

# connections

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## Bush setting up attack on Iran

*Marjorie Cohn*

Now that the mission—whatever it was—has not been accomplished in Iraq, Bush is setting up a potentially bigger disaster in Iran.

Last month, Seymour Hersh revealed that the US military is making preparations for an attack on Iran. Recent events confirm Hersh's report. The Bush administration is stepping up the pressure on the Security Council to pass a resolution that the US will use to justify an invasion. John Bolton, the US ambassador to the United Nations, is pushing Council members to vote on a resolution this week.

Hersh wrote, "There is a growing concern among members of the United States military, and in the international community, that President Bush's ultimate goal in the nuclear confrontation with Iran is regime change." A former defense official who still advises the Bush administration told Hersh that the military planning is grounded in the belief that "a sustained bombing campaign in Iran will humiliate the religious leadership and lead the public to rise up and overthrow the government." This reasoning is counter-intuitive. Iranians who become the victims of US aggression are much more likely to rally around the Islamic fundamentalist regime in Iran and fight to expel the foreign infidels." Air Force planning groups are drawing up lists of targets, and teams of American

combat troops have been ordered into Iran, under cover, to collect targeting data and to establish contact with anti-government ethnic-minority groups," Hersh learned from current and former American military and intelligence officials.

One of the military proposals calls for the use of bunker-buster tactical nuclear weapons against underground nuclear sites. That would mean "mushroom clouds, radiation, mass casualties, and contamination over years," a former senior intelligence official informed Hersh. A Pentagon adviser said the Air Force would strike many hundreds of targets in Iran, 99 percent of which have nothing to do with nuclear proliferation.

It would not just be Iranians who take the hits, the Pentagon adviser told Hersh. "If we go [into Iran]," he said, "the southern half of Iraq will light up like a candle." Our troops in Iraq would be at risk of retaliation from Iran and the Muslim world, according to the Washington Post.

Mohammad Ebrahim Dehghani, an Iranian Revolutionary Guards commander, said Tuesday that in response to an invasion of Iran by the United States, Iran's first target would be Israel.

Once again, Team Bush is whipping the media—and its consumers—into a frenzy of fear, this time against a nuclear Iran.

Two weeks ago, Condoleezza Rice said that Bush administration officials "have to be concerned

**"There is a growing concern that President Bush's ultimate goal in the nuclear confrontation with Iran is regime change.... Bush is following the same route he took on the way to regime change in Iraq.**

when there are statements from Iran that Iran would not only like to have this technology but would share it, share technology and expertise." Rice also said, "We can't let this continue." Never mind that Western nuclear scientists said last month that Iran lacks the skill, material and equipment to fulfill its immediate nuclear ambitions, the *New York Times* reported.

Once again, a "preventive" war initiated by Bush would violate the United Nations Charter, which forbids the use of armed force against another country unless it poses an imminent threat, or when the Security Council authorizes an attack. Bush is following the same route he took on the way to regime change in Iraq. He pressured members of the Security Council for a resolution threatening Iraq. The Council passed Resolution 1441. France, Russia and China issued a joint statement specifying,

"Resolution 1441 (2002) adopted today by the Security Council excludes any automaticity in the use of force." In other words, the US would have to return to the Council to secure authorization to invade Iraq.

Bush was unable to secure a second resolution from the Council that would authorize an attack on Iraq. So Bush rationalized his invasion by cobbling together Resolution 1441 and two prior Council resolutions from the Gulf War. None of these, separately or collectively, provided a legal basis for Bush's war on Iraq.

A draft Security Council resolution on Iran, which is supported by Britain, France and the US, was circulated on Wednesday. The next day, French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin said, "My conviction is that military action is certainly no

(continued page 3)

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# One hundred issues...

A lot of history has passed through these pages for the past ten and a half years. From Clinton to W; from Bosnia & Kosovo, to 9/11, Afghanistan and Iraq; from SJ County hospital privatization to water privatization; from us to you—we have provided information you can use. This issue marks my one hundredth as editor, alongside Laurie Litman (past editor and exemplary layout person). In addition, John Morearty (writer, proofer and more), Beth Luna (writer and ad rep), Reid Cerney, and a whole host of others have made this all-volunteer effort worth doing. Thanks to all. And yet, frankly, at this point I would have hoped that we would be closer to peace and justice than we were 100 issues ago in 1995. I'm not accepting blame here—who knows where we would be without *Connections*? We indeed still publish and I remain very hopeful for the future—mainly because you are still here, reading this paper.

You see, most "priceless" local papers such as ours are lightweight fare, generally vehicles for advertising, demanding little of its readers. You probably can name a few of these publications, fitting the need for which they were designed. *Connections*, on the other hand, demands plenty of its readers. It demands action.

In a country where most media outlets treat you like children living in a dictatorship, we treat you like adult citizens living in the most important democracy on the planet. If you find the news in these pages at times hard to take, it may be that you have been seduced by the time-wasting news stories that keep you nominally entertained (Michael Jackson, OJ Simpson, Scott Peterson, Britney Spears baby and the like), while the real issues (war, peace, environmental degradation, hunger, poverty, and the like) are treated like ancient history you have no power to change or affect.

As I say in every editorial,

we do have the power to change everything—we can stop war, we can foster peace, we can save species and forests and habitats, we can feed the world, we can end poverty. Yes, we can. In fact, in difficult times such as these (housing, gas and health insurance prices up, wages falling), we may find it easier to get people to change their habits than in times of plenty. Just wait until China stops buying our debts—or if the value of the dollar quickly falls. Some fun. The 1930's were a fruitful time for social programs of all varieties, grown in an environment of increasing poverty and environmental degradation. We must only wait.

As for this issue, *Connections* provides you vital information that the local news dumbs down, ignores or misses. This time it's Iran—a conflict that we must avoid at all costs, yet is not being taken seriously by the mainstream news. The Iraq decision was rolled out in time for the 2002 elections; the war in time to scare people into voting Bush in 2004.

Bruce Giudici



Iran is very different, yet we are being led down the same path by the same people saying the same things. "Nukular" weapons aside, the world will not stand for another go-it-alone war by a 30% popular Bush. Yet the media will lead us there.

In addition, we are being spied upon, in direct violation of the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution. On top of that, we are sending the National Guard to do police work on the border (again, what is the definition of martial law?). Every one of the stories in this issue would be front page stuff in normal times. We must be on our guard, listen to what is being said, and talk to everyone we know. Letters to the editor, call in radio, write your representatives, vote—the usual stuff must be done. It seems we say this every year—but this is the most important year in this country's history. Stay active.

## Come discuss medicine with Dr. Wu

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## Feedback

### The next revolution

Editor,

As Peter Finch exclaimed in the film, *Network*, "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it any more!" This could be applied to an exponentially increasing group of US citizens. We're the middle class, both gainfully employed and looking for a job. We're the working poor, struggling to survive in a dog-eat-dog capitalistic feeding frenzy. We're sick and tired of listening to "line your pockets as you go" politicians who are more concerned with "fact finding," taxpayer paid junkets to Bermuda while paying lip service to our country's and citizens legitimate concerns.

Republicans only seem interested in waging terrorist-cloaked, oil-intensive, sham-of-democracy wars designed to enrich the fat cats while duping an incredibly apathetic American

populace. Our friends on the right also see no shame in accepting limitless "campaign contributions," raping our rapidly deteriorating environment, abusing and distorting science, facilitating religious wackos and using God as a sledge hammer to pound us senseless while slashing taxes for folks like Donald Trump.

Meanwhile, our friends the Democrats, the planet Earth's only spineless yet erect mammal, continues to ignore middle America while promising better days ahead. What a joke. This party can't say no to anyone or anything, except maybe to a pay raise for themselves. They can't unite and say no to war, to unfair taxes, to state-sinking immigration, to octogenarian transvestites, or to those who think Michael Morales needs another day of sunshine and a cup of coffee. Both parties remain impotent on addressing the issue of overpopulation.

Eighty-nine years ago, a group of determined individuals were also slowly seething about the corrupt, morally bankrupt, disaffected and inept government that gouged their pocketbooks and stymied their souls. The Bolsheviks of 1917 took matters into their own hands.

How long will it be before exasperated Americans—fuming in hospital emergency rooms, stranded in traffic, standing in unemployment lines, crippled by the cost of living, stained by the blood of war, confront the oligarchy, the ruthless plutocracy now inhabiting the chambers of our capitals? When will America cut through the red tape, cast off the red herrings and truly address the needs of those who support her most? Those revolutionaries of yesterday soon had its people seeing red. It wasn't a pretty sight.

Dave Waldon

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## Iran (continued from page 1)

solution." Russia and China, the other two permanent members of the Security Council, concur with de Villepin's sentiments. But, as it did in Iraq, the British government would likely support Bush if he decides to attack Iran.

### Great Britain signs on

Tony Blair has signaled his support of a US military strike, warning that ruling out military action would send a "message of weakness" to Iran. Last month, Britain's then foreign secretary, Jack Straw, branded the idea of a nuclear strike on Iran as "completely nuts." He said military action against Iran was "inconceivable," and warned his Cabinet colleagues that it would be illegal for Britain to support US military action against Iran. On Friday, Straw was rewarded for his candor with removal from his position as foreign secretary. Both the Independent and the Guardian in London wrote that Straw's "fate was sealed" after an angry call from the White House to Blair. The Independent reported that friends of Straw believe Bush was extremely upset at Straw's comment that the use of nukes against Iran was "nuts."

When asked about the possibility of a nuclear strike on Iran, Bush stated unequivocally, "All options are on the table." The Bush administration is undoubtedly pushing the draft resolution as a step along the way to its unilateral use of armed force against Iran. The draft states that the Council would be "acting under Chapter VII" of the UN Charter. This means that it would be based on a finding of a threat to international peace and security, would be legally binding, and could be the basis for the later imposition of sanctions or the authorization of force.

Although the International Atomic Energy Agency found Iran to be in non-compliance with some requirements of the non-proliferation and disarmament regime, the IAEA has clearly said there is no evidence that Iran has diverted its declared nuclear materials to weapons. President Mahmoud Ahmedinajad, who is not necessarily the controlling power in Iran, has engaged in belligerent rhetoric. "This is deplorable," says Burroughs,



"but it does not establish a threat to the peace. There has also been belligerent rhetoric coming from Israel and the United States."

Given the stakes, it would seem logical that the Bush administration would pursue a diplomatic solution and avoid another disastrous conflagration in the Middle East. Hugh Porter reported in Asia Times that even Ahmedinajad is amenable to negotiation. The Iranians, he writes, are willing to compromise on enrichment if they can achieve security guarantees against attack. But Bush refuses to talk to Iran's leadership. Richard Armitage, deputy secretary of state in Bush's first term, warns that "diplomacy is not simply meant for our friends. It is meant for our enemies."

When he inaugurated Iran into his "axis of evil," Bush defined Iran as our enemy. Sanctions, or an attack, on Iran would hurt the Iranian moderates, whom the US should view as allies.

Moreover, invading Iran may well achieve precisely the opposite of what it portends to do. Joseph Cirincione of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace maintains it would strengthen Iran's resolve to develop nukes. It "is almost certain to accelerate a nuclear bomb program rather than destroy it." Cirincione said, "It's clear to me there's no military solution to the Iran problem."

Bush's threatened aggression against Iran is no more about nuclear weapons than Iraq was about weapons of mass destruction (see "Why Iran?," this page). It is propelled by an agenda of the neo-conservatives and Washington's pro-Israel lobby. The US seeks to control the entire Middle East and its valuable oil deposits by changing Iran's regime, installing a US-friendly government, and

# Why Iran? US dominance

Gareth Porter

As the George W. Bush administration pushes for a showdown over Iran's nuclear program in the U.N. Security Council, it has presented the issue as a matter of global security—an Iranian nuclear threat in defiance of the international community. But the history of the conflict and the private strategic thinking of both sides reveal that the dispute is really about the administration's drive for greater dominance in the Middle East and Iran's demand for recognition as a regional power.

It is now known that the Iranian leadership, which was convinced that Bush was planning to move against Iran after toppling Saddam Hussein in Iraq, proposed in April 2003 to negotiate with the United States on the very issues which the administration had claimed were the basis for its hostile posture toward Tehran: its nuclear program, its support for Hizbollah and other anti-Israeli armed groups and its hostility to Israel's existence.

Tehran offered concrete, substantive concessions on those issues. But on the advice of U.S. Vice Pres. Dick Cheney and Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld, Bush refused to respond to the negotiating proposal. Nuclear weapons were not, therefore, the primary U.S. concern about Iran. In the hierarchy of the administration's interests, the denial of legitimacy to the Islamic Republic trumped a deal that could provide assurances against an Iranian nuclear weapon.

building permanent US military bases.

It's déjà vu with the 1953 CIA coup that removed the democratically-elected Mossadeq and installed the tyrannical Shah of Iran. After 25 years of tyranny, the Iranian people rose up and removed the Shah from power, replacing him with Ayatollah Khomeini's theocracy. The chickens came home to roost. Bolton said Saturday, "We are still working to achieve unanimity [in the Security Council] ... but we're

For insight into the real aims of the administration in pushing the issue of Iranian access to nuclear technology to a crisis point, one can turn to Tom Donnelly of the neoconservative think-tank the American Enterprise Institute. Donnelly was the deputy executive director of the neoconservative Project for the New American Century from 1999 to 2002, and was the main author of "Rebuilding America's Defences".

