. agencies and programs, warned that the biofuel craze could "make substantial demands on the world's land and water resources at a time when demand for both food and forest products is also rising rapidly." It also described the dangers of monocropping, saying it could "lead to significant biodiversity loss, soil erosion and nutrient leaching."

Whales: to be hunted again

The International Whaling

Commission's scientific committee began two weeks of sessions May 7 ahead of the body's annual meeting at which Japan's future participation could be decided.

While the committee's deliberations are secret, it is likely to review a proposal by Japan to allow some commercial coastal whaling, according to Patrick Ramage, communications director for the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

In February, Japan threatened to leave the IWC if it does not allow some form of commercial whaling. The threat was made at the end of a three-day whaling conference in Tokyo, which sought to discuss ways to "normalize" the IWC back to its original design, which the country says was to regulate whaling instead of imposing a ban on the practice.

The IWC passed a ban on commercial whaling in 1986, but Japan utilizes a loophole that allows the hunting of whales for scientific research. The country has since led several efforts to reverse the ban.

Fish: Nations to limit So. Pacific bottom-trawling

More than 20 nations agreed May 4 to limit unregulated and destructive bottom-trawling in the South Pacific. Starting Sept. 30, 2007, the nations will use observers and ship locator systems to keep vessels at least five nautical miles from vulnerable areas. Environmental groups that pushed for the measures hope the agreement will help protect deep-water corals and other vulnerable ecosystems in about one-quarter of the world's high seas. The area extends from the equator to the Antarctic Circle and from Australia to the west coast of South America.

Endangered species: Bush fights ESA

The Interior Department is considering an Endangered Species Act (ESA) rewrite that would change the definition of habitat damage and give states greater authority in administering the law, a Bush administration

official has told the House Natural Resources Committee.

Dale Hall, director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, told the panel in a letter the week of May 7 that his agency is working on rule changes that would limit ESA protection to plants' and animals' current habitat, rather than throughout their historic range, and allow states and other federal agencies to consult on ESA cases, a task now restricted to Fish and Wildlife biologists.

The proposal is expected to be sent to Interior for review within the next few weeks, Hall said. Provisions no longer under consideration are proposals that would change the definition of what puts a species in "jeopardy," give veto power to states on federal listing decisions and allow the destruction of vegetation grown after critical habitat is designated.

Still being considered, Hall stated, is a provision allowing the government to avoid designating "critical habitat" if a species is not threatened by habitat loss.

Also up for a rewrite are "adverse modification" rules aimed at limiting destruction of important habitat. Current law bars the harm of species habitat, but courts have issued conflicting rulings.

Nuclear waste: Yucca mountain funding cut

A Senate appropriator said May 8 that Congress is planning to cut funding this year for the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository. Sen. Pete Domenici (R-NM) told reporters after an Appropriations Committee hearing that lawmakers are "trying to fund it small" and that the trend would continue as long as there is on-site storage for spent fuel at reactors. The Senator also said he would not propose interim storage legislation this year.

Domenici's comments confirm fears of nuclear energy industry lobbyists about potential plans for drastic cuts to the fiscal 2008 program budget for the Nevada repository.

Sources: *Energy and Environment Daily* and *Greenwire* via *ESA Policy News Update* 5/11/07 www.esa.org



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First steps in sacred activism

Toni Mandara Williams

Are you a cultural creative? This is the term sociologist Paul Ray uses to describe a growing number of people around the world who are embracing a global sense of values that is grounded in a highly individual spiritual perspective. They are estimated to number 50 million or more in the United States, and approximately 500 of these folks including this reporter gathered in Tulsa, Oklahoma last week for a conference titled "Sacred Activism and the Power of Inclusion." Each day of the three day conference was packed with speakers, workshops, music, and discussion which mainly centered on defining what sacred activism is to this group that is creating an "emerging wisdom culture." The wisdom culture is about a commitment to action in the world that supports social justice, cares for the environment, is community oriented, and most crucially is informed by personal development and non-dogmatic deep spiritual practice.

The conference was sponsored by San Francisco based Wisdom University, and featured dynamic and nationally influential keynote speakers such as Robert Kennedy, Jr., Imam Warith Deen Mohammad (former head of the Nation of Islam and founder of the American Muslim Mission), Caroline Myss (medical intuitive and author of several best-selling books), and William Sinkford (President of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations). A key presence at the conference was Andrew Harvey, author, scholar, mystic,

and passionate advocate for the awakening of the sacred activist in each of us.

The first day of the conference began with the theme of the Sacred Feminine, and a powerful presentation by Caroline Myss, who is both outspoken and direct, elaborating on her life's work helping individuals with letting go of their history in order to heal illness, and how the inability to forgive or let go (what she refers to as "keeping the dead alive") is often expressed by physical disease. Ms. Myss went on to describe how this same process can happen on a global level through epidemics and that the signal from the Feminine is that it is time to release history, because we are entering a different era.

