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March 2007

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Help decide the future of SJ County

Matt Perry

The population of San Joaquin County is projected to double by 2030, and to grow by over a million new people by 2050. Such dramatic growth raises major questions: Where and how should we grow? Where will the roads go? How do we want this growth to affect our economy, agriculture, education, transportation, housing, air quality—in short, our future quality of life?

You will have a chance to help shape San Joaquin County's future at eight upcoming community workshops.

We encourage you to participate in the workshop for the area in which you live or work, but you are welcome at any of the workshops. Registration starts at 6:00 pm and light refreshments will be available. These workshops are part of the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Planning Process, which will help develop a vision to guide the San Joaquin Valley's growth over the next 50 years, beginning with input from community members like you.

The workshops will be fun and very participatory. We will

provide information on the issues, and you will be able to share your ideas and input through both large and small group activities.

San Joaquin is one of eight San Joaquin Valley counties sharing a \$2.5 million grant to conduct this type of planning. The San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOC) and other counties are organizing this public visioning process to help residents develop a preferred scenario for future land use and transportation leading to a higher quality of life.

In this first round of community workshops, participants will have a chance to identify the most important values and goals for the future of your community

(continued page 2)



Iran: we need to stop the next war

As we at FCNL walk the halls of Congress lobbying against the escalation of the war in Iraq, we are hearing also new concerns from members of Congress about President Bush's escalating confrontation with Iran and President Ahmadinejad's escalating confrontation with the U.S. The president accuses Iran of sponsoring armed, violent groups inside Iraq and said in a January 29 interview that the U.S. will 'respond firmly' to any Iranian interference in Iraq. But the president also cautioned in the same interview with NPR radio that he has 'no intention' of invading Iran.

In the past, a statement from the president of the United States that he is not planning to invade a country would have a calming impact on an impending conflict. But we at FCNL view the escalating conflict with Iran with concern because the U.S. does not have any direct diplomatic contacts with the government in Tehran and, therefore, the normal channels for resolving misunderstandings or de-escalating conflicts do not exist.

Both the U.S. and Iran share responsibility for this escalating conflict. But, as citizens of the United States, we at FCNL want to do everything we can to ensure the U.S. does not start down a path that leads to a new war. Yet the signals are unmistakable. The recent U.S. decision to raid

an Iranian diplomatic office in Erbil, Iraq has caused tensions not only with Iran but also with the government of Iraq, which condemned the raids. Adding fuel to this conflict was the White House decision last week to tell reporters that President Bush has authorized U.S. soldiers in Iraq to kill or capture Iranians in Iraq that the U.S. administration believes to be aiding Shiite militia groups.

A few days after that announcement, Vice President Cheney declared that the deployment of a second U.S. aircraft carrier to the region sends a 'strong signal' of U.S. commitment to confronting Iranian influence in the region. [Ed. note: there are rumors in *Newsweek* that a third carrier is getting ready to move out to the Gulf.] (Since the U.S. military invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, Iran's influence in the region has increased, according to reports in the *Washington Post*, January 30, and U.S. influence has diminished. That wasn't supposed to happen.)

These statements come against a backdrop of an escalating international conflict with Iran on nuclear issues. The United Nations Security Council voted in December to demand Iran immediately halt all uranium enrichment activities and agree to international inspections of all of its nuclear facilities to resolve lingering doubts that Tehran is

(continued page 3)

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It's time to do more

Bruce Giudici

This year, we will celebrate Earth Day April 22 in Victory Park, Stockton and in Utica Park, Angels Camp. Come, learn, and act: we have to regain a lot of lost time.

The urgency of our global situation has been generally overshadowed and obscured by the hapless actions of our decider in chief in Iraq and beyond. We are now going on 7 years of Bush delay—wasting opportunities and time in developing an organized

solution to the climate change we now witness everyday. Thanks to President Al Gore, we have an inarguable inconvenient truth waking up many who had been distracted by war and terror. Some political leaders (including Californians Pelosi and Boxer) are just now beginning to call for discussion, where quick action is required. Let's turn up the heat.