That paper was written for Cheney and Rumsfeld during the transition following Bush's election and had the participation of four prominent figures who took positions in the administration: Stephen A. Cambone, Lewis Libby, Paul Wolfowitz and John Bolton.

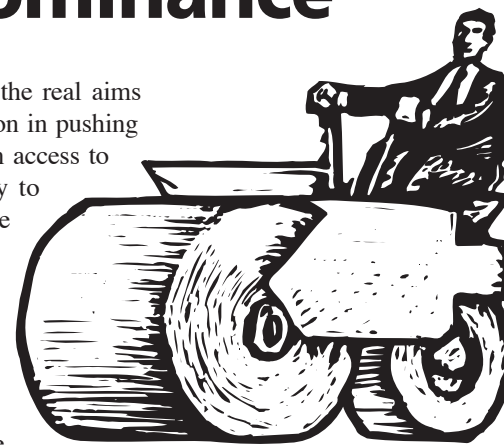
Donnelly's analysis of the issue of Iran and nuclear weapons, published last October in the book "Getting Ready for a Nuclear-Ready Iran", makes it clear that the real objection to Iran becoming a nuclear power is that it would impede the larger U.S. ambitions in the Middle East—what Donnelly calls the administration's "project of transforming the Middle East".

Contrary to the official U.S. line depicting Iran as a radical state threatening to plunge the region into war, Donnelly refers to Iran as "more the status quo power" in the region in relation to the United States. Iran, he explains, "stands directly athwart this project of

prepared to go to a vote without it." It is time to take the military option against Iran off the table.

Marjorie Cohn <<http://truthout.org/contactmc.php>> is a professor at Thomas Jefferson School of Law, President-elect of the National Lawyers Guild, and the US representative to the executive committee of the American Association of Jurists.

Source: [truthout | Perspective 5/8/06](http://truthout.org/docs_2006/032006A.shtml) <[http://www.truthout.org/docs\\_2006/032006A.shtml](http://www.truthout.org/docs_2006/032006A.shtml)>



regional transformation". Up to now, he observes, the Iranian regime has been "incapable of stemming the seeping U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf and in the broader region". And the invasion of Iraq "completed the near-encirclement of Iran by U.S. military forces".

Donnelly writes that a "nuclear Iran" is a problem not so much because Tehran would employ those weapons or pass them on to terrorist groups, but mainly because of "the constraining effect it threatens to impose upon U.S. strategy for the greater Middle East".

The "greatest danger", according to Donnelly, is that the "realists" would "pursue a 'balance of power' approach with a nuclear Iran, undercutting the Bush 'liberation strategy'". Although Donnelly doesn't say so explicitly, it would undercut that strategy primarily by ruling out a U.S. attack on Iran as part of a strategy of "regime change".

Instead, in the Donnelly scenario, a nuclear capability would incline those outside the neoconservative priesthood to negotiate a "detente" with Iran, which would bring the plan for the extension of U.S. political-military dominance in the Middle East to a halt.

What is really at stake in the confrontation with Iran from the Bush administration's perspective, according to this authority on neoconservative strategy, is the opportunity to reorder the power hierarchy in the Middle East even further in favour of the United States, by pursuing the overthrow of the Islamic republic of Iran.

Source: [Inter Press Service, 5/12/06](http://www.commondreams.org/headlines06/0512-04.htm) <<http://www.commondreams.org/headlines06/0512-04.htm>>



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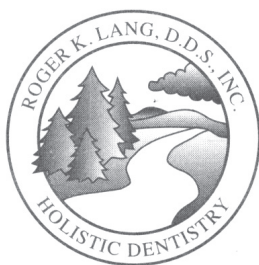


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"Together, we will walk the pathway to health and wholeness."

# George W. Bush inspired me to enter politics

Susan Eggman

[Editor's note: Susan Eggman  
is running for Stockton City  
Council, District 5.]

When Bush won the 2004 election, I vowed never again would I sit still when I could take positive action in the political arena. From the national to local level, we must have people with integrity, energy, and commitment prepared to run for office. There perhaps has never been a time in history when the decisions we make now will so decidedly shape our future. I want to be a part of shaping a future that builds upon the unique strengths of Stockton's character.

To move forward with a better Stockton, we must answer the following questions:

- \* Why do we have the highest rate of crime in the State?
- \* Why is our air quality one of the worst in the State?
- \* Why is housing that is affordable so hard to find?
- \* Why is our unemployment rate higher than the State average?
- \* Are we satisfied with the rate and direction of our growth?
- \* Are we happy with the traffic and congestion?

As we look to the future of Stockton, these are questions that must be addressed. We must develop long term plans to address these long term issues. The plans we develop and decisions we make must fully realize that all the issues before us are interdependent. We must address crime at its root and not just deal with the symptoms. We must involve entire neighborhoods and families in addressing issues of crime. We need full participation from mothers and fathers, aunts and uncles, grandparents and neighbors - and kids. The City must support programs that increase the assets in every neighborhood.

A community with a high degree of alienation is a community with a high degree of crime. If the City supports initiatives to provide pathways of opportunities to all



its citizens, crime will go down. Hiring more police and building bigger jails only addresses the symptoms of crime, not the root of the problem. People with good education, job skills and strong ties in the community are not the people you will find in jail.

We can no longer plan our development around the automobile. With gas at over \$3 a gallon and our relationship with oil increasingly tenuous, we must think about other styles of development than our current model. Other cities with an eye on the future are planning development around people and neighborhoods. The future needs to look to the past, when people could live, shop, work, and recreate all within walking distance. There needs to be planned parks and natural places for people to gather. Study after study shows that neighborhoods like these have lower rates of crime. When new development is presented, it is imperative that we plan smart for streets, traffic, fire and police stations.

I am not a politician; I am a social worker and an educator. I bring a life time of working effectively in organizations and communities. I am artful in the skills of negotiation and consensus building. I understand the importance of working with people instead of against people to get things done.

I am a professor of Social Work at Sacramento State and see the positive impact education has on people's lives. I was raised by parents who fought their way out of poverty and were determined that their children would have a better life. They lived a life of hard work and sacrifice so that my siblings and I could get an education. I carry those traditional Mexican American values of family and hard work. I believe that working hard today will create a better tomorrow. Though deceased, my mother's words still ring in my ears, "Mi hija, if you see something that needs to be done, just do it." I see a need in Stockton for new leadership. I can be that leader.

I have a deep understanding of despair and the limitlessness potential of hope. We need to focus on the intersection of critical issues like crime, housing, employment and creating livable neighborhoods where everyone is afforded opportunities for success. We must develop long term plans to address long term issues. To be successful in carving our future, we must fully realize that all the issues before us are interdependent.

Together we can thrive and be the model of a City for the 21st Century. Please support me in making Stockton a place that fully realizes it's potential.

## We can no longer plan our development around the automobile.



# California voters take up universal preschool

Lynlee Murray

In California, the upcoming June 6 statewide election includes a ballot question, Proposition 82, that would raise \$2.4 billion to provide voluntary, free preschool to all four-year-olds in the state by 2010. It would be funded by a 1.7% tax increase on individuals earning above \$400,000 a year and couples earning above \$800,000. The program would:

- offer preschool three hours a day, 180 days a year.
- raise teacher salaries, provide support for teachers going back to school, and pay for facilities.
- require participating head teachers to get a BA in Early Childhood Education and an early learning credential by 2016.
- be run by county superintendents of schools who could contract with quality preschool programs, including school districts, centers, and family child care homes.

## Supporters say:

• Children and society would benefit: When children go to preschool, they do better in school and are less likely to be unemployed as adults, says Marie Condron of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. "There is so much research about how much the brain develops from (ages) 0-5. You get a much higher return when you put money in for kids when they are young," adds Susana Cooper of Preschool California. Florida, Georgia, and Oklahoma already offer free preschool for all children. A RAND report found that every dollar spent on quality preschool saves more than \$2.50 later. "The U.S. is the only industrialized nation without a national child care program," adds child care teacher Mary Malesani.

• Preschool should be free for everyone: "We see this as a civil right," says Diane Ujiiye of the Asian and Pacific Islanders California Action Network. "Those who are very, very poor and very, very rich can go to preschool and those in the middle are struggling. It's crucial that all children start at the same point." And the public is more likely to insist on adequate funding for universal programs.

• Parents would save money: LA's partial-day universal preschool program reduced what parents pay for all-day care by as much as \$400 a month, says Peter Shakow of Los Angeles Universal Preschool.

• Teachers and providers would be paid more: "Preschool teachers would be paid the same as kindergarten teachers," says Malesani.

"A lot of (teachers) are not making a living wage," adds Cooper. "(This) will allow them to get a BA and there's a higher salary waiting for them."

• BA requirement would benefit kids: Studies show that well-educated teachers provide better preschool instruction, says Preschool California. "Don't let going back to school be a barrier. There's going to be money set aside for us," says Marva Lyons of the California Association for Family Child Care.

• Existing preschools could participate: "Parents (would) have a choice on where their kids go to school," says Cooper.

Supporters: Preschool CA, CA Association for the Education of Young Children, CA Association for Family Child Care, Child Development Policy Institute, AAP-CA, CA Teachers Association, National Council of La Raza, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People-CA, LA Chamber of Commerce.

For more info: Preschool CA <<http://www.action-preschoolcalifornia.org>>.

## Opponents say:

• Children would be hurt: "Social and emotional development (is important) to the school success of all children," says child care consultant Jean Monroe. "State guidelines for preschool are not developmentally appropriate. There is no reason to believe it would provide an appropriate program for preschool-aged children. (And it's not) only one year before kindergarten that matters."

• K-12 should get the money: "We should be working on K-12 first," says Kathy Fairbanks of the California Chamber of Commerce. The measure would

"spend almost as much for half a day of preschool as a full day of K-12."

• Program should target poor families: Most of the funds "would (help) affluent parents who can easily pay for preschool," says Bruce Fuller, professor at UC Berkeley. "What's needed is a statewide fund (for) needy families."

• BA requirement would hurt providers and kids: "This really scares me," says Monroe. "We are going back to a system where most teachers are white and most assistants are people of color" because people of color are more likely to encounter barriers that make it harder to get a degree. "Inability to understand, appreciate, and respect children's home language is academic incompetence," she adds.

"For some family child care providers it's not feasible," says Ujiiye. "(They can't) attend school while others work." Having a BA "does not guarantee a passion for educating young children," says Tommie Hollis of the Kern County African American Child Care Association. "Caring for children for 14 years makes (current) providers professionals."

• Existing preschools would be

**Proposition 82 would raise \$2.4 billion to provide voluntary, free preschool to all four-year-olds in the state by 2010, funded by a 1.7% tax increase on individuals earning above \$400,000.**

hurt: "About 60% of preschoolers attend an unsubsidized program," says Fuller. "These will not survive when the public school around the corner opens up a free program, serving even wealthy parents."

• Don't tax just one group: "Upping the tax rate for the wealthy is not the answer, a fair tax rate for everybody is," says Hollis.

• "English-only" preschool? Critics worry that Prop 227 (which requires public schools to be taught "overwhelmingly" in English) would apply, but there's no "legal wording" saying that, says Cooper. Fuller argues that PFA "invites conservative groups to push the English-only mandate into the lives of four-year-olds."

Opponents: CA Chamber of Commerce, CA Mexican American Chamber of Commerce, CA Retailers Association, Southern CA Black Chamber of Commerce, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, Association of Christian Schools International, CA Parents for Educational Choice. For info: Stop the Reiner Initiative <<http://www.stopreiner.org>>.

Source: Connect for Kids release, posted with permission from the May-June 2006 issue of *Children's Advocate* <<http://www.4children.org/childadv.htm>>, published by Action Alliance for Children.

# Supervisor Anne Baird

Beth Luna

Who is Anne Baird? Her commitment is to serve the people with the same dedication that the termed-out Dario Marengo has shown. Anne Baird says it is time for new solutions to the on-going problems facing our community such as: growth, quality of life issues, water, crime, health care, education and transportation. She says, "I'm running for County Supervisor to tackle these challenges."

"To better understand those I will serve" she says, "I am personally calling on as many in District 2 as I can find at home. Others who believe in me, such as Angel Picon and Rosemary Atkinson, are also making calls. I have learned the importance of listening and being responsive to

concerns. I am willing to discuss any issue of importance with those who feel the need for change."

Anne Baird qualifies for this important position by the diversity of her experiences. She helped to start the Women's Center in 1975. As a part of this, it operates as the only women's crisis center in Stockton area, and is an ever-growing success both in number and activities.

Anne Baird has had business experience selling life and health insurance to women, at the time it was a new field for women. Anne Baird became involved in politics when an effort was made to unseat Michael Machado. She worked to successfully stop the 1995 recall. She then gained experience working for Senator Machado and is now using that knowledge to run for office herself. People that



she sees tell her they are tired of unchecked growth and sprawl, bad air and pot holes in the road. They are ready for change and as a County Supervisor, Anne Baird can assist with the change. Among those who support her are Senator Michael Machado, former Senator Patrick Johnson, and County Supervisors Dario Marengo and County Supervisor Steve Gutierrez. Financial support comes from everyday folks, in contrast to the opposition who receive theirs from developers.