This idea of the change in era and the chaos of war, environmental peril, and epidemics, as not only a signal of change but a necessary precursor to that change, was a central theme of the conference. There was a future orientation that had at its core a desire to look realistically at the massive challenges facing the world's people today and also to embody the faith, actions, and humility needed to envision a hopeful future. No small task. It was a wonderful inspiration to hold the conference in Tulsa, a place that many participants described as the buckle of the Bible belt. Most of the conference participants were from the Tulsa or Oklahoma area, progressives who rarely have an opportunity for such a gathering.

Lunchtime found us listening to Andrew Harvey, a man so on fire with the vision of fearless

connecting "the passion of the mystic for God to the passion of the activist for social justice" that one cannot hear him without being moved by the depth of his sincerity. Mr. Harvey laid out the gathering storm of crisis facing us by touching on population explosion, weapons of mass destruction, and environmental devastation, among others. He also spoke most eloquently of specific steps to take in service, including follow your heartbreak, sit with the challenges and find the one that most grieves you, then start to apply action to that area. But, he cautioned, a sacred activist must anchor this commitment through the discipline of inner work, facing their own shadow (unconscious defenses & flaws) so as not to become self righteous or consumed by anger, and also to expand the effectiveness of the actions taken. **B a l a n c i n g** sacred spiritual practice with social activism not only ushers in the emerging wisdom culture; it is the act of creating that wisdom culture as a societal norm. Finally, the most widely known speaker of the day was Robert Kennedy, Jr. Mr. Kennedy spoke for an hour and a half without notes on his work with the environment. He noted that democracy and the environment are intertwined and that their biggest threat is excessive corporate power in America. He acknowledged Arnold Schwarzenegger as the best environmental governor in the United States and that the environment is not the province of a single party. He also stated that this White House is the worst environmental administration in American history. Mr. Kennedy also mentioned the devolution

of the American press as one of the biggest challenges facing the country, as Americans' main sources of news are centrally controlled by five organizations. This is a serious danger to democracy, which cannot survive without an informed public. The audience embraced Mr. Kennedy with great respect and a standing ovation. Though Mr. Kennedy gave no indication that he would consider the idea of running for President, it was clear from the response of the audience that he would have support for doing so.

The second & third days of the conference continued to focus on the emerging wisdom culture and how it is being felt in politics, religion, and the arts. The group of participants began to move into a more deeply felt sense of community, with especially strong voices from the Native and Muslim Americans at the conference. We began to listen to the lingering pain from the genocide of the Native peoples, the dignity and desire on the part of the Muslim Americans to be seen as human and made more loving because of their faith in Islam. We experienced a welcome to Sabbath and a Sufi call to prayer. We heard the life journey of Imam W.D. Mohammad, the son of Elijah Mohammad, founder of the Black Muslim movement, and how he moved from the narrow understanding of Islam he was born into to leadership as a representative of interfaith understanding and inclusiveness in the Islamic tradition. Inclusion was discussed often: how to overcome hatred, how to respectfully disagree, the difference between creeds and deeds, the history of exclusion

felt by so many, from the gay/lesbian/transgender community to progressive Christians.

The inclusion extended around the world, from the killing fields of Darfur to the south side of Chicago. The acknowledgment that our way of life must change in order for our children and grandchildren to have a viable world was another conference theme. That abundance might begin to mean an abundant inner life, a richness of spirit, community and relationship instead of an endless quest for material goods and other externals. Perhaps most heartening was the reclaiming of the Christian tradition to truly reflect its roots in the sacred loving actions of Jesus, the inclusive nature that He modeled, and the possibility of a redemption without the threat of hellfire.

There were also several calls for concrete steps to take, for a focus on the real, not just the ideal. And in speaking to that, the conference ended with an exercise in going within to find the passion that most called you, then devising action steps to take. Some people were already involved in their passion, but had made connections to strengthen the focus. Others were just finding their way. Action steps included contacting the local press in Tulsa to ask them why they weren't at the conference, joining movements introduced at the workshops such as the group seeking a U.S. Department of Peace and Non-Violence, and domestic violence prevention advocacy. You have just read this reporter's first action step. May you be inspired to answer your own hunger for, becoming the change you wish to see.

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Signs of hope

Dianne Runion

We old newspaper hacks know from Journalism 1-A, "If it bleeds it leads." The public recognizes that truth from reading a newspaper or news magazine, scanning Internet international headlines or watching a half hour's television news coverage of war, famine and pestilence. In the aftermath of the Virginia Tech shootings, the deepening Attorney General Gonzales mess and the escalating civil war in Iraq, I often want to echo the poet Wordsworth's lament, "The world is too much with us."

As if the dailies and weeklies weren't bad enough, seeing receding glaciers, oil-slicked seas or polar bears adrift on an ice floe in National Geographic and Sierra Club magazines make me want to throw an army blanket over my head, tie it at the bottom and hurl myself into the deep-water channel.