In the same voice that many are now calling for a withdrawal from Iraq, we must demand that climate change business-as-usual is not

an option. Rep. McNerney can play a key role in educating his colleagues on the need to support alternative energy in a big way. With the ink barely dry on Bush's dead-on-arrival budget for war, purported security and more tax cuts, we must demand that our priorities be made clear: declare war on oil and subsidize carbon-free energy sources as a key tactic in the war on terrorism. Only when the environment becomes part of the war on terror can we expect serious consideration of

Bruce Giudici



the moral test of our generation.

So, do all you individually can to conserve resources. Show up to an Earth Day in your neighborhood. Make uncomfortable sacrifices to make a difference. And then demand more of your Federal representatives. The state of California has begun, with its own global warming law. It's time to do more.

Future of S.J. Co (continued from page 1)

and the County as a whole. In a second round, to be held later in 2007, participants will evaluate various alternative future growth scenarios, based on the feedback from the first round of workshops, to determine a preferred scenario for future growth. The results will be made available and incorporated into the final San Joaquin Valley Blueprint, which will help guide local elected officials and other decision-makers on what community residents want to see in the future.

We encourage people across the community to participate in the upcoming workshops. It is important that residents of all income levels, ages, languages, and physical abilities are represented. We will accommodate those with special physical, transportation, or language needs with an advance request. We especially encourage young people to attend—after all, they are the ones who will be living in our vision for the future! Advance registration is encouraged. To register for any of the community workshops, please visit www.sjcog.org/blueprint or contact Anthony Zepeda, SJCOG Regional Planner, at 468-3913 or azepeda@sjcog.org.

MEETING DATES

Ripon
Thurs, 3/1/07, 6:30–8:30 pm
Ripon Community Center, 334 W. 4th Street, Ripon

Escalon
Wed, 3/7/07, 6:30–8:30 pm
Escalon Community Center, 1055 Escalon Ave, Escalon

Lodi/Lockeford/Acampo/Clements/Thornton/Woodbridge
Thurs, 3/15/07, 6:30–8:30 pm
Crete Hall, Hutchins Street Square, 125 S. Hutchins St, Lodi

Manteca
Wed, 3/21/07, 6:30–8:30 pm
Manteca Branch Library, 320 W. Center, Manteca, CA

Tracy/Mountain House
Wed, 3/21/07, 6:30–8:30 pm
Tracy Community Center, 300 E 10th Street, Tracy

North & Central Stockton/Morada
Wed, 3/28/07, 6:30–8:30 pm
Stockton Ballroom, 9650 Thornton Rd, Stockton

South & Central Stockton/Linden/French Camp/Weston Ranch
Thurs, 3/29/07, 6:30–8:30 pm
San Joaquin Council of Governments, 555 East Weber Ave, Stockton

Lathrop/French Camp/Weston Ranch
Date TBD
Lathrop City Council Chambers, 390 Towne Center Dr, Lathrop

Matt Perry is a project associate with ODYSSEY, a planning consultant at 1414 K St, Ste 660, Sacramento, CA 95814; 916.448.1687 x303 www.odyssey.org.

Feedback

Prevention pays

Editor:

My name is Roger Lang and I practice dentistry in Stockton and talk nutrition and hopefully assist others with eating habits. In being active with the Health Care for All insurance project, I have some ideas and concerns. I truly believe we need to have fair health insurance available for everyone, of which we are, in my opinion, ethically and morally responsible to our fellow man—especially those who have the financial means to afford proper care.

However I also feel that each individual needs to be personally responsible for the prevention aspect of their own health, of which they can control: how one eats, how much one eats, the quality of the food, how one exercises, and how one handles stress. There is so much out there available to everyone—very

simple things that could prevent a high percentage of chronic disease. There could be incentives for those who are responsible and higher fees for those that neglect themselves once they have been properly educated.