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# Immigrants pay taxes like you and me

Shikha Dalmia

Denying public services to people who pay their taxes is an affront to America's bedrock belief in fairness. But many "pull-up-the-drawbridge" politicians want to do just that when it comes to illegal immigrants.

The fact that illegal immigrants pay taxes at all will come as news to many Americans. A stunning two-thirds of illegal immigrants pay Medicare, Social Security and personal income taxes. Yet nativists like Congressman Tom Tancredo, R-Colo., have popularized the notion that illegal aliens are a colossal drain on the nation's hospitals, schools and welfare programs-consuming services that they don't pay for.

In reality, the 1996 welfare reform bill disqualified illegal immigrants from nearly all means-tested government programs including food stamps, housing assistance, Medicaid and Medicare-funded hospitalization. The only services that illegals can still get are emergency medical care and K-12 education.

Nevertheless, Tancredo and his ilk pushed a bill through the House criminalizing all aid to illegal aliens-even private acts of charity by priests, nurses and social workers. Potentially, any soup kitchen that offers so much as a free lunch to an illegal could face up to five years in prison and seizure of assets.

The Senate bill that recently collapsed would have tempered these draconian measures against private aid. But no one-Democrat or Republican-seems to oppose the idea of withholding public services. Earlier this year, Congress passed a law that requires everyone who gets Medicaid-the government-funded health care program for the poor-to offer proof of U.S. citizenship so we can avoid "theft of these benefits by illegal aliens," as Rep. Charlie Norwood, R-Ga., puts it.

### No mooching here

But immigrants aren't flocking to the United States to mooch off the government. According to



a study by the Urban Institute, the 1996 welfare reform effort dramatically reduced the use of welfare by undocumented immigrant households, exactly as intended. And another vital thing happened in 1996: the Internal Revenue Service began issuing identification numbers to enable illegal immigrants who don't have Social Security numbers to file taxes.

One might have imagined that those fearing deportation or confronting the prospect of paying for their safety net through their own meager wages would take a pass on the IRS' scheme. Not so. Close to 8 million of the 12 million or so illegal aliens in the country today file personal income taxes using these numbers, contributing billions to federal coffers. No doubt they hope that this will one day help them acquire legal status-a plaintive expression of their desire to play by the rules and come out of the shadows.

What's more, aliens who are not self-employed have Social Security and Medicare taxes automatically withheld from their paychecks. Since undocumented workers have only fake numbers, they'll never be able to collect the benefits these taxes are meant to pay for. Last year, the revenues from these fake numbers-that the Social Security administration stashes in the "earnings suspense file"-added up to 10 percent of the Social Security surplus. The file is growing, on average, by more than \$50 billion a year.

Beyond federal taxes, all illegals automatically pay state sales taxes that contribute toward the upkeep of public facilities such as roads that they use, and property taxes through their rent that contribute toward the schooling of their children. The

non-partisan National Research Council found that when the taxes paid by the children of low-skilled immigrant families-most of whom are illegal-are factored in, they contribute on average \$80,000 more to federal coffers than they consume.

Yes, many illegal migrants impose a strain on border communities on whose doorstep they first arrive, broke and unemployed. To solve this problem equitably, these communities ought to receive the surplus taxes that federal government collects from immigrants. But the real reason border communities are strained is the lack of a guest worker program. Such a program would match willing workers with willing employers in advance so that they wouldn't be stuck for long periods where they disembark while searching for jobs.

The cost of undocumented aliens is an issue that immigrant bashers have created to whip up indignation against people they don't want here in the first place. With the Senate having just returned from yet another vacation and promising to revisit the stalled immigration bill, politicians ought to set the record straight: Illegals are not milking the government. If anything, it is the other way around.

*Shikha Dalmia is a senior analyst at Reason Foundation, a free-market think tank. This column was originally distributed by the Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service and is reprinted here by permission.*

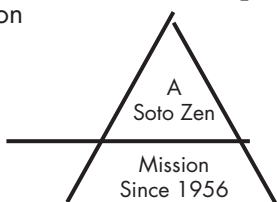
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# Immigrants on their hind legs

John Morearty

My mother's ancestors immigrated to rural Wisconsin from Luxembourg in 1848, fleeing the wars in central Europe. The wooden ship took 58 days to cross the Atlantic.

Ione Molling, the youngest daughter, was an A student who dropped out of high school to support her widowed mother. She worked in a candy factory and as a taxicab dispatcher. She married my dad in 1937, and they raised four good and responsible sons. She tended a quarter-acre garden, and knitted and crocheted countless slippers, sweaters, hats and blankets, a skill she learned from her mother Carrie.

When I asked in her old age if there were any surprises, she said, "We have enough. When we were young I was afraid we would die poor, but with your dad's pension and our retirement health care, Social Security and Medicare, we have enough." She died in Deming, New Mexico on March 3, 1984.

My dad's ancestors immigrated to St. Paul, Minnesota from County Kerry, Ireland, in the time of the Great Potato Famine, about 1848. His own father, John Morearty, worked for the Milwaukee Road railroad; he was injured in a railroad accident, and the company simply fired him. "He was never much good after that," my dad said. My grandfather died before I was born.

Edward Morearty studied electrician technology at Boys' Tech High School in Milwaukee, but there were no jobs for him in the Depression. He was driving taxicab when he met and married my mother. Unemployed when I was born in 1938, he soon got a job at Allis Chalmers tractor manufacturing, where he worked till he retired about 1972. He tended a heat-treating furnace; during World War Two, they made parts for tanks.

After the war he went on strike for 329 days, in a strike which was blamed on Communists in the union; it was that strike which

won his pension and retirement health care.

One day when I was a carpenter, Pa saw me pushing a wheelbarrow loaded with dirt.

"You know why they invented the wheelbarrow, don't you?"

"No, why?"

"To teach the Irishman to walk on his hind legs."

Ed Morearty died in Stockton on April 30, 1986.

People have been telling me lately, "Oh, these damn immigrants just come to collect welfare." On the other hand, my friend Nick Normandin, a young Mexican-American building contractor who recently died untimely, told my wife:

"Of all the guys I've been hiring to build my houses, the Mexicans are the ones who really bust their butts. They turn up on time, they do nine hours work in eight hours, and they're proud of doing it right. I've never thought of myself as a Mexican, I'm just an American, dude. But I'll hire a Mexican any day."

# Worldwide collective bargaining needed

Jim Walsh

My father emigrated from County Kerry Ireland at age 10 in 1927. In order to understand the impact of migration on my father, it is important to understand the history and conditions that existed in Ireland and in America at that time. Ireland was 5 years into a bloody civil war. British colonial rule for over 900 years had led to harsh economic conditions and finally a war for independence. The year my father emigrated, two Italian immigrants Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were executed on what were thought to be trumped up charges of murder (Sacco and Vanzetti were anarchists who had the impression that America was the land of free expression and robust political debate and of course, good jobs for all workers). They and my father found it to be different. My father lived the rest of his political life under the oppressive oversight of employers and government whom he saw as intolerant to the questioning of their principles and practices.

My father's early education was in the strict, harsh confines of Irish Catholic parochial schools. Violence and intimidation were the tools of educators at the time. When my father left the Catholic Church, he escaped an oppressive dogma. In Ireland he rejected the "Divine Right of Kings" (the idea of God given rights to rule). In America he rejected "Manifest Destiny" (the idea that has evolved into a policy that the US have "Full Spectrum Dominance" over the world). These early influences on my father stripped the façade off of the "American Dream".

With these two realities imbedded into my father's soul, he saw clearly the forces at work forcing people to move around the world as migrant workers and to suppress their basic human rights and political expression. He maintained as his religion the golden rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." His migration also led him to accept a larger, collective global community as his own. Not bound by borders, but by human spirit, in solidarity with people of a similar plight.

This has all led to my vision of what should be done about the immigration problem, legal or illegal. We need international collective bargaining. We need a connection between workers of all nations that will allow for workers to have a say in setting working conditions all over the world. If NAFTA had contained language on working conditions and environmental standards, Mexican workers there might not feel the need to leave their families and loved ones for another country that is unfriendly, with an exploitative environment. Collective bargaining is the closest thing we have to true democracy.

What happens in our workday governs all other aspects of our lives.

We must have a say. Then maybe we could stay at home, where ever that may be.

# Don't look down on immigrants—look up

Jim Hightower

Here's a modest suggestion for dealing with illegal immigration: Instead of everyone looking down on all those impoverished Mexicans coming here for jobs, why not start looking up~focusing on the posh executive suites of corporate America, which have saddled both U.S. and Mexican working families with trade and labor policies that knock us all down?

Let's start with NAFTA. Remember that Bill Clinton, the GOP, and all the corporate lobbyists promised that this trade deal would bring prosperity to Mexican laborers~thus stopping the flow of illegal workers into the USA. Well, 12 years later, real wages in Mexico are lower than before NAFTA was imposed, 19 million more Mexicans have fallen into poverty, and about half

of Mexico's people are struggling to live on less than \$5 a day.

CEOs in our country, the ruling elites in Mexico, and the political puppets of both deliberately created this NAFTA economy of a few fabulously rich families and an impoverished working class. Now here they come again, fostering xenophobia, proposing an absurd and shameful wall along our shared border, and encouraging a new bracero program to turn Mexicans earning low wages at home into a permanent flow of indentured workers for U.S. businesses.

Meanwhile, these same corporations and their political flunkies have been busting wages here at home, offshoring middle-class jobs, canceling pensions and health-care plans, waging war against labor unions, and shredding our social contract.

To deal effectively with illegal immigration, let's restore our labor laws so they actually help the workaday majority of people, raising middle-class possibilities here and in Mexico.

*Reprinted from the May issue of Jim Hightower's The Hightower Lowdown.*





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# Why do people lack health insurance?

Currently, 46 million people (or nearly one in five nonelderly adults and children) lack health insurance in the United States, an increase of 6 million since 2000. The recent rise in uninsurance has been attributed to a number of factors, including rising health care costs, the economic downturn, an erosion of employer-based insurance, and public program cutbacks. Developing effective strategies for reducing uninsurance requires understanding why people lack insurance coverage. This brief looks at the reasons people report being uninsured overall and by key population

subgroups (defined by age, race/ethnicity, health status, and family and employment characteristics). We also examine how those reasons have changed over time.

## Key findings

The high cost of health insurance matters for uninsured nonelderly adults and children, whether old or young, healthy or disabled, with high incomes or well below the poverty line. Further, the importance of high costs as a reason for being uninsured has risen rapidly, growing steadily for both nonelderly adults and children.

If policymakers want to increase insurance coverage they will need to address the fact that many of the uninsured view the cost of the coverage options available to them as "too high."



Lowering the cost of coverage (for example, by expanding eligibility for public insurance or providing subsidies for private insurance coverage) and/or raising the cost of being uninsured (for example, by imposing penalties for those who do not purchase coverage), could reduce the perceived high cost of coverage relative to being uninsured.

Source: Urban Institute release 5/4/06 <http://www.urban.org>



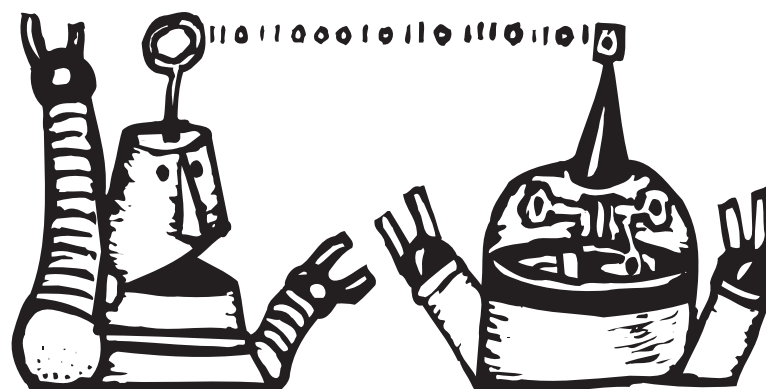
# Telecommunications giants move to control Internet

A nationwide network of nonprofit organizations, including the Organic Consumers Association, are mobilizing to stop Congress from passing a law that would enable telecommunications giants to control the flow of traffic on the internet. Companies like AT&T, Verizon and Comcast are pressuring Congress to pass the "Telecom Reform Bill" that would allow them to restrict or slow down your access to certain websites on the internet. As an example, last year, Canada's version of AT&T—Telus—blocked their internet customers from visiting a web site sympathetic to workers with whom Telus was negotiating. This controversial bill would create a similar situation in the U.S. whereby telephone and cable companies would have increased power to control how

well (or poorly) specific websites, including those operated by nonprofit organizations, would function on your computer. The current construction of the internet allows everyone to compete on a level playing field. This is the reason that the internet is a force for economic innovation, civic participation and free speech. If the public doesn't speak up now, Congress will

hand over control of the internet to these telecommunications monopolies. Please take action: <http://www.organicconsumers.org/rd/telecom.cfm>

Source: Organic Bytes #80 4/28/06 Organic Consumers Association, 6771 South Silver Hill Dr, Finland, MN 55603 <http://www.organicconsumers.org/organicbytes.htm>





# Three alternatives to health insurance as we know it

Jerry Bailey

[Editor's note: Below is a comparison between three practical reforms to our current health care delivery system that are being debated.]