Yet during mid-April, 2007, tiny wisps of hope flew glistening from the bottom of a Pandora's box as big as the planet.

In our California culture (two words many Europeans consider an oxymoron), incivility rules. We cannot drive three miles from home without watching asphalt jockeys endanger lives lane-jumping without signaling, idiots holding a cell phone with one hand and smoking, eating or gesturing with the other, and drivers who treat a stop sign as mere advice at best. But in mid-April, newspaper opinion editors, television network moguls and a howling public decided radio shock jock Don Imus had gone too far. "Imus off the air for good," shouted the front page, above-the-fold headline. Good! The media finally mandated better manners and delivered a sharp knuckle rap to fools who think an apology or a press release saying they are entering counseling will undo the pain inflicted by racist, sexist and obscene comments.

As a former Republican before the days of cowboy diplomacy, I cheered Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy's quip after the White House said it couldn't promise to locate e-mails about the firing of U.S. attorneys. Senator Leahy said,

"That's like saying the dog ate my homework." The Republicans did a fine job finding e-mail Monica Lewinsky wrote to everyone in her circle. We ordinary mortals know when we can't program our VCRs or work our Tivos, all we have to do is summon a savvy 16-year-old. Apparently the White House, in tending to today's arduous affairs of state, is either too sorely pressed or has suddenly gone low-tech. Senator Leahy's comment dumped a long overdue bucket of the icy waters of common sense on a band of arrogant White House officials. The truth of his remarks was not lost on the American public.

Mid-April news coverage also reported three further changes that signal steps toward greater equality. On April 21, The Record reported that Fresno High School announced inclusion of openly transgender Cynthia Covarrubias on the prom king ballot. The article said, "Gay youth advocates called it a landmark victory for campus gender expression and said they believe it's the first time in the U.S. that an openly transgender student has run for prom royalty."

Current population statistics report that anywhere from 8% to 12% of the population are gay or lesbian and 1% to 5% transgender, a term encompassing bi-gender, cross dressers and trans-sexual individuals. Precise statistics are difficult to pin down because of social stigma attached to those whose sexuality appears to differ from the norm, whatever that is. Indisputable within the numbers is that gays, lesbians and transgender individuals are us: our children, our friends, our work associates, sometimes our spouses. The point is that the American public is gradually moving toward caring less what people do in their bedrooms and more about what kind of persons they are. It's a step toward the Jeffersonian ideal of "certain unalienable rights," including "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

The importance of who a person is—his or her character—emerged mid-April on the political scene. Newsweek reported that Senator Barack Obama defeated Senator Hillary Clinton in the money contest for initial fundraising in the presidential race. She, a

white woman, raised an estimated \$20 million; he, a black man, raised \$23.5 million. Referring to the Clinton campaign's reported strong-armed fundraising tactics, Newsweek said: "What happened to the Clinton juggernaut? The answer lies partly in her go-for-broke strategy. There's a fine line between confidence and arrogance, and for some fund-raisers the Clinton team crossed it." Newsweek may be wrong, but from this report one knows the public is watching, and character matters.

Another mid-April article suggests that while character matters more, race matters less. The April 9, 2007, Newsweek reported that Will Smith, a black Hollywood actor, is "The \$4 Billion Man." The article lists the money numbers: Will Smith, it says, is "bankable in every genre worldwide" with a domestic lifetime box office gross of \$2 billion and a lifetime global box office gross of \$4.4 billion. If life imitates art, American race relations have made significant progress since 1967, when black actor Sidney Poitier played white actor Katharine Houghton's fiancée in the consciousness-raising Hollywood film "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner."

The same Will Smith Newsweek article also reported that Smith's roles are rarely race-specific. "He plays men faced with obstacles and moral choices." Moral Choices: just like choices made by network executives in their Imus decision, senators in the Attorney General Gonzales affair, Fresno school officials and members of the public contributing to political candidates for the United States presidency. Who knows how the next American election will play out. But if these hopeful signs are at all predictive, our nation may finally be ready to look personally, socially and politically past gender and race, to see through lies and arrogance and to mandate character and integrity in our leaders.



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Sawznhammers

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

A window shopping fable

John Morearty

Once upon a time, in the days when kings were "elected," the king of America was beset by scandals and a disastrous war, and came at last to his wit's end. "No long journey," some joked, but it was no laughing matter, for the king hatched a truly desperate plan.

He needed a fresh enemy, more wicked than ragtag box cutters or the vile Osama-saddama, and he found his ideal foe in the perfidious Persians, also known as Iranians. Twenty five hundred years ago their ancestors had threatened Greek democracy; a thousand years later they became followers of the prophet Mohammed, and Christian Europe had been forced to wage the Holy Crusades; just eighty years ago Iranians discovered oil, and shamelessly kept it for themselves; and most recently they began building a few nuclear bombs, saying that if America had ten thousand of the things and Israel hundreds, surely they could have a couple?