I really feel that prevention has been so overlooked because there is so much money made in treatment of the symptoms of disease. I am not sure of the percentages but it makes sense to spend 70-80 percent of energy and monies on prevention and the rest on treatment. I see in the long run there will be less need for chronic treatment if people are willing to cooperate in their own health care and prevention.

In summary I suggest education, personal involvement and responsibility (if physically and mentally possible) first and then proper and fair treatment as a follow up.

Roger Lang



Come help with this year's Earth Day Festival. Call 209 467-4455.

Connections

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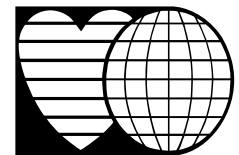
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"The Peace and Justice Network is a nonprofit educational organization committed to the vision of a world in which the equality of all persons is achieved, basic needs are met, conflict is resolved nonviolently, and the earth's resources are shared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

Stockton peace rally a success

Jim Walsh

The morning began with drizzle. After a drought-stricken month, rain finally graced our skies. The problem with this rain is that it was coming on a day of outdoor peace actions. Would it minimize our numbers? Would it keep the media away? Would we be able to set up our PA system? A march and rally was already in progress in Washington D.C. with an estimated crowd of close to half a million. Our peace rally was scheduled all day, from 10 am to 5 pm in front of Delta College on the grassy lawn we've grown accustomed to. By the time I arrived on site, the skies were clearing and John and Ria had already set up lawn signs and some shoes to symbolize the lost souls of war. I set up the P&J Network booth; organizations set up their tables. KCRA News 3 began filming at noon, and Amazing Grace (Judy Collins version) began a medley of peace songs while several peace activists read all 305 names of California soldiers who have lost their lives in the Iraq war so far. Taps was played; the crowd stilled.

Our numbers grew to 75 as the program of speakers began. Over the constant honking of support, the crowd listened to Jim Walsh, John Morearty, Harold Bell, Mario D'Angeli, former Marine Motecuzoma Sanchez, David Dionisi and Nadia McCaffrey. The message was clear. No more funds for the war. Push Rep. Dennis Cardoza to vote no for any more appropriations bills. Restore democracy and return funding to social programs so vitally needed by the people of this country.

The mainstream press

While many mainstream media news sources still don't seem to "get it," many are being forced to try. Saturday, January 27th, hundreds of thousands of people across the country protested the war policies and political machinations of the Bush administration and the complete breakdown of the balance of powers within our political system. Most mainstream sources focused on the recent "troop surge" and the people's call to end war funding. They still don't want to face or publicize the phenomenon of the military mutiny (see the



grievances on appealforredress.org). The reporter from KCRA 3 news wanted to speak to families of soldiers in Iraq—as if the rest of us are still just Bush's "focus group." Along with the march on Washington D.C., the local protests made the lead story on the 6 o'clock news.

On Sunday, the cover story minimized our numbers: David Siders reported "tens of thousands" instead of the true "hundreds of thousands" in Washington and reported "about 60 people" at Delta (actual count 77). Over the course of the seven hour rain-threatened vigil, about 100 people took part, with hundreds more honking their approval. Siders did count the one negative comment from a passing car quoting, "You don't know. You haven't been there." without explaining that several in our group had been there and speak with great authority on issues of the war.

For example, featured speaker Delta student Motecuzoma Sanchez, a former marine who served on the invasion team in March 2003, had much to say about failed strategy, dissension within the ranks, and deteriorating veteran services. Speaker Nadia McCaffrey paid the ultimate price with the death of her son Patrick, June 22nd 2004. David Dionisi, a former army intelligence officer, former corporate executive and author of *American Hiroshima* who has viewed politics and policy making from a broad and evolving perspective, offered well researched, thoughtful and unnerving analysis. The Record chose instead to cover longtime peace activist John Morearty's reference to "a cabal of crazies with hearts of stone," "Hanoi Jane"

Fonda (who did not attend our rally) and our newcomer Lincoln high school freshman Garrett Daniells with his t-shirt reference to Bush as the Village Idiot. The Record's frame excluded our most relevant experts.