## Health Savings Accounts

AFL-CIO reports that health savings accounts require high out-of-pocket expenses (a minimum of \$2,000 deductible for a family, and as high as \$10,000 in some cases) before workers' coverage begins to kick in. Thus, many workers and their families won't seek medical care or will delay seeking needed care until their conditions are critical. Health saving accounts will discourage preventive care, ultimately increasing the cost of health care. On his radio program, Ed Schultz has summarized the problems with Health Savings Accounts: Banks will manage your health savings account. You may pay your premiums to an insurance company, or directly to a bank, but the banks will manage the funds for investment purposes. You'll have a major bank between you and the payout for your "major" medical expenses. The banks will invest your health savings account premiums. You will pay a monthly fee above your health insurance premium for the "privilege" of having a bank invest your health savings. If you "save" your health savings account (HSA) for multiple years to cover a serious illness, funds may not be there or significantly decreased if the stockmarket is low when you need those funds. If your health savings account pays 80% of all expenses over a \$2500 cut-off and your "investments" pay the rest, where does your 20% come from if the stock market happens to be in a slump?

## The Massachusetts Plan

The Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights has warned that Massachusetts's non-profit

health care market and the state's laws are not like most insurance markets in the nation (including California). The group warned against adoption of this system in states dominated by for-profit health insurance providers. Under the Massachusetts Plan, all citizens earning more than \$48,000 per year would be required to purchase health insurance with no limits on the rate that insurance companies could charge (no bulk purchasing power like Medicare or the Veterans Administration uses to control costs for the recipient). Under the Massachusetts Plan, you would be required to pay for health insurance or face tax liens that make you a criminal, even though there is no state limit nor regulations on how much insurers may charge. Even if you have good health insurance through your employer, you could lose your coverage because the law allows employers to switch to "bare bones" high-deductible policies.

If your employer didn't pay for coverage under the new law, they were originally to be charged with a \$295 per year per employee fine. This would be a small token compared to the per employee cost of health insurance (this part of the law was vetoed by the Massachusetts' governor). Under the Massachusetts Plan you would have to navigate a maze of privately administered health insurance policies that are not easily compared, just as the Medicare Part D drug benefit cannot be easily compared. Massachusetts is dominated by not-for-profit insurance companies, so profiteering is limited. In California, health care insurance companies have 25-41% administration costs, with one insurance company C.E.O. receiving a \$4.3m compensation package for 2004.

## Single Payer Universal Care

The California Health Insurance Reliability Act (CHIRA) is a

better product at a lower price for Californians. CHIRA will be good for Californians and for business. It is a state funded single payer, universal health care insurance plan. To finance a state funded, single payer, universal health care system, each employer will pay a health premium of about 8% of each employee's pay over \$7,000 per year. Each employee would also pay this health premium—of 3-4% of income over \$7,000 through \$200,000.

State-funded single payer, universal health care system doesn't change where the money comes from: It is still 29% government, 36% employers and 25% individuals. No change to hospitals, clinics, or doctors' offices. Bills are paid electronically from a central fund. No need to ask what insurance the patient has, or call the insurance company to ask if it agrees to pay for the treatment (in today's private coverage environment, 40% of the office staff is spent inquiring if the insurance company will cover the doctor's recommended procedures).

The Lewin Group, a nationally known medical research consulting firm, reported that a state-funded universal health care system would save Californians \$8 billion per year. Better than Medicare, this state funded universal health care system would cover dental, optical, inpatient and outpatient health facility services, diagnostic imaging, laboratory services, durable medical equipment and appliances, as well as prosthetics and hearing aids. Also covered would be: child and adult immunizations and preventive care, emergency transportation and needed transportation for health care services for disabled and indigent persons, dialysis, hospice care, prescription drugs, health education, and home health care.

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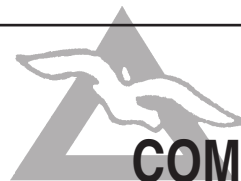
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# Tax cuts: rich win

Joel Friedman

House and Senate negotiators have reached final agreement on the \$70 billion tax-cut reconciliation package. The final package offers virtually no benefits to low- and moderate-income households, but shower high-income households with very large tax cuts.

The Urban Institute-Brookings Institution Tax Policy Center has examined the major provisions that are expected to be in the package, including a two-year extension of capital gains and dividend tax cuts, a one-year extension of relief from the Alternative Minimum Tax, and a proposal to lift the income limits that apply to converting retirement funds to Roth IRAs. Preliminary estimates by the Tax Policy Center show that:

About 87 percent of the benefits of the reconciliation conference agreement would flow to the 14 percent of households with incomes above \$100,000, and 55 percent of the benefits would go to the 3 percent with incomes above \$200,000. Households earning more than \$1 million a year, which represent only 0.2 percent of all households, would receive 22 percent of the benefits of these tax cuts.

In contrast, the three-quarters of households with incomes below \$75,000 would receive just 5 percent of the benefits. The 60 percent of households with incomes below \$50,000 would receive less than 2 percent of all benefits. Looked at in dollar terms, the differential treatment of various income groups is even more striking. The average tax cut for the 20 percent of households in the middle of the income spectrum would be just \$20. But the average tax cut for those in the top one percent of the income spectrum would be \$13,800. For those with incomes above \$1 million, the average tax cut would be \$43,000.

## Capital gains

The reconciliation agreement provides such large tax breaks to the highest income households

## Distribution of Major Reconciliation Tax Cuts (assuming they are fully in effect in 2006)

Income Class	Average Tax Cut
Middle 20 percent	\$20
Top 1 percent	\$14,800
Over \$1 million	\$43,000

Source: Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center

largely because of the capital gains and dividend tax cuts, which the Administration and Congressional leaders pushed hard to include in the bill. Nearly half (45 percent) of the benefit of extending these tax cuts would go to households with incomes of more than \$1 million, according to Tax Policy Center estimates. Supporters of these tax cuts like to claim that the benefits of these tax cuts are widespread, but they typically fail to acknowledge that, for less well-off households, the tax cut only amounts to a few dollars, reflecting the modest amount of taxable assets these taxpayers hold.

## IRA's to Roth IRA's

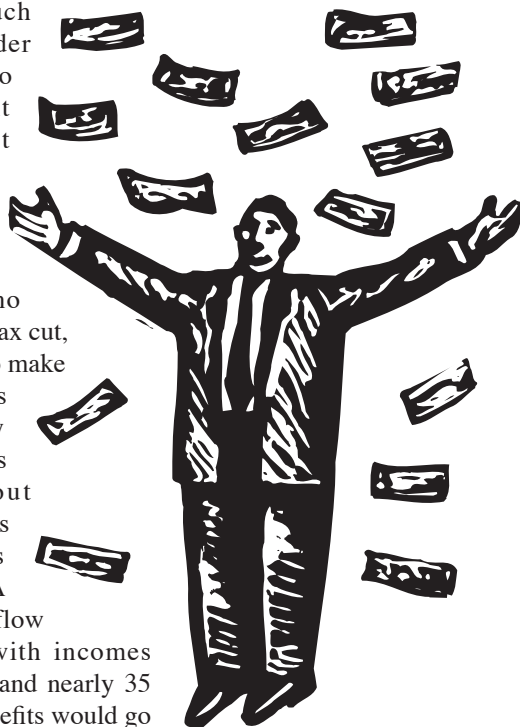
The benefits from lifting the income limits that apply to converting traditional IRAs to Roth IRAs are also sharply skewed to high-income households. Only households with income above \$100,000 are prohibited from making such conversions under current law, so lifting that limit would benefit only those households. Households with lower incomes would receive no benefit from this tax cut, as they are able to make such conversions now. Tax Policy Center estimates show that about three-quarters of the benefits of the Roth IRA proposal would flow to households with incomes above \$200,000, and nearly 35 percent of the benefits would go

to households with incomes of over \$1 million.

## Alternative minimum tax

The legislation's AMT relief would also flow primarily to households with incomes above \$100,000. However, unlike the benefits of the investment tax cuts and the Roth IRA proposal, the majority of which go to households with incomes above \$500,000, the benefits of AMT relief are concentrated on those households with incomes between \$100,000 and \$500,000, according to the Tax Policy Center. These households would receive about 80 percent of AMT relief. Those with higher incomes are less affected by the AMT, so receive fewer benefits from AMT relief.

Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities release 5/11/06 <<http://www.cbpp.org>> 820 First St, NE, Ste 510 Washington, DC 20002



# Part of the solution

Laurie Litman

We live in interesting and terrifying times. Most of us get our news from a media industry spouting Bush Administration talking points~weapons of mass destruction anyone? The opposition party rolls over and plays dead no matter how egregious the crimes: spying on our telephone/internet communication, wars for oil, torture, Katrina neglect. Deep corruption epitomizes our entire Republican government. Are you outraged yet?

If you are feeling frustrated and powerless, and perhaps cynical and paranoid as well, join the growing movement for truth, justice and the American way being organized through a number of progressive blogs. These are sophisticated (and often goofy) places where the news of the day is shared, examined, chewed up and filed for future reference by bloggers that include experts in every subject and a limitless collective memory.

Recently, firedoglake.com (FDL to its friends) and some other progressive blogs got together to initiate the Roots Project, volunteers in every state who are working to put pressure on our elected officials to "do the right thing."

Last month I joined a group of others to meet with aides from Senators Boxer and Feinstein's offices in San Francisco. After a lot of email discussion (and one conference call) we chose to focus on asking our Senators to prevent a war with Iran, the issue we all felt was the most pressing threat. The whole experience was invaluable in many ways. We hope we made some impact on our Senators and plan to follow through and try to establish relationships with these aides. We also learned a lot~it's a steep learning curve to figure out how this type of lobbying is done. As an added bonus, eight strangers got together because of our strong concern and found instant friendships~even though we had only met 15 minutes earlier, we were so completely on the same

page that our meetings seemed rehearsed. And this first one was the hardest~our next adventure in citizen participation will be even more effective.

The point of this story is that the communities growing around the blogs are where real change is happening. From national financial support for Ned Lamont who is challenging the DINO (democrat in name only) Joe Lieberman to the volunteers working to get out the vote for other progressive candidates, people are shaking off apathy and ignorance and organizing to take back the country from corrupt and negligent politicians, both Republican and Democrat.

Next month, YearlyKos, an annual bloggers conference, will be held in Las Vegas. The growing strength of the netroots is apparent in the speakers list, Senator Harry Reid will be the keynote, with Senator Boxer and Congresscritter Nancy Pelosi also attending. Former Ambassador Wilson will be there as well as most of the celebrity bloggers. And there will be lots of lurkers like me coming to see how we can help this growing movement succeed. For more information about YearlyKos and a full speakers list, go to <http://www.yearlykos.org>.

## Favorite blogs this month

<http://www.firedoglake.com>  
<http://mydd.com>  
<http://crooksandliars.com>  
<http://www.dailykos.com>  
<http://www.warandpiece.com>  
<http://www.thinkprogress.org>  
<http://www.talkingpointsmemo.com>  
<http://www.tpmuckraker.com>  
<http://www.talkleft.com>  
<http://thenexthurrah.typepad.com>  
<http://billmon.org/>  
<http://glenngreenwald.blogspot.com/>  
<http://www.bradblog.com>

## For breaking news:

<http://www.rawstory.com>  
<http://www.huffingtonpost.com>  
<http://www.commondreams.org>  
<http://www.truthout.org>



*Getting prices right*

## Raise gas taxes and lower income taxes



"Now that the \$100 tax rebate proposed by the Senate Republican leadership as a response to rising gasoline prices has been discarded, it is time to get serious. Any effective response to climbing gas prices must recognize a geological reality, namely that the earth's oil reserves are shrinking," says Lester Brown, President of the Earth Policy Institute. (See <http://www.earthpolicy.org/Updates/2006/Update54.htm>.)

The amount of oil pumped has exceeded new discoveries since 1980, and the gap is widening. In 2004, for example, the world pumped nearly 31 billion barrels of oil while discovering fewer than 8 billion barrels of new oil.

Instead of encouraging gasoline use with tax rebates or gas tax holidays, we need a practical and politically acceptable way to reduce use. We need a higher gas tax, but the only way to get an increase large enough to wean us from imported oil is to offset it with a reduction in the income tax.

The gas tax boost should be substantial enough to send a strong, clear signal to consumers, and it should be gradually phased in. A gasoline tax hike of 30¢ a gallon per year for the next 10 years would send the right signal. This eventual increase of \$3 per gallon would be offset at every step with a reduction in income taxes.

A \$3 per gallon tax on gasoline in addition to the existing federal tax of 18¢ sounds like a lot, and it is, but our economic future is at stake. Such taxes are not unheard of. Motorists in Germany pay a

tax of \$3.76 per gallon, French drivers pay \$3.46, and in the United Kingdom the figure is \$4 per gallon. Prices at the pump in these countries typically range between \$5 and \$6 a gallon.