More evil yet, Iran called itself an Islamic Republic—a heathen insult to the world's leading Christian Republic. And they possessed an elite special forces team, the Quds Force, skilled and bloodthirsty fanatics. Perfect, thought the king.

So a Small Nuclear Attack was launched on Iran's uranium refining plants, which were buried deep underground. It isn't clear whether Americans launched the "earth-penetrating nukes," or if Israelis did it with American encouragement, but the devastation was immense—vast clouds of radioactivity drifting across the Middle East, a few million dead.

The world was appalled, but the Quds Force struck back—just as the king had counted on. Within weeks, a truck full of high explosives shattered the gates of a nuclear power plant on the U.S. East Coast, followed by another which barreled straight into the radioactive containment building and blew it apart. Vast clouds of radioactivity drifting across the eastern seaboard, a few million dead.

"These evil men, and those

behind them, will be captured and severely punished," intoned the king. "This is a crusade against terror. In accordance with my responsibilities as elected chief executive, I am today declaring a state of emergency and martial law in the United States. The national guard is hereby federalized, and will patrol the streets, aided by professional contract troops; public gatherings of more than five people are prohibited without a permit; citizens will stay in their homes after evening curfew; leading dissenters will be detained in holding camps which have fortunately already been created in various wilderness areas.

"Regrettably, the November elections are postponed, temporarily. All mass media are subject to prior censorship. Goodnight, God bless you, and God bless America. Don't worry, go shopping!"

But Americans are not stupid. "The king brought it on himself," they said; "his own generals said it was nuts, but he nuked Iran anyway, and now look at the mess! No elections? Horsefeathers! This is a free country!"

People found a thousand ways to speak their minds. They waved the peace sign to each other (including to troops in the street), and offered gifts of oranges, remembering the Orange Revolution in the Ukraine. They wore clothes of orange, or red white and blue. With one hand they made the sign for the letter B (hand up, fingers together, thumb across the palm) and with the other hand gave Thumbs Down. They decorated pots and pans with masking tape in the form of the peace sign, and banged on them with wooden spoons. They sang and hummed "All we are saying, is give peace a chance," and blew their car horns in the same rhythm. They carried the flag upside down, or flew it on their car antennas; veterans knew it was the recognized symbol for "distress."

Nonviolence trainers were in great demand. In churches, mosques, synagogues and living rooms, people recalled the stories of Gandhi, Martin Luther King,

Cesar Chavez, Lech Walesa, Bishop Tutu and so many others. They studied the techniques of nonviolent resistance by which dictatorships had been overthrown in Russia, East Germany, Chile and the Philippines. They studied the philosophy of Loving Your Enemies, and huge crowds of people began praying for the soul of the king, and the souls and families of all the dead.

Perhaps the decisive tactic was an ingenious form of the boycott which Gandhi, King and others had used so successfully. Cesar Chavez brought powerful growers to bargain with the union by persuading millions of consumers to stop buying lettuce and table grapes. When people once asked him, "How do we use nonviolence to end the wars?" he replied, "I don't know. But find a way to attack their money."

Well, the king had said, "Go shopping!"—so millions did. They filled the big malls, strip malls and corporate chain stores, new and used car lots. They clogged the aisles, walking up and down, smiling, inspecting the corporate goodies for sale. "I'm shopping for a really nice Widget. Can you show me what you've got?"

But they didn't buy a thing. Not one cell phone, not one car, not one diamond ring or lipstick or pair of shoes. They smiled big smiles and said "Thanks, I'm just window shopping—for now."

They ate rice and beans from their basements and veggies from their gardens, or opened cans from the back of the shelf. They bought what they absolutely needed from mom and pop stores, or they did without. And they kept on cheerfully window shopping, and had a great time swapping stories.

It wasn't long before corporate America freaked out and told the king,

"We're losing a ton of money. This folly of yours has got to stop!"

And it did.

As Gandhi said, "In the end, tyrants always fall. Always."

Resource: www.StopWaronIran.org.

Joe v. Bush

Read all about it, read all about it. Joe Palooka thrills *Connections* readers with yet another classic display of wit, wisdom and wisecracks. Let's go trippin.

An AP wire story on Thursday, April 26 stated that Osama Bin Laden masterminded a February attack near a US military base in Afghanistan while Vice President and near-sighted sportsman Dick Cheney stopped over to get the fog wiped off his eye glasses. What was missing from the article was the dialogue that ensued between Bin Laden and his principal henchman, Bin Happenin. Osama: "When he arrives, kill him." Happenin: "Kill whom, exalted one?" Osama: "Am I the only one who thinks around here? Cheney, of course! The sneering one. The one who speaks from undisclosed locations. Find him. Kill him, imbecile!" Happenin: "Ah, now it is clear to me, oh magnificent one. Cheney, yes, the one kept under wraps. May the jackals grow fat on my useless and festering carcass if I fail in my mission." Osama: "You got that right." Well, as it turns out, Bin Happenin has been gone for quite some time now. Joe's spies have it on good authority that once Bin Laden was told of Cheney's escape, Happenin became a marked man. Strange as it may sound, Bin Happenin, a rabid fan of classic Universal horror flicks, had mistaken Dick Cheney for Lon Cheney. Clutching a well worn copy of "The Mummy Ghost" in his trembling, bony fingers, Happenin was staked to hillside in Pakistan (our partner in the war on terror) and forced to watch reruns of the Munsters until the jackals did indeed savor the flesh surrounding his unfortunate bones.