Of the DC protest, the New York Times, bastion of the liberal media/press, told us there were "tens of thousands" at the Washington protest, without mentioning that organizers estimated 400,000. Writer Ian Urbina called a contingent of 20 active duty service members "small" even while reporting that protest by active duty personnel is strongly discouraged. He quoted Bob Watada (father of Army officer Ehren Watada who faces court-martial proceedings for refusing to deploy to Iraq), but failed to mention the associated campaign of Appeal for Redress of Grievances that had gathered signatures of 1,244 active duty and reserve personnel who join Ehren Watada's refusal. Urbina finished the article by covering one of the "smaller numbers" of counter-protesters who makes the tired old claim that protesters hurt troop morale. He concludes with a final quote from this counter-protester, "It's like we never learn from the past." Are this man and reporter Urbina the "we" he speaks of? Because we who stand against this latest war for empire have indeed learned from the past.

Jim Walsh was the lead organizer of the January 27 rally in Stockton and is Webmaster for <http://www.pjnsjc.org>. For more information about area antiwar planning and peace strategy on the web see: <http://www.pjnsjc.org/antiwarstc.php> or e-mail jwprod1956@clearwire.net.

Stop the next war *(continued from page 1)*

trying to build a nuclear bomb. The United Nations has set a late February deadline by which Iran must halt enrichment. But the Iranian government has so far refused to abide by this request, arguing that their nuclear research is directed toward increasing Iran's ability to generate electricity for civilian purposes. The Iranian government is expected to announce in early February that its ability to enrich uranium for use in nuclear power reactors has been expanded dramatically.

Too much like Iraq

The U.S. position on Iran is eerily similar to the attitude toward Iraq under Saddam Hussein. The United States has repeatedly refused to engage in any diplomatic talks with Tehran, has characterized the government as part of an 'axis of evil', has asserted that, if no evidence of a nuclear weapons program is found then that is evidence of a hidden nuclear weapons program, and has intensified threats of a military confrontation. The Iranian government of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has added its own fuel to this fire by failing to comply with its commitments under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), defying the will of the international community to undertake full international inspections of its nuclear facilities.

The Bush administration's threats breed resentment and damage the possibility of future diplomatic engagement with the Iranian government. Perhaps worse, belligerent messages from the administration put democracy movements and leaders in Iran at more risk and help Ahmadinejad to narrow the space in which they move inside Iran. U.S. military aggression could potentially silence moderate voices within Iran who urge a less combative approach to the United States and greater cooperation with the international community. Speaking at a panel discussion on nuclear non-proliferation at the World Economic Forum, Director General of the International

Atomic Energy Agency Mohamed ElBaradei warned that a military strike against Iran would serve only to "strengthen the hand of those who say, 'Let us develop a weapon.'"

Peace is possible, if we work for it. Fortunately, we may have help. Some Members of Congress from both major political parties have begun to speak out against the Bush administration's new march to war. At last count, FCNL has located four pieces of legislation introduced in the last few weeks that would require the president to obtain congressional approval before using force against Iran. (We hope but cannot assume that Congress would not vote for the use of force against Iran.) Passage of such a measure would be an important step toward preventing an expansion of the war. A second important step would be for the president to authorize direct diplomatic contacts between the U.S. and Iran and name a special envoy capable of the task.

As the bipartisan Iraq Study Group report noted, Iran could play an important role in the stabilization and rebuilding of Iraq. But U.S. threats go in the opposite direction and may exacerbate an already dangerous situation and could provoke a war. A military conflict with Iran would have disastrous consequences for the Middle East, damaging U.S. diplomatic relations throughout the Middle East and the world, and further intensifying the cycle of violence in the region. Intensive diplomacy and smart politics, not threats of war and war, are the tools to repair the damaged relations between Iran and the U.S. Peaceful prevention of a war with Iran could advance U.S. national interests and global security.