A number of countries in Europe have been shifting taxes in this manner in recent years. Sweden, now the leader, is in the middle of a 10-year shift of \$1,100 per household from income taxes to energy taxes. This is an integral part of Sweden's plan to be oil-free by 2020.

A planned long-term rise in the price of gasoline would enable automobile owners and manufacturers to plan intelligently for an oil-short future. It would encourage motorists trading in older cars to look for more fuel-efficient vehicles, and it sends the right signals to manufacturers, enabling them to shift to more fuel-efficient vehicles over time.

The shift to gas-electric hybrid cars offers another option. If we add a second storage battery and a plug-in capacity to hybrids it will enable us to do our short-distance driving, almost entirely with electricity. Cars could be recharged at night when the demand for electricity is low.

If we build not merely hundreds of wind farms, but thousands of them, to feed cheap electricity into the grid, then we can do our short-distance driving with wind energy. The wind electricity equivalent of a gallon of gasoline costs roughly 50¢. Wind energy is inexpensive, inexhaustible, and it is ours.

Rising gas prices will also encourage investment in public

transportation, enabling us to match the convenience and reliability of systems in Western Europe and Japan. They will also facilitate creation of the increasingly popular bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly transport networks. Higher gas prices are already mobilizing billions of dollars of investment in the production of alternative fuels, such as corn-based ethanol.

There is also the pressing question of who gets the revenue from oil price increases. It is in the interest of oil-exporting countries to raise the price of oil as high as possible without causing a global economic recession or depression. If the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is allowed to continue raising the price of oil, and hence of gasoline, the increases will end up in OPEC treasuries.

If, however, we shift taxes, more of the additional money spent on gasoline will end up in our treasury, and individuals will benefit from lower income taxes. Higher U.S. gas taxes will also reduce the global demand for oil, making it more difficult to raise the price.

A world where oil use is climbing is totally unprepared for the peaking and subsequent decline of world oil production. Whether peak oil comes this year, next year, or ten years from now, we need to be ready for it. The adoption of a 10-year tax shift as outlined above would accelerate the shift to alternative energy sources, and help reestablish U.S. leadership in building a sustainable energy future.

Source: *Earth Policy Institute* 5/12/06 <<http://www.earthpolicy.org>



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

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

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

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

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

<http://www.wampum.wabanaki.net>

<http://www.thinkprogress.com>

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

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

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

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

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

Free Press <http://freepress.net>

<http://www.reclaimthemedias.org>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### We're on the web too!

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

<http://www.pjnsjc.org>

# Living with the earth

## Environmentalists: grow your own

If you don't have one already, there's no better time than the present to start your own vegetable garden, whether it's on your own land or in a local community plot. According to the latest data from the US Department of Agriculture, the level of home food production is at its lowest point in US history. With the average food traveling more than 1,500 miles from farm to fork, the environmental impact of big agribusiness foods is at an all time high. Concerned about global warming and peak oil? Consider the fact that it takes 400 calories of fossil fuels to transport a single 5 calorie strawberry from California to East Coast supermarkets. What's more, that flavorless non-organic strawberry was grown with methyl bromide, a carcinogenic and ozone depleting pesticide. In contrast, a perennial patch of strawberries in your yard grows back on its own every year, requires no fossil fuels and no pesticides, and tastes a whole lot better. The environmental benefits of growing some of your own food are staggering. The Organic Consumers Association is developing a new campaign to help turn every thumb into a Green thumb. Learn more: <http://www.organicconsumers.org/btc/subversive060419.cfm>

## Veggies bigger, less nutritious

Just because they are bigger than they used to be, doesn't mean they're as nutritious. According to data collected by the USDA, non-organic vegetables have fewer vitamins and minerals than they did 50 years ago. On an overall scale of all produce tested, protein has declined by six percent, iron has declined 15 percent, vitamin C has dropped 20 percent, and riboflavin has fallen by 38 percent. An analysis of the nutritional drops was published in the Journal of the American College of Nutrition and suggests the loss is due to the increased cultivation of crops that were bred for high growth and production and not for nutritional value. Learn more: <http://www.organicconsumers.org/politics/FEED060417.cfm>

## Green your lawn organically

Consumers are forcing the \$35 billion per year lawn & garden care industry to make space for organics. Stores like Lowe's, Sears and Home Depot, which traditionally have only sold synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, are selling record amounts of organic soils and fertilizers this Spring. A recent survey from the National Gardening Association found that, while only 5% of U.S. households now use all-organic methods in their yards, some 21% said they would likely do so in the future. Studies over the past three decades have linked common lawn and garden chemicals with cancer and kidney or liver damage, particularly in children and pets. "Initially, it may feel harder, but in the long term, it's easier," says Scott Meyer, editor of Organic Gardening magazine. He likens using chemicals to "putting your yard on steroids." Over time, he says, "it weakens the system." Learn more: <http://www.organicconsumers.org/ofgu/lawn060418.cfm>

## Methyl iodide use stalls

The EPA has responded to the flood of public comments opposing the registration of the carcinogenic pesticide methyl iodide, thanks to the tens of thousands of Organic Bytes readers who responded to our alert in the February 10th issue and to the work of ally organizations like the Pesticide Action Network. In January, the EPA had indicated it would allow farmers to apply up to 400 lbs. of the carcinogenic chemical to each acre. Unlike many other pesticides, methyl iodide vaporizes quickly, causing it to drift far distances. Although the state of California has categorized it as cancer causing, and the EPA admits it causes thyroid tumors, the chemical was on the verge of being given the green light by the EPA but was stopped by the barrage of letters from all of you. Learn more: [http://www.organicconsumers.org/2006/article\\_258.cfm](http://www.organicconsumers.org/2006/article_258.cfm)

## Nestlé's frankencoffee

The Nestlé Corporation, the

world's largest food manufacturer, has successfully secured a patent on genetically modified coffee. The company, with over \$65 billion in annual sales, claims their biotech coffee has a higher level of solubility in water, thereby increasing flavor and caffeine levels per cup. Nestle is also in the process of patenting genetically manipulated yogurt bacteria and genetically modified cocoa. Nestle promotes genetically engineered foods while claiming "the Fair Trade approach is not a solution." Learn more: <http://www.organicconsumers.org/ge/coffee060417.cfm>

## Corporate takeover of organic foods

- Kraft Foods bought small natural cereals producer Back to Nature in 2004. The company is a subsidiary of Altria Group, which also owns Phillip Morris Companies Inc., one of the largest cigarette makers in the world. Kraft also owns Boca Burger Inc.

- Odwalla Inc., which produces natural and organic fruit juices, was purchased by Coca-Cola in 2001.

- Dean Foods Co., the largest dairy company in the U.S., bought out Horizon Organic in 2003, in addition to Silk soymilk and White Wave tofu.

- Kellogg's has acquired several natural and organic brands: Kashi Cereal and Morningstar Farms.

- General Mills purchased Cascadian Farm, in 2000. The brand consists of items such as frozen fruit, vegetables, granola bars and fruit spreads. General Mills also bought out Muir Glen, which produces ketchup, tomato sauce, and salsa.

- Unilever bought out Ben & Jerry's for \$326 million.

- Colgate-Palmolive Co. is purchasing Tom's of Maine, which specializes in natural oral and personal care products.

Learn more: <http://www.organicconsumers.org/sos.cfm>

Source: Organic Bytes #80 4/28/06 Organic Consumers Association, 6771 South Silver Hill Dr, Finland, MN 55603 <http://www.organicconsumers.org/organicbytes.htm>

# Again, Pombo v. endangered species

While the rest of the country is celebrating Endangered Species Day May 11 at the bipartisan invitation of the U.S. Senate, Congressman Richard Pombo (R-CA) was busy sending out press releases attacking the Endangered Species Act, informing the world that "The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) concludes that the ESA is Not Performing (emphasis original). In fact, the OMB has never conducted a study of the Endangered Species Act and it did not conclude the Act is underperforming.

A quick look at the OMB report reveals that it was a study of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service performance measures and monitoring programs, not species' recovery rates. The OMB concluded that the agency does not have adequate performance measures or monitoring programs and thus its performance level can not be determined:



"While the program has a clear purpose, the program lacks long-term outcome and annual output-oriented performance measures to assess results. In the past, the program has reported annual performance measures that are more long-term in nature, such as species recovered. The program has not measured key aspects of the program, such as effectiveness of Habitat Conservation Plans." (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/expectmore/summary.10003713.2005.html>)

Ironically, Mr. Pombo is great proponent of so-called Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs). Had he bothered to read the study, perhaps he'd caution against the proliferation of HCPs without adequate monitoring. At any rate, the report is not about species recovery trends and it certainly did not conclude "that the ESA is not performing."

Source: Center for Biological Diversity release, 5/11/06 CBD, Tucson, AZ 85702 (520) 623-5252 x305

# GOP green group backs Pombo rival

Republicans for Environmental Protection has endorsed former Rep. Pete McCloskey (R-Calif.) for the GOP nomination in California's 11th Congressional District instead of the Republican incumbent, Rep. Richard Pombo. In a statement, the organization endorsed McCloskey, co-author of the 1973 Endangered Species Act, because he "has a distinguished record of working to safeguard the environment and supporting traditional Republican values." The organization did not support Pombo, who, according to the organization, has "worked to dismantle

landmark environmental laws." McCloskey served in Congress from December 1967 until January 1983 and unsuccessfully ran for the Republican nomination for president in 1972. He broke ranks to support Democratic Sen. John Kerry for president in 2004. Retired businessman Tom Benigno is also challenging Pombo in the Republican primary. Democrats Steve Filson and Jerry McNerney are battling to face the winner of the Republican primary.

Source: The Hill 3/28/06 release <http://img.thehill.com/cgi-bin/birdcast/birdcast.cgi>> The Newspaper for and about the U.S. Congress



# Of oil, fish and the water you drink

## Ending America's oil addiction

Soaring gas prices are pinching Americans' wallets while big oil companies rake in record profits. The president admitted that America is "addicted to oil," but his solutions fall far short of what's needed to protect consumers and break our longstanding dependence on oil. Meanwhile, our oil addiction saps the nation's economic strength, jeopardizes national security and spews global warming pollution.

We already have the technology to reduce our oil dependence, such as hybrid cars and sustainable biofuels; what we lack is a national commitment to oil savings. With leadership and ingenuity, entrepreneurs could turn technologies into thriving new businesses that would make America safer, cleaner and more prosperous. We could slash our oil dependence 40 percent by 2025 by simply squeezing energy waste out of our economy, producing home-grown biofuels and investing in oil-efficient rail transportation.

The Vehicle and Fuel Choices for American Security Act would do just that. This bipartisan legislation would cut our dependence on oil, help automakers produce more efficient vehicles and farmers grow renewable biofuels, and put us on a clean path to oil independence. The bill has strong support from defense experts, environmental organizations, labor groups and religious leaders. But until Congress turns its words into action and passes the bill, the many costs of our dangerous addiction to oil will continue to rise.

**ACTION:** Urge your senators and representative to co-sponsor and help pass the Vehicle and Fuel Choices for American Security Act (S. 2025/H.R. 4409). If you prefer to call, the Capitol switchboard number is 202-224-3121.



## Save the fish

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act is the primary law governing management of our nation's ocean fisheries. It was first enacted in 1976 to create a domestic fishing industry in U.S. waters, and important conservation measures were added in 1996 to ensure that our fishing industries would remain profitable for years to come. The law expired in 1999, however, and is expected to be reauthorized this year.

The nation's fisheries are vital components of our ocean ecosystems and are integral to national and coastal economies. In recent years, two national commissions—including one appointed by President Bush—have recommended strengthening the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Instead, however, a bill currently being considered by the House of Representatives would take us backwards in the conservation and management of these resources.

Rather than building on existing strengths of the current law, the proposed bill would weaken longstanding safeguards to our oceans and pose serious economic and environmental threats to coastal communities and industries that depend on healthy oceans. The bill also would limit public involvement and access to information about the way fisheries are governed.

**ACTION:** Urge your representative to oppose the deceptively named American Fisheries Management and Marine Life Enhancement Act (H.R. 5018), and instead promote an alternative that would maintain the long-term sustainability and profitability of the nation's fisheries.

## Don't poison our drinking water

On March 2nd, under enormous pressure from the White House, the Environmental Protection Agency quietly proposed a policy change that would have the effect of allowing tap water in small towns and rural areas to be contaminated with up to triple the level of toxic chemicals otherwise allowed under EPA standards. The policy would create a two-tiered drinking water system in America: safe drinking water for people who live in cities, while water for up to 50 million people in small-town, lower-income communities could be contaminated with chemicals that cause cancer and other diseases.

The EPA's own expert panel, which included health experts, economists, state and local officials and representatives from water utilities and consumer groups, proposed several ways to better fund and clean up toxic tap water in affected areas. But the EPA instead decided to make it easier for smaller water companies to avoid current standards and serve water contaminated with up to (or sometimes even more than) three times higher toxin levels than now allowed. The EPA is expected to make a decision by the end of May on whether to go forward with its proposal.