Another gem was found by Joe in the *Stockton Record* of April 26. This was an opinion piece voiced by none other than Cal Thomas, that astute commentator whose stupidity is only matched by his inability to grasp reality. Speaking about the recent Supreme Court decision to ban partial birth abortion, the minister of morons states, "Abortion on demand has produced precisely the opposite of (Justice Anthony) Kennedy's stated objective. It has eroded respect for life to the extent that madmen shoot

up schools and street thugs kill for pleasure." Joe read this and his first thought was for the victims, families and friends of the horrific killings at Virginia Tech. How dare this pompous, self-righteous slime attempt to link women's reproductive rights with the senseless slaughter of innocent, viable people in an attempt to further his and the wacky religious right's onslaught of abortion rights. How about blaming the NRA for lobbying Congress to continually and effectively water down gun laws? Abortion is legal in most of the countries in Europe, yet they don't have madmen shooting up schools. I also find it hard to believe that "street thugs" are unduly influenced by a young, frightened girl's decision to escape a burden that she is unable to deal with. Taking a tragedy the scope of the Virginia Tech shootings and twisting them into a crusade based on your own religious beliefs is reprehensible.

As Joe and everybody else who is not breathing through a snorkel knows, President Bush recently vetoed a congressional spending bill designed to set a timetable for American troops to come home. The Decider pulled out his big, black and hardly-used pen to ensure that more Americans and more Iraqis would die or be maimed in his ill-fated adventure in the desert. Joe had a temporary tap on Dubya's private line, connecting him with his Dad. The conversation went something like this. Dubya: "Dad, I had to do it." H.W.-ya: "I know, son." Dubya: "I can't leave until the job is done. I can't leave until I drive the evil out." H.W.-ya: "How much evil do you figure is left, son? How will you know when the job is done?" Dubya: "Karl's got this funny birthmark on the back of his head. He says that whenever evil is present, the little spot gets hot. Then when it's gone, it cools off." H.W.-ya: "What does this little birthmark look like, son?" Dubya: "Well, Dad, y'all know I ain't very good with numbers, but it looks kinda like three nines to me. Funny, huh?" H.W.-ya: "Your mother and I are prayin' for you, boy." And so it goes that a man challenged by simple arithmetic would be blind to the toll of his actions.

And now, on to the quiz —

1. This famous American said, "And inasmuch as they cannot so live, while they do remain together, there must be the position of superior and inferior, and I as much as any other man am in favor of having the superior position assigned to the white race."

- a. George Wallace
- b. Abraham Lincoln
- c. Don Imus
- d. Lester Maddox

2. Which President said, in regard to giving aid to Vietnam for reconstruction, that there was no special obligation on the U.S. because "the destruction was mutual"

- a. Gerald Ford
- b. Jimmy Carter
- c. Ronald Reagan
- d. George H.W. Bush

3. After 48 years as the leader of a massive organization (during which he was rumored to be a cross-dresser), he dies on May, 2, 1972—

- a. Louis B. Mayer
- b. Henry Ford
- c. Colonel Sanders
- d. J. Edgar Hoover

4. A Gallup poll taken in the spring of 1983 showed 60% out of a group of 40 million evangelical Christian Americans in favor of:

- a. Ending abortion rights
- b. Placing the 10 Commandments in schools
- c. A nuclear freeze
- d. Segregation

5. Who plans to re-record Bobby Fuller's 1964 smash hit, "I Fought the Law (and the Law Won)"

- a. Alberto Gonzalez and the Naysayers
- b. Paris Hilton and the Inebriators
- c. Dick Cheney and the Troubleshooters
- d. Scooter Libby and his Famous Flames

Answers: 1b ; 2b; 3d; 4c; 5(your choice).

Well, it's time for the Palooka Express to come chugging into the end of the tracks. Don't forget to call Joe when popping open a cold one. Until next time, this is Joe Palooka, signing off.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bowman Patriot Tour

Thursday June 7
Delta College West Forum,
7pm. Free admission
Free Reception to follow:
Mustang Room
Sponsored by Delta College
and Peace and Justice Network

Dr. Bob Bowman (Lt Col, USAF, ret.) challenges us to "Take Back America" for the people. He explains why we need a government that:

- (1) Follows the Constitution
- (2) honors the truth, and
- (3) serves the people.

Think what a difference that would make. No more undeclared wars of aggression. No more

spying on the American people. No more jailing of dissidents. No more exporting of jobs. No more NAFTA. No more North American Union. No more government lies, false-flag attacks, and cover-ups. No more corporate welfare. No more health plans written by insurance companies and pharmaceutical manufacturers. No more energy policies written by Exxon and Enron. No more trillions in debt. Most importantly, no more using our sons and daughters to kill Arabs for the oil companies. Come hear who the Los Angeles Times has described as "The Best Public Speaker in the Country." Let's "Take Back America!!"

For info, call John Morearty, 464-3326.

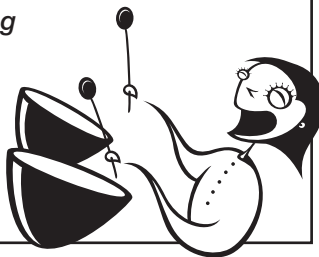
World Beat—the Beat Goes On

- **May 30** – Calypso, Reggae, Salsa, Claves, Congas, How Low Can You Go?, Beats from the Caribbean.
- **Future sessions** – Arab and Israeli drumming, peace trough the beat and belly dancers too, Djembes from Africa, Didgeridoo from Australia and more.

Demonstrations and discussions of instruments from around the world. Drumming, dancing and chanting. Complementary instruments welcome (flutes, strings, etc.).

Refreshments, bring your dancing shoes. Bring a drum; we will have some extras.

Fourth Wednesdays; 7:00 pm;
(P&J Center, 231 Bedford St.
Stockton; 209) 482-5088



WORDS OF WISDOM

"A time comes when silence is betrayal."
—Martin Luther King, speaking out against the Vietnam War, one year before he was murdered.

Courtesy of John Morearty, 464-3326

P.S. Website is up! www.johnmorearty.com
poems, songs, MEMOIRS....

Discussions on Religion, Spirituality, Fundamentalism and Freedom

Mondays, beginning June 4th at 7:00 pm at the P&J Center. Donations gratefully accepted. All are welcome.

Discussions will be led by Dan Hettmansperger III, who has studied religion for more than 10 years and has lectured on Buddhism at various colleges and churches.

Goals of the discussions will be as follows:

- To promise a pluralistic view of religion and spirituality
- To enable people to discuss freely issues of religion free from the agenda of any specific church, temple, mosque, religious text, dogma or individual.
- To increase understanding between people with different cultural/spiritual backgrounds.
- To create an environment where people can come together for spirited discussions (not shouting matches).

Rules governing the discussions are as follows:

- People who raise their voices will be given one warning and then, subsequently, asked to leave.
- People who use hate speech or insulting language will be asked to leave and will be barred from returning to the group
- The moderator will start the meeting with a topic to get things started.
- Each person will be asked to speak, one at a time.
- No cross conversations or interruptions
- Anyone who rolls their eyes more than three times must agree to convert to the religion of the person sitting to their right (or left, if sitting to the right of an empty seat).

2-day activist training in Sac

The DFA Training Academy is coming to Sacramento on July 14-15, 9am–6pm. Cost: \$60 in advance; \$70 the day of training; \$30 for low income or students.

The DFA Training Academy's mission is to train grassroots activists in the skills and strategies to take back our country. This is about building a movement to take back our country. The DFA Training Academy grows out of the need to harness grassroots power in an organized, skilled, and sustained manner.

At the DFA Training Academy, experienced professionals cover practical strategies and tactics

including communications, fundraising, voter targeting, online organizing, and building a sustainable grassroots movement. You can go out and use the skills you learn right away. Then, we follow up with you to make sure you have the support you need to organize your community.

For more information and to sign up go to <http://www.democracyforamerica.com/training>. Best to do this soon as the training is filling up quickly.

Besides training and grassroots support, DFA offers "night school" online, training DVDs and workbooks.

June 18: Ladies golf tourney benefits SJ AIDS foundation

Join the San Joaquin AIDS Foundation for its first-ever Ladies Golf Tournament and Spa Day on Monday, June 18, 2007, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at Oakmoore Golf Course in Stockton. After golfers enjoy a fun-filled 4-person scramble tournament and hole-in-one contest, they will be treated to lunch, wine tasting, massage, and mini-manicures or mini-pedicures. A Spa Day only option is also available.

Space is limited so register early. \$100 per golfer (includes Spa Day); \$350 per foursome (includes Spa Day); \$50 Spa Day only. For more info, call 209.476.8533.

Unity center to host arts, crafts and pastry show

Unity Center for Spirituality, Healing, and Peace announces its First Annual Arts, Crafts, and Pastry Show to take place on Saturday, June 2, from 10 am to 5 pm. There will be displays of artwork, artisan vendors of crafts, and fabulous tables of pastries on sale in the Carlin Activity Center at 822 N Commerce Street behind the Unity Church at 48 W Poplar. Refreshments will be available.

If you or your children would like to show your art, have a craft table, or donate your favorite gourmet baked goods, call (209) 937-9002.