**ACTION:** Send a message to the EPA by May 31st, urging the agency to immediately withdraw and overhaul its dangerous drinking water proposal and to instead provide financial and technical assistance to help rural communities meet current clean drinking water standards. Write to: Administrator Stephen Johnson, U.S. EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460 Email: johnson.stephen@epa.gov

Source: NRDC's Earth Action: The Bulletin for Environmental Activists 5/3/06 <http://www.nrdc.org>



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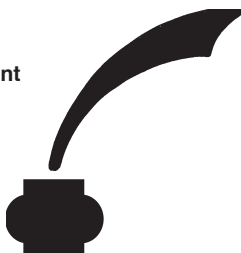
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Sen. Barbara Boxer, 1700 Montgomery St, Ste 240, San Francisco, CA 94111. 415-403-0100; 112 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510. 202-224-3553, senator@boxer.senate.gov

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Close Guantanamo now

President George W. Bush should shut the Guantanamo Bay detention facility now and not wait for a Supreme Court ruling, Human Rights Watch said early May. In an interview with the German public television station ARD, President Bush said for the first time that he would like to close the facility at Guantanamo. But Bush undercut his remarks by referring to a pending case in the U.S. Supreme Court, stating that the Supreme Court first had to decide whether the detainees there should be brought before civilian courts or military commissions.

"There is no reason for the Bush administration to wait for a court decision before closing Guantanamo," said Joanne Mariner, Terrorism and Counterterrorism Program director at Human Rights Watch. "Any detainees implicated in criminal acts can and should be charged now. The rest should be released."

In Hamdan v. Rumsfeld, a case currently before the Supreme Court, the justices will be ruling upon the legality of the military commissions established by the Bush administration to try so-called enemy combatants held at Guantanamo. A ruling in the case is expected in June. But Human Rights Watch said the administration can and should remedy Guantanamo's problems before the court's decision in Hamdan.

President Bush's statements on German television were important in several respects. First, they were an implicit acknowledgment that Guantanamo has been a failure. Second, and equally important, they were the first time that Bush has recognized that the detainees should face trial, rather than be held in indefinite detention. In acknowledging that Guantanamo should be closed, Bush belatedly joins a host of other world leaders, including some of his closest allies. Others who have called for Guantanamo's closure include British Prime Minister Tony Blair, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

**"There is no reason for the Bush administration to wait for a court decision before closing Guantanamo. Any detainees implicated in criminal acts can and should be charged now. The rest should be released."**

Among the problems that led to Guantanamo's notorious international reputation was the physical abuse of detainees. At least 60 detainees have made credible allegations of serious abuse at Guantanamo, as documented in a recent joint report by several human rights groups, including Human Rights Watch. (see: <http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2006/04/26/usint13268.htm>)

One detainee, Mohammed al-Qahtani, was reportedly subjected to weeks of sleep deprivation, isolation and sexual humiliation in late 2002 and early 2003. Human Rights Watch has obtained an unredacted copy of al-Qahtani's interrogation log, and believes that the techniques used during al-Qahtani's interrogation were so abusive that they amounted to torture. Another detainee, Mohamedou Slahi, has made similar allegations about interrogation abuse.

The coercive interrogation techniques practiced at Guantanamo severely complicate the possibility of future trials. When a confession is coerced from a criminal suspect, it can be difficult to prove, as due process requires, that his later prosecution is not based on the fruits of that coercion. "The coercive methods used at Guantanamo have not only been abusive, but also counterproductive in terms of putting the detainees on trial," Mariner said.

Although Bush's remarks suggest that the Guantanamo detainees should end up in court,

the administration has indicated to date that only a fraction of the detainees will be prosecuted. Only 10 of the 480 detainees now held at Guantanamo have been charged before military commissions. The chief prosecutor, Air Force Col. Morris Davis, said two weeks ago that charges were expected soon against about two dozen others. Administration officials have said in the past that they expect up to 70 to 80 detainees to be charged.

Hundreds more detainees are apparently not slated for prosecution. Instead, they are being held because they allegedly engaged in hostilities or were allegedly connected to groups like the Taliban or al-Qaeda. Human Rights Watch is also concerned that some detainees face return to countries where they may face torture or other abuse. At present, there is no meaningful mechanism to allow detainees to challenge their possible return to a country where they would be subject to mistreatment. Guantanamo currently holds almost 500 detainees, including large numbers from Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Afghanistan. The United States is also believed to be holding three dozen or more detainees in long-term incommunicado detention at undisclosed detention facilities outside the United States, in violation of international legal prohibitions against enforced disappearances.

Source: Human Rights Watch release, 5/9/06 [www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)



# Mideast experts against military option in Iran

Sari Gelzer

On May 9th, 200 American Middle East experts sent a letter to the White House warning President Bush against threatening US military action against Iran. "We started the letter out of a sense of frustration that the experts in the field were not being consulted as the US develops policy toward Iran," explained Professor Ahmad Sadri, the coordinator of the project. "This is the same mistake the US government made before going to Iraq. We're saying don't do that again."

This group of scholars, academics, commentators, and former US government officials called on the Bush administration to enter into face-to-face negotiations with the government in Tehran.

"As the International Atomic Energy Agency has found no evidence of research or diversion of materials toward atomic weapons in Iran, concerns about future dual use of nuclear technology ought to be addressed in face to face negotiations," said the letter.

Their letter arrived one day after Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had written to George W. Bush proposing "new solutions" <[http://www.truthout.org/docs\\_2006/051006A.shtml#1](http://www.truthout.org/docs_2006/051006A.shtml#1)> to their differences. This letter was the first written communication between the leadership of Iran and the leadership of the United States since the Iranian Revolution of 1979.

Bush's response <<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/05/11/world/middleeast/11prexy.html>> was to direct all diplomacy efforts toward the United Nations Security Council, which is currently drafting a resolution to present to Iran.

The UN Security Council meeting in New York this week did not come to a conclusion on a resolution. The US, along with the British and French, is encouraging a resolution that would make it

mandatory for Iran to suspend its uranium enrichment activities. Russia and China oppose this approach that could provoke Iran to abandon cooperation with international nuclear inspections, the New York Times reported.

Ahmadinejad says that Iran's nuclear program is only for the generation of electricity, and he believes that it is Iran's right to have access to this for purposes of technological advancement. He further stated that he will reject any security council decision that would restrict the country's nuclear activities.

In a press conference on Wednesday following the delivery of the letter from Middle East experts to the president, Professor Sadri, one of the coordinators of the letter, stated: "We don't intend to apologize for lapses of democratic structures or of the abuses of human rights in Iran. But we do contend that none of those problems will improve by coercive diplomacy or military attacks. We warn that threats of invasion and draconian ultimatums will serve the interests of the Iranian right wing that has wrapped itself in the national flag." The press conference was held by the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), a non-partisan Quaker lobby in the public interest that has worked for more than 60 years to support peaceful alternatives to war and for nuclear disarmament.

On May 18th, Cindy Sheehan will deliver a separate petition to the White House opposing an attack on Iran. The petition, which can be found at [www.dontattackiran.org](http://www.dontattackiran.org), has already been signed by over 40,000 people and is supported by a broad coalition of organizations including Gold Star Families for Peace, CODE PINK, Progressive Democrats of America, the Campu Anti-War Network, and United For Peace and Justice.

Source: *truthout* | Report 5/12/06 <[http://www.truthout.org/docs\\_2006/051106K.shtml](http://www.truthout.org/docs_2006/051106K.shtml)>

# Bad blood for oil: the US-Iran background

David J. Dionisi

Middle East terrorism against the United States in many respects begins in 1979, and was a response to the first U.S. overthrow of a foreign government by the Central Intelligence Agency in 1953. Government officials such as Madeline Albright have acknowledged this once highly classified historical event. The CIA's detailed plan is now known to the public. The operation was documented in 1954 by one of the coup's chief planners, Dr. Donald N. Wilber. The document details how United States and British officials plotted the military coup that toppled Iran's elected prime minister.

The planning for the coup began in 1952 when the United States and Britain feared Iran's plans to nationalize its oil industry. Both the Central Intelligence Agency and the Secret Intelligence Service (more commonly known as MI6, or the arm of British intelligence that conducts espionage overseas) selected retired General Fazlollah Zahedi to replace Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadegh. In early August 1953, Iranians working for the Central Intelligence Agency and posing as communists harassed religious leaders in a campaign to turn the country's Islamic religious community against Mossadegh's government. Shah Mohammed Riza Pahlevi feared overt involvement and he refused to sign the CIA-drafted royal decrees to dismiss Mossadegh and empower General Zahedi. The Central

Intelligence Agency arranged for the shah's twin sister, Princess Ashraf Pahlevi, and General H. Norman Schwarzkopf (the father of Norman Schwarzkopf, Jr. who led the United States forces in the 1991 Gulf War) to influence the Shah to sign the decrees. On August 13, 1953, the Shah did sign.

CIA efforts to topple Mossadegh became serious earlier in 1953. Allen Dulles, the director of the CIA, approved one million dollars on April 4, 1953 to be used "in any way that would bring about the fall of Mossadegh." The coup started on August 15, 1953. The coup was prematurely revealed a few hours before it started and General Taghi Riahi, Mossadegh's chief of staff, was informed of the plot. General Taghi Riahi immediately notified the pro-Mossadegh forces. The pro-Shah soldiers sent to Mossadegh's home, having lost the advantage of surprise, were captured. The following morning Iranians learned on the radio that a coup against the government had failed.

The Shah fled the country and went to Baghdad and later to Rome. On August 17, 1953, the C.I.A. organized a "council of war" with General Zahedi, Iranian CIA operatives, and Iranian army officers at the U.S. embassy. The people at this meeting decided to enlist a leading cleric from Tehran to call for a holy war against communism. These same religious people the CIA attempted to manipulate would years later declare the United States "the Great Satan." The secret meeting at the U.S.

embassy concluded with an agreement that another coup would begin in two days. On August 19, 1953, General Zahedi succeeded and Mossadegh was overthrown. The CIA covertly funneled five million dollars to General Zahedi's regime on August 21, 1953.

While the 1953 coup was classified and kept unknown in the United States, the operation was, and is commonly known by Iranians. In 1979, 80 Iranian students took over the United States embassy, fearing that the events of 1953 were going to be repeated. The students specifically feared that the United States would restore the Shah. Had the United States not illegally intervened in the affairs of Iran in 1953, the students would not have kidnapped U.S. embassy personnel in 1979.

*Reprinted with permission from David Dionisi's new book American Hiroshima. References and much more info at his website: [www.americanhiroshima.info](http://www.americanhiroshima.info).*

*Dionisi "writes from the perspective of a military intelligence officer, senior executive and international volunteer. He promotes an alternate and brighter future that prevents wars and establishes the United States as a 21st century instrument for peace." His work was instrumental in founding Anti-War San Joaquin, which is a member of the Peace and Justice Network. For more info on Anti-War San Joaquin, call Jim Walsh at 209-981-0544, or go to <http://lists.riseup.net/www/info/antiwarsjc>.*



# Bush becomes Big Brother

Robert Parry

Given George W. Bush's history of outright lying, especially on national security matters, it may seem silly to dissect his words about the new disclosure that his administration has collected phone records of some 200 million Americans. But Bush made two parse-able points in reacting to *USA Today's* story about the National Security Agency building a vast database of domestic phone calls. "We're not mining or trolling through the personal lives of millions of innocent Americans," Bush said, adding "the privacy of ordinary Americans is fiercely protected in all our activities."

In his brief remarks, however, Bush didn't define what he meant by "ordinary Americans" nor whether the data-mining might cover, say, thousands or even hundreds of thousands of people, just not "millions." For instance, would a journalist covering national security be regarded as an "ordinary American"? What about a political opponent or an anti-war activist who has criticized administration policies in the Middle East? Such "unordinary" people might number in the tens of thousands, but perhaps not into the millions. Also, isn't it reasonable to suspect that the Bush administration would be tempted to tap into its huge database to, say, check on who might have been calling reporters at the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *New Yorker*—or now *USA Today*—where significant national security stories have been published?

Or during Campaign 2004, wouldn't the White House political apparatchiks

have been eager to know whether, say, Sen. John Kerry had been in touch with foreign officials who might have confided that they were worried about Bush gaining a second term?

Or what about calls to and from special prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald while he investigates a White House leak of the identity of Valerie Plame, the CIA officer married to former Ambassador Joseph Wilson, an Iraq War critic?

What if one of these "unordinary" Americans had placed a lot of calls to an illicit lover or a psychiatrist? Wouldn't Bush's aggressive political operatives know just how to make the most of such information?

## Paranoia?

While such concerns might seem paranoid to some observers, Bush has blurred his political fortunes with the national interest before, such as his authorization to Vice President Dick Cheney's staff in mid-2003 to put out classified material on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction to undercut Ambassador Wilson.

Though Plame was an undercover CIA officer working on sensitive WMD investigations, her classified identity was bandied about—and ultimately disclosed—by the likes of White House political adviser Karl Rove, who had no real "need to know" a discrete intelligence secret that sensitive.

In a court filing on April 5, 2006, Fitzgerald said his investigation uncovered government documents that "could be characterized as reflecting a plan to discredit, punish, or seek revenge against Mr.