"Painting for health" classes begin in June

On Saturday, June 9, EnergyArt classes begin on "Painting a Healthy Picture". From 9:30–11:30 am for six Saturdays, participants will learn EnergyArt techniques at the Unity Center for Spirituality, Healing, and Peace at 822 N Commerce Street, Stockton. Students will learn how art can be created which has a beneficial effect on the health, harmony, and well-being of the people who live with and look at it.

Cost per class is \$25; students provide their own paints and brushes. No one who wants to take the class will be turned away. Contact Nafzinger at (209) 423-8322 or conzinger@comcast.net.

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June/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.]

May 7—May 31

Stockton High School students art. M-F 10-5, Sat 11-3 Tidewater Gallery, 223 E. Weber Ave, Stockton. 463-4033

May 16—Jun 10

Damn Yankees, 7:30 pm Thu, 8 pm Fri/Sat, 2:30 pm Sun Stockton Civic Theatre, 2312 Rose Marie Ln, Stockton \$22 adult, \$18 senior, \$15/\$10 student, \$8 child under 12. 473-2424.

July 3—Sept 1

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

Fri, May 25

Iraq peace witnesses Kathy Kelly and David Smith Ferri speak on recent visits with Iraqi refugees. 7pm. Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. 464-3326.

Tues, June 26—August 7

French film festival, Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton 467-4455 (see page 20)

Tues, May 29—June 5

German film festival, Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton 467-4455 (see page 20)

Tue, May 29

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

Sun, June 3

Jewish Food Festival, 5k run, kids games, silent auction and food. 9:30

am—3:30 pm. Temple Israel, March Lane & El Dorado. Free. 477-9306

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

Mon, June 4

Citizens for Common Ground General Meeting, 7 pm, Family Resource and Referral Center, 509 W. Weber Ave. Stockton. Arnaiz and Co. to present the plans for the Tidewater Crossing proposed development near the airport and French Camp. CCG participants@pacbell.net

Discussions on Religion, Spirituality, Fundamentalism and Freedom, 7pm at P&J Center (see page 18).

Wed, June 6

Concert in the Park: A Touch of Jazz 6—8 pm. Victory Park, Pershing & Argonne. 937-8099

Thu, June 7

Dr. Bob Bowman, Lt. Col. USAF (ret), "Take Back America" tour, 7 pm, Delta College West Forum. Free. See article, page 18. John Morearty, 464-3326

Fri, June 8

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

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

Sat-Sun, June 9-10

San Joaquin Potters Guild spring sale, 10-6 Sat, 11-4 Sun. Quail Lakes Club House, 3808 Quail Lakes Drive, Stockton. 403-3018

Sat, June 9

Truth About Gluten documentary, 1-3 pm, Peace & Justice Center, 231

Bedford Rd, Stockton 467-4455 (see page 20 for details).

Mon, June 11

Discussions on Religion, Spirituality, Fundamentalism and Freedom, 7pm at P&J Center (see page 18).

Wed, June 13

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

Thur, June 14

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

Mon, June 18

Discussions on Religion, Spirituality, Fundamentalism and Freedom, 7pm at P&J Center (see page 18).

Wed, June 20

Concert in the Park: Dixie Inc. 6—8 pm. Victory Park. 937-8099

Mon, June 25

Discussions on Religion, Spirituality, Fundamentalism and Freedom, 7pm at P&J Center (see page 18). Wed, June 20

Wed, June 27

Concert in the Park: Steve Trucco 6—8 pm. Victory Park, Pershing & Argonne. 937-8099

Sun, July 1

San Joaquin Vegans monthly potluck, 5:30, Peace & Justice Center All are welcome. RSVP to sjvegans@hotmail.com (see June 3 for details).

Wed, July 4

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

Thu, July 5

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

Wed, July 11

Concert in the Park: Waterloo 6—8 pm. Victory Park. 937-8099

Thur, July 12

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

Wed, July 18

Concert in the Park: The Swingaires 6—8 pm. Victory Park. 937-8099

First Sundays

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

First & Third Tuesdays

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

Second Thursdays

Health Care for All San Joaquin, 6-8 pm. P&J Center, 231 Bedford Rd.

Third Thursdays

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

PACIFIC THEATRE

University of the Pacific

Summer 2007

Film Schedule

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

Summer Showtime: 7:00pm

ASuop Film Series

Talking It Through

Talking It Through is now two half-hour shows.

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

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

SJTV: Stockton, Lodi and Manteca cable channel 26

EDUCATION • ENVIRONMENT • POLITICS • CULTURE

Sponsored by the Peace & Justice Network, InterFaith Council of San Joaquin County, Pacific Complementary Medicine Center

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

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

It's All Happening At the P&J Center

NOTE: June 9 date!

Truth about gluten

Sat, June 9, 1-3 pm at the Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton

Ann Marks, a native Stocktonian, made this documentary because she felt the information was extremely important and was not being distributed. This film about gluten and why bread eaters get sick was filmed in New Zealand. It features pediatric gastroenterologist Dr. Rodney Ford (also known as "the Food Doctor") and his patients, all of whom were sick in numerous ways. They all got healthy without pills or medication by following a gluten free diet.

It is now believed that as many as 15% or 1 in 7 people have gluten intolerance in the United States. As Dr. Ford says, "if you're sick and tired of being sick and tired, and you've gone to a doctor who could not help, then gluten, which is found in bread, pasta, beer and cake, is the likely cause of your ill health. Our bodies can't digest gluten and undigested gluten causes hundreds of illnesses, both physical and mental."

Join us for this wonderful and insightful documentary. Light refreshments served. RSVP 467-4455. \$2 donation requested.

German Film Festival

Tuesdays 6:30 pm
P&J Center, 231 Bedford Road,
Stockton; 467-4455
Admission \$2.00

Please join us for a thought-provoking series. There will be an introduction and discussion each evening. The \$2.00 entrance fee to support the Center includes popcorn and refreshments.

May 29 **Aimee & Jaguar** (1988)
Directed by Max Farberbock. The true story of a married German

woman and her secret love affair with a Jewish woman during the darkest days of the WWII. Based on the best selling book. German with subtitles. 125 minutes.

June 5 **Downfall** (2005) Directed by Oliver Hirschbiegel. Nominated for best foreign film. Frank study of Hitler's final days before the defeat of Germany. Based on the testimony of witnesses, this is a fascinating exploration of the nature of megalomania. German with subtitles. 155 minutes.

connections

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French Film Series **ENCORE!**

Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm
Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Road ; 467-4455
\$2.00 admission
Richard Patocchi, SJDC Adjunct Professor



June 26: "Orphée" (Orpheus)

Written & directed by Jean Cocteau, 1949; music by Georges Auric. Post-war rendering of the Orphic myth, the ancient Greek legend that obsessed Cocteau throughout his artistic life. Orpheus (Jean Marais), a successful poet, has fallen out of fashion with the chic Left Bank crowd. Though he loves his wife, Eurydice (Maria Déa), Orpheus seeks renewed (and eventually very costly) inspiration from the mysterious Princess of Death (Maria Casarès). 95 minutes of enigmatic personal mythology, in classical black & white with English subtitles. Not rated.

July 3: "Orfeu Negro" (Black Orpheus)

Adaptation, dialogue & direction by Marcel Camus, 1959; score by Antonio Carlos Jobim and Luis Bonfá. Brilliant Franco-Italian-Brazilian co-production of the Orpheus myth set in the slums above Rio de Janeiro during Carnival madness. In this version, Orpheus (Breno Mello) is a trolley conductor set to marry jealous Mira (Lourdes de Oliveira), when winsome Eurydice (Marpessa Dawn) arrives on the scene fleeing a man trying to kill her. Won the Palme d'Or at Cannes in 1959 and an Academy Award in 1960. 107 exuberant minutes of blame-it-on-the-bossa-nova drama, in lurid Eastmancolor. Dialogue in Portuguese with English subtitles. Not rated. A must-see!

July 10: "Les Liaisons Dangereuses"

Directed by Roger Vadim, 1959; original jazz score by

Thelonious Monk. Based on the 18th century novel of the same name by Choderlos de Laclos, this is the first (and probably the best) of several screen versions made. Juliette (Jeanne Moreau) and Valmont (Gérard Philipe) are a très chic Parisian couple that amuse themselves with extra-marital affairs, vying in cruelty toward their lovers. But, the game turns deadly serious when one of them commits the ultimate faux pas and falls in love. 102 minutes of evil domestic drama in sinister black & white with English subtitles. Not rated.

July 17: "Quai des Orfèvres" (i.e., Paris police headquarters)

Directed by Henri-Georges Clouzot, 1947. A film noir classic set amid the dancehalls and back alleys of post-war 40's Paris. Detective Lieutenant Antoine (the great Louis Jouvet) is as much Columbo as Sam Spade when he reluctantly investigates the murder of a notorious movie financier with casting couch proclivities. Perhaps less a film policier than a criminal comedy of manners, as the plot plays accomplice to character development. 106 minutes of snappy crime drama, in black & white with English subtitles. Not rated.

July 24: "Le Corbeau" (The Raven)

Directed by Henri-Georges Clouzot, 1943. Fear and loathing, as well as paranoia and provincial pettiness, engulf a small town when poison-pen letters arrive from a mysterious figure known only as Le Corbeau. Made at the height of the Nazi occupation, film noir art imitates real life in this veiled metaphor of wartime denunciation and collaboration. Attacked by critics of every political shade, both film and director were banned post-

liberation, until Sartre and Cocteau (who got the anti-Gestapo message) helped rehab his reputation. 91 minutes of sociopolitical witch-hunt, in sinister black & white with English subtitles. Not rated.

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

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

August 7: "Le Samourai" (The Samurai)

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