Wilson" because of his criticism of the administration's handling of the evidence on Iraq's alleged pursuit of enriched uranium in Africa.

There are also historical reasons to suspect that the administration might be inclined to use its huge database against its critics. Some senior administration officials, such as Cheney, held key government jobs in the 1970s when one of the goals of spying on Americans was to ferret out suspected links between U.S. dissidents and foreign powers.

It had become an article of faith for some government officials that the civil rights movement and the anti-Vietnam War protests must have been orchestrated and financed by some international enemy of the United States. Some of the excesses in those investigations, such as the bugging of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and break-ins targeting Pentagon Papers leaker Daniel Ellsberg, led to new laws in the 1970s limiting the power of the Executive. For instance, in 1978, Congress enacted the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, which tried to balance the government's legitimate interest in tracking foreign agents and the citizens' constitutional right of protection against unreasonable searches. However, after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, Bush asserted "plenary" - or unlimited - powers as Commander in Chief and brushed aside legal requirements that the government obtain a warrant through a special FISA court before eavesdropping on phone calls inside the United States.

## Cover-up

After making that decision, Bush lied to conceal what he had done. On April 20, 2004, he told a crowd in Buffalo, N.Y., that warrants were still required for all wiretaps. "By the way, any time you hear the United States government talking about wiretap, it requires—a wiretap requires a court order," Bush said. "Nothing has changed, by the way. When we're talking about chasing down terrorists, we're talking about getting a court order before we do so."

A government decision to electronically warehouse the trillions of phone numbers called by its citizens over their lifetimes is the essence of George Orwell's Big Brother nightmare.

After the *New York Times* disclosed the warrantless wiretapping program in December 2005, Bush continued to misrepresent the program, calling it "limited" to "taking known al-Qaeda numbers—numbers from known al-Qaeda people - and just trying to find out why the phone calls are being made." In his folksy style, he told an audience in Louisville, Kentucky, on Jan. 11, 2006, that "it seems like to me that if somebody is talking to al-Qaeda, we want to know why." But the program that Bush described could easily have been accomplished through warrants under the FISA law, which lets the government wiretap for 72 hours before going to a secret court for a warrant.

Even before the *USA Today* disclosure on May 11, 2006, it was clear that Bush's spying program was much larger than he had let on. Indeed, the operation was reportedly big enough to generate thousands of tips each month, which were passed on to the FBI. "But virtually all of [the tips], current and former officials say, led to dead ends or innocent Americans," the *New York Times* reported. "FBI officials repeatedly complained to the spy agency that the unfiltered information was swamping investigators. Some FBI officials and prosecutors also thought the checks, which sometimes involved interviews by agents, were pointless intrusions on Americans' privacy." [*NYT*, Jan. 17, 2006]

Also undermining Bush's claims about the limited nature of the NSA's activities is why the administration would need to possess the complete phone records of the 200 million customers of AT&T, Verizon and BellSouth—if the government

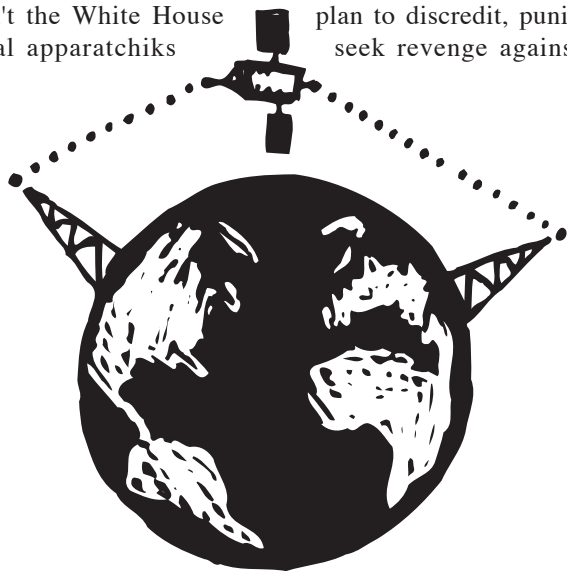
were only conducting what Bush and his aides have called a "targeted terrorist surveillance program." (Qwest, a Colorado-based company with about 14 million customers, refused to turn over its records to the government because there was no court order, *USA Today* reported.)

The stated goal of tracking phone numbers that had been called by al-Qaeda operatives could be easily done with warrants from the FISA court. There would be no need to compile every personal and business call made by 200 million Americans. "It's the largest database ever assembled in the world," one person told *USA Today*. The program's goal is "to create a database of every call ever made" within the nation's borders, the person said. [*USA Today*, May 11, 2006]

In describing Bush's policies over the past several years, the word "Orwellian" has sometimes been overused. But a government decision to electronically warehouse the trillions of phone numbers called by its citizens over their lifetimes is the essence of George Orwell's Big Brother nightmare.

Robert Parry broke many of the Iran-Contra stories in the 1980s for the *Associated Press* and *Newsweek*. His latest book, *Secrecy & Privilege: Rise of the Bush Dynasty from Watergate to Iraq, can be ordered at [secrecyandprivilege.com](http://secrecyandprivilege.com) <<http://secrecyandprivilege.com>>. It's also available at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) <<http://Amazon.com>>, as is his 1999 book, *Lost History: Contras, Cocaine, the Press & 'Project Truth.'**

Source: Consortium News, 5/12/06  
<http://www.consortiumnews.com/2006/051106.html>>





# No blank check for domestic spying

*USA Today* reported on May 11 that the National Security Agency has a database of phone calls made by 200,000,000 people. This article is just the latest in a number of troubling national news stories suggesting the Bush administration has a massive domestic spying program that reaches into the private lives of millions of people living in the United States. Each week brings new information that the president, without authorization from Congress, has authorized the National Security Agency to monitor telephone calls, and collect information on emails and faxes.

To date, Congress has been unwilling to even publicly investigate the domestic spying program. The president asserts that the legislation authorizing the invasion of Iraq and the Constitution provide legal authority for the domestic spying program. Now, the Senate is considering two pieces of legislation (S. 2455 and S. 2453) that would essentially rubber stamp the president's warrantless spying program by affirming and expanding the authority the president has already asserted, although most members of Congress do not even know the scope of the spying program to date.

Privacy is an important value. Invasions of privacy by the government create the condition for external controls and interferences in individuals' lives. Creating a structure for the surveillance of an entire civilian population is a dangerous step in a democratic society.

## A little background

In 2001, shortly after the September 11 attacks, President George W. Bush authorized the NSA to eavesdrop on telephone calls and internet communications within the U.S. According to the president's order, warrants would not be required. Four years later, in December 2005, the president publicly acknowledged and defended this order.

Responding in a televised message to the May 11 story in *USA Today*, the president

In a general atmosphere  
of secrecy and denial,  
Congress has not had enough  
information to be able to  
advance privacy protections for  
ordinary people in the U.S.

asserted that the NSA surveillance program is narrowly focused on preventing terrorist acts, that the NSA only intercepts calls between known or suspected members of Al Qaeda and persons within the U.S., and that no wiretaps are undertaken without the approval of a court.

How does the NSA identify these "targeted" calls between Al Qaeda and someone in the U.S.? Using a program known as "data mining," the agency electronically sifts through vast amounts of data, looking for patterns that suggest connections to Al Qaeda. The vast amounts of data, according to the story in *USA Today*, come from three of the four major telephone companies, AT&T, Bell South, and Verizon. For the past five years, these companies have turned over to the NSA their calling records on their 200 million customers. These calling records identify connections between phone numbers; the agency would have to link up with other data bases to identify the name, address, and other information about the callers at either end of a connection.

How does this warrantless data-gathering fit within U.S. legal protections of privacy? The Fourth Amendment asserts the "right of the people to be secure in their houses, papers, and effects." In 1978, Congress enacted legislation directed at controlling warrantless wiretaps. It adopted the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) to protect the privacy of persons in the U.S. after a congressional investigation showed that the NSA had been

undertaking warrantless wiretaps for more than 20 years.

FISA requires a warrant based on a showing of probable cause to believe that the potential subject of a wiretap in the U.S. is a foreign agent or is engaged in international "terrorism." FISA set up a special court to review warrant applications and provides emergency exceptions when an agency must act without a warrant for a limited period of time.

In contrast, the president asserts that, in his constitutional role as the Commander in Chief of the armed forces, he can legally authorize warrantless wiretapping of U.S. persons. In addition, he points to the Authorization of the Use of Military Force which Congress approved in 2001 to empower the president to pursue members of Al Qaeda. The president also cites his obligation to use all legal means to protect the people of this country from further terror attacks.

Congress has done little to oversee the operation of the NSA spying program. Until very recently, even the intelligence committees in the House and Senate had little information about NSA operations. Upon the insistence of some members of the Judiciary and Intelligence committees, a few representatives and senators are now learning more of the details of the program. In a general atmosphere of secrecy and denial, Congress has not had enough information to be able to

advance privacy protections for ordinary people in the U.S.

## Oppose Senate bills

Even so, the Senate Judiciary Committee is now considering two bills that would affirm and expand the surveillance authority that the president has asserted. FCNL opposes both of the Senate bills.

- S. 2455, the Terrorist Surveillance Act of 2006, introduced by Senator DeWine (OH) would legitimize the president's warrantless surveillance program by allowing the NSA to eavesdrop on U.S. persons for 45 days with no oversight, and then continue the surveillance after only a minimal recitation of the need for the surveillance to selected members of Congress.

- S. 2453, the National Security Surveillance Act of 2006, introduced by Senator Specter (PA) would expand on the president's current program to allow surveillance of calls between two people in the United States who are not connected in any way to terrorism. The bill allows for the approval of whole programs (not just individual warrants) -- such as the data mining program -- for renewable periods of 45 days.

## and support a House bill

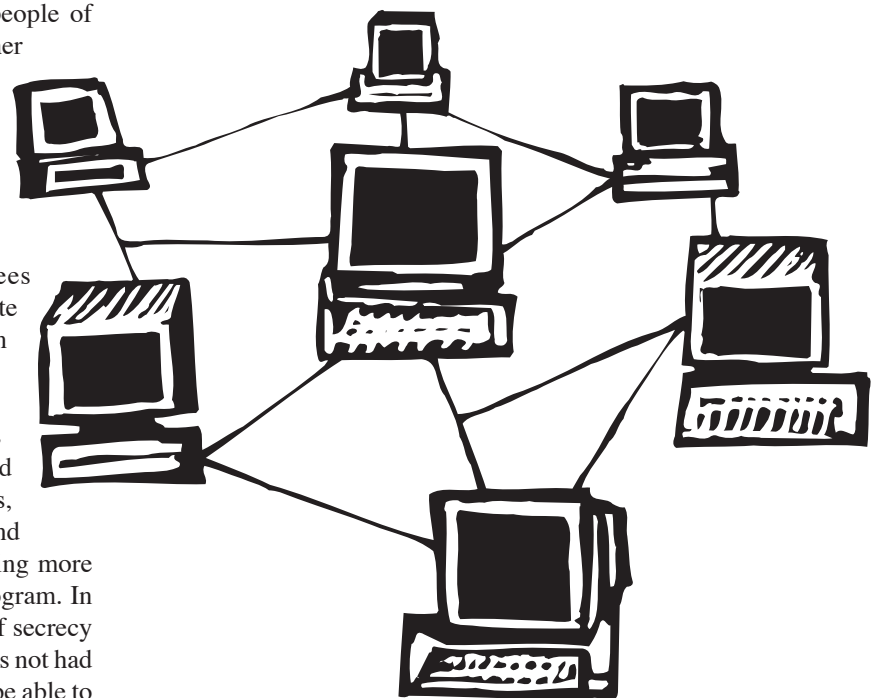
FCNL supports a House bill, H.R. 4976 introduced by Representatives Schiff (CA-29) and Flake (AZ-6), which would affirm current law and require the president and the NSA to seek warrants under FISA for domestic wiretapping. For more information read the action alert.

**ACTION:** 1) Urge your senators not to legislate new surveillance powers outside of the oversight of the courts and Congress. Ask your senators to oppose the Terrorist Surveillance Act (S. 2455) and the National Security Surveillance Act (S. 2453) and to call for a full, public investigation of the NSA surveillance program.

2) Please also urge your representative to cosponsor H.R. 4976 which will affirm current law and require the president and the NSA to seek warrants under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) for domestic wiretapping.

Several national groups are joining in a nationwide grassroots response during the week of May 15 to 19. So your actions this week will be echoed by the messages of many others.

Source: FCNL Legislative Action Message 5/11/06, Friends Committee on National Legislation, 245 Second St. NE, Washington, DC 20002-5795 <http://www.fcnl.org>



# 2006 Peacemaker celebration honors Paula LeVeck

**Location: Mediation Center of San Joaquin County, 829 Rose Marie Lane, Suite D**  
**May 19, 5:30 pm–8:00 pm**  
**FREE, 474-8794;**  
**<http://www.MediatorsRus.org>**

The public is invited to join the Mediation Center of San Joaquin County for appetizers, wine and dessert in rejoicing the 11th annual Peacemaker Celebration, sponsored by the Port of Stockton. The event will be held at their facilities on 829 Rose Marie Lane in Stockton from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM. The Peacemaker Celebration honors individuals whose efforts help build a peaceful community. Honorees were nominated by community members, and voted on by the Center's board.

This year's honorees include Dr. Paula LeVeck, creator of Wellness WORKs!, and retired professor from California State University Stanislaus, will also be honored for her peacemaker

contributions. Wellness Works! is a one to three week program of holistically based wellness topics and activities designed specifically for the Cal WORKs population in San Joaquin County. With a BS and MS degree in nursing and PhD in Medical Anthropology, Dr. LeVeck has consulted with nurses at all of the four major hospitals in the county covering topics such as: cultural diversity in nursing and health care, conflict resolution, stress management, and individual and group psychotherapy. In addition,

as a long-time supporter, Paula has served as chair of the Peace & Justice Network.

Joshua Andal, a sixth grader at John R. Williams Elementary School in Stockton. As a peacemaker activist on his school campus, Joshua volunteered as a conflict manager during his fourth and fifth grade years. His role as a conflict manager involved observing playground activities of kindergartners through third graders.

Bob Margaron, minister for the Penial Center will also be a honored for his peacemaker work. Located in one of Stockton's toughest neighborhoods, Bob provides a safe and nurturing environment for the neighborhood children.

Mary Claire Attebery, founder and instructor of Beyond Please and Thank You, a program that shares practical advice and teaches useful skills to tots, kids, teen, and adults, will also be honored for her peacemaker labors. Through her program, Mary promotes peace through the teachings of how to treat others with mannerly respect, regardless of their differences.

Each honoree will be given the opportunity to say a few words about their peace work, and will be honored with an award from the Center, presented to them by Kristen Rinaker, CEO of the Mediation Center.



## *Tuolumne County Citizens for Peace/Modesto Peace Life*

# Come enjoy 24th annual Peace Camp

**June 23 - 25**  
**Camp Peaceful Pines**  
**near Pinecrest, California**

Peace Camp offers time away from the rush of daily life. If you never attended camp as a child, here is your chance to share the experience with your whole family. You are invited to begin your day with Sunrise Yoga, participate in workshops, go on a hike, share delicious food, and enjoy the serenity of a natural setting. im Nonn, director and founder of Dear Sudan, will lead a workshop on the humanitarian crisis and genocide in Sudan and will share how he worked with others in his community to start an organization to respond compassionately to the situation and to advocate for justice. Tim Smart will take us on a celestial star walk.

We look forward to re-connecting with former participants, whether regular or returning, and all newcomers. You will enjoy this peaceful weekend in nature's own peaceful setting with a group of people dedicated to peaceful ways. Peace Camp is organized by the Modesto Peace/Life Center in collaboration with Tuolumne County Citizens for Peace (TCCP).

### **About Camp Peaceful Pines**

Resting in 40 acres at the 6,200 foot elevation in the Stanislaus

National Forest on the Clark Fork of the Stanislaus River, Camp Peaceful Pines is located about 25 miles above Pinecrest off the Sonora Pass Road. Travel time from Modesto is 2 to 3 hours. The camp features:

- modern kitchen and bathing facilities.
- rustic cabins and platform tents (unheated).
- cabin for those with special needs.

Camp registration includes six meals, snacks, sleeping space, insurance and leadership costs. Partial financial aid, youth work/scholarships, and day rates also available. Camp is limited to 150 people. To keep costs low, campers share in meal preparation, general camp cleanup, program administration, and other work. Campers must provide their own bedding. A medical person will be on duty.

The camp officially opens with supper on Friday, June 23rd. Campers are welcome to arrive any time after 2:00 p.m. on Friday to enjoy unscheduled free time. Camp will close following lunch and cleanup on Sunday, June 25th. No pets, firearms, or firecrackers are permitted, nor are smoking, alcohol or other drugs. Directions to the camp and camp schedule will be mailed to participants shortly before camp. Register by 6/11/06 Adult \$60, under 18 \$40, family \$190 maximum. For more info, call Katy Wheeler, (209) 532-4918 or Richard Harvey, (209) 571-3384.



## *June 10 & 17 in Sonora*

# Creating a culture of peace workshops

Peaceful Relationships—we all seek them ...Yet, conflict is a natural and inevitable part of everyday life. Destructive conflict can start with disappointments, irritations, and frustrations. Unresolved conflict is one of the roots of violence. It is possible to learn new ways of handling differences. Alternatives to Violence Project workshops are for everyone seeking harmony in their work, family, and community relationships.

A basic level workshop will be held on Saturday, June 10th & 17th, 2006, from 9am–8pm at

Unity Church in the Mother Lode, 226 W. Stockton Road; Sonora, CA, sponsored by Friends in Delta Meeting (Quakers), Unity Church in the Mother Lode, and Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Tuolumne County (UUFTC).

Fees run from \$40–\$100 depending on your ability to pay, and includes materials, training, coffee breaks, and light supper. Please bring a bag lunch. Scholarships are available. For more information, call: 209.533.8883 or 209.928.5999 and visit [www.avpcalifornia.org](http://www.avpcalifornia.org) or [www.avpusa.org](http://www.avpusa.org).

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# June Calendar

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

## Thru May 25

Juried Student Exhibitions and Arts Awards Competition, SJ Delta College LH Horton Gallery Tue 11-4, Wed/Thu 11-6:30, F 11-1 954-5507

## Thru June 3

Arturo Vera photographer. M-F 10-5, Sat 11-3 Tidewater Gallery, 223 E. Weber Ave, Stockton. 463-4033

## May 15 - June 19

Basic Knitting with local artist Peig Fairbrook, Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton 467-4455 (see page 20).

## June 5 - July 1

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

## Mon, May 19

2006 Peacemaker Celebration, honoring Paula LeVeck, among others. 5:30 - 8 pm, 829 Rose Marie Lane, Ste D, Stockton. Free admission. Come congratulate the honorees. 474-8794 (see page 18).

## Thurs, May 25

Dr. Yi-Po Anthony Wu from Pacific Complementary Medicine Center will discuss "The Concept and Practice Of Complementary/Integrative Medicine" at 6:30-8:00 pm at the Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Road. Please RSVP 209-467-4455 (see box page 2).

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

Senior Awareness Day 2006 "Jazz it

Up" Micke Grove Park 8 am-1 pm.

## May 25-June 11

Stockton Civic Theatre presents Kiss Me Kate, musical version of Shakespeare's Taming of the Shrew. Thurs 7:30 pm, Fri/Sat 8 pm, Sun 2:30 pm. 2312 Rose Marie Lane, Stockton. \$20 adult, \$18 senior, \$15 student, \$8 child. 473-2424.

## May 30 - June 3

Arts at the Weber Institute exhibition at the Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton 10 am - 5 pm, reception June 3, from 6 - 8 pm (see page 20).

## Thur, June 1

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

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

## Sun, June 4

Central Valley Youth Symphony spring concert, 3 pm, Spanos Concert Hall, UOP \$6, under 18 free. 946-2116

## Thur, June 8

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

## Sun, June 11

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

Sundays.

## Thur, June 15

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

## Fri-Sat, June 16-17

Non-violence training in the Franciscan tradition, Friday eve & all day Saturday. Trainers Paula LeVeck, Adrian Nickols and John Morearty. \$25 deposit by June 9. 464-3326 (see page 18).

## Weekly

### Tuesdays

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

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

### Saturdays

Birding Field Trips with S.J. Audubon Society. [sanjoaquinaudubon.org](http://sanjoaquinaudubon.org)

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

### Sundays

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

### Monthly

#### First & Third Fridays

Poetry, 8:30-10:30 pm Latte Lounge, 235 E Miner Ave. 466-6224.

#### Second Monday

PFLAG meeting 209-870-3339.

#### Second Tues

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

#### Second Thurs

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

#### Second Sunday

San Joaquin Vegans monthly potluck, for health, ethics, and the environment (see details June 11). For more information on SJ Vegans or to receive email announcements about other veg events in the area, contact Bobbie at [sjvegans@aol.com](mailto:sjvegans@aol.com).

#### Third Monday

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

#### Third Thur

Hispanics for Political Action meeting, 6:30-8:30 pm. Cancun Restaurant, Weber St, Stockton

## Nonviolence Training

# In relationships, for social change

The team of Paula LeVeck, Adrian Nickols and John Morearty will lead a nonviolence training in the Franciscan tradition in Stockton Friday evening June 16 plus all day Saturday June 17. High participation, twelve people maximum, full-time attendance required. Light breakfast and lunch included. \$25 deposit by Friday June 9. For more info, call John Morearty, 464-3326 or 462-3340.

# Clan Dyken plays West Point

The Blue Mountain Play House will host a concert May 27 at 8pm by Calaveras' own Clan Dyken as a benefit for their annual Spring Corn Planting trip to Sand Springs, Navajo reservation. The Dykens have been supporting the Big Mountain/Black Mesa Dineh (Navajo) and traditional Hopi for going on 20 years. Spring Corn Planting is an important time in Dineh culture. The pollen is used for blessings in many ceremonies and the corn is a staple of the traditional diet of both tribes. The idea is to support the local community by encouraging the production of local produce. And if there is any surplus, we buy it and include it in our Thanksgiving food baskets which are distributed to the people resisting the relocation.

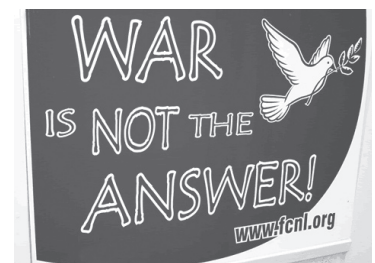
## Lawn signs, peace pins, mugs, and T-shirts



**NEW!!! Beautiful PJN mugs.**

"War is NOT the answer" lawn signs come from the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). We are requesting a \$5 donation to cover costs

(sorry, we can't ship lawn signs). We also have elegant pins made of pewter in the shape of the peace symbol for \$10. Also, handsome PJN T-shirts in many colors, and more. Come by the P&J Center to see these items, plus buttons and bumperstickers galore, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton CA 95204. Call 467-4455.



## 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

## Summer French Film Series

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Knitting with Peig

Peig Fairbrook will teach a knitting workshop at the P&J Center beginning Monday, May 15th, at 3:30 pm. Classes will be 1.5 hours in length for 6 weeks. The entire workshop is \$50 per person. Mothers and daughters might wish to join together for this fun class! Or fathers and sons. A minimum of 6 people is required.

Please call the Peace & Justice Center at 467-4455 for information and registration. To view Peig's work, visit her website at <http://www.peig.net>.

## At the Center

## The Arts at Weber

**Location: Peace and Justice Center, 231 Bedford Road-off Pacific Avenue (Miracle Mile), Stockton**

**467-4455**

**Hours: Tuesday thru Saturday: 10am—5pm**

**Reception: Saturday, June 3rd, 2006: 6:00pm—8:00pm**

"The Arts at Weber" is an exhibition where students and staff from Weber Institute will be exhibiting their art work from May 30th thru June 3rd, 2006 at the Peace & Justice Center. Students involved are:

1. Robert Zaragoza
2. Sven Jacobson
3. Renee Buzo
4. Samantha Ollis
5. Sheena Saguindel
6. Meraldine Aurelio
7. Adreanna Rodriguez

Staff involved are Diane Arguijo, Tom Hermansen, Julia Khade, and Luz Lua-Foster. This exhibition is an opportunity for students and staff to share a space in which to exhibit their work to the community. In the process of organizing this exhibit, students are given a responsibility in a certain aspect of exhibit. The final outcome of the exhibit is the efforts and experiences students have encountered in studying art in the last two years. Each student and staff will display work that reflects their feelings about a particular subject and their skills in a chosen media. We are inviting the community to join us during the reception to meet the artists. Open to the public. Free Admission. Art work will be for sale. A portion of the sales will go to The Peace and Justice Center for their support.

## First high school art show a success

*Maria Flumiani*

On the weekend of April 21-23rd, the Peace & Justice Center sponsored a High School Art show featuring student artists from the Stockton Unified School District. The theme for the show's exhibition was "Living with the Earth" which included mediums of oil, charcoal, colored pencils, and oil pastels. The awards presentation (consisting of one grand prize and 9 honorable mentions), and reception was held Friday evening, whereupon judging was finalized by two Stockton Art League Members, Tina Moore and Dolly Sellars.

The judges chose the following students as winners in our art contest:

Best of show—Meraldine Aurelio Weber Institute, receiving a certificate and \$50

Honorable mentions—Alan Mallanta, Cristal Verduzco, Dena

Panela, Miriam Lopez, Saira Rosales and Vanna Mah of Weber Institute of Technology, Jaime Her of Edison High School, Andrea Lizalde and Monicka Nichols of Franklin High School, each receiving a certificate and \$10.

A total of 37 entries were on display from Edison High School, Franklin High School and Weber Institute of Technology, although all high schools in both the Stockton and Lincoln Unified were invited to participate. We obviously have many talented and gifted young people in our community worth promoting and supporting! The Peace and Justice Center extends their gratitude to the Visual Arts teachers—Susan Bradley, Edison High, Luz Lua, Weber Institute and Luz Lua of Franklin High for their time, effort and assistance on this project.

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## Please help!

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

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