ACTION: Ask your Representative to sign on to legislation requiring congressional approval of any use of force against Iran.

Source: Friends Committee on National Legislation update 1/30/07, FCNL, 245 Second St NE, Washington, DC 20002, 800-630-1330 <http://www.fcnl.org>

US war v. Iran: illegal

On February 1, European, international and United States legal and human rights groups issued the following open letter warning of the illegality of any offensive military action by the United States against Iran.

Open Letter to all members of Congress, the Bush administration and the U.S. Armed Forces from legal and human rights groups.

There are increasing indications that the Bush administration intends to take military action against Iran. There are also indications that the administration would support military action by Israel against Iran.

The undersigned organizations issue this Open Letter to All Members of Congress, the Administration and the U.S. Armed Forces to reiterate their affirmative duties to prevent military action and to refrain from ongoing threats to peace. Offensive military action against Iran would be illegal, as the United States is bound under the United Nations Charter to settle international disputes by peaceful means and to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity of any state or act in any other manner inconsistent with the purpose of the United Nations. (Article 2 sections 3 and 4). While Article 51 of the charter recognizes the inherent right of individual or collective self defense, such a right exists only if an armed attack occurs and is allowed only until the Security Council can take measures necessary to maintain international peace and security. Any other type of military action by the United States would not be in compliance with the UN Charter.

The UN Charter, as a treaty ratified by the U.S., is part of the Supreme Law of the United States under Article VI of the United States Constitution. If the President and Congress fail to abide by the law as provided in the Constitution they violate their sacred oaths of office.

Any military action against Iran in the absence of a military strike by Iran would be a war of aggression outlawed under Article 2(4) of the UN Charter.



Presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich at DC rally, January 27.

If the United States or any other nation were to act outside of its UN obligations it would risk starting a war of aggression and committing a crime against peace. Furthermore, the sending of aircraft carriers combined with recent threatening statements constitutes a threat to wage a war with Iran. This is also prohibited by the Charter. Principle VI of the Nuremberg Principles also makes crimes against peace punishable under international law. Crimes against peace include: planning, preparation, initiation or waging a war of aggression in violation of international treaties, agreements, or assurances, or participation in a common plan or conspiracy to accomplish these acts.

The United States and all countries that have ratified the UN Charter are required to abide by their obligations under it. It is in the interests of all countries of the world that the United Nations be a viable multilateral institution capable of carrying out the mission of its charter to preserve peace and promote development and human rights. Actions which violate that charter undermine it. Actions by the U.S. which violate the charter prevent the UN from acting effectively; they also undermine the credibility of the United States in the world community. The U.S. cannot demand that other countries obey the terms of the UN Charter while it is violating those very provisions with impunity.

The War Powers Act, which requires congressional approval of military action, must be read consistently with our obligations under the UN Charter and international law not to engage

in wars of aggression. We urge:

1. The President, Vice President, and all other members of the Bush administration who have a decision-making role with regard to taking military action in Iran, to immediately renounce such efforts to engage in this war;

2. The members of the military to refuse any requests by the administration to invade or take other military action against Iran in light of the illegality of such actions; and

3. That Congress immediately pass a binding resolution reaffirming the United States' legal obligations and informing the President and the administration that it will not concur in any invasion of or military action against Iran, would refuse to approve funding for any such military action, and would consider actions taken in contravention of the resolution as impeachable offenses.

The American Association of Jurists; The Center for Constitutional Rights (US); Droite Solidarite (France); European Association of Lawyers for Democracy and Human Rights; Haldane Society (United Kingdom); International Association of Democratic Lawyers; Indian Association of Lawyers; Italian Association of Democratic Lawyers; Japanese Association of Lawyers for International Solidarity, Japan; Lawyers Against the War (Canada); National Lawyers Guild (US); Progress Lawyers Network (Belgium).

Source: National Lawyers Guild release 2/1/07, 212 679-5100 <http://www.commondreams.org/news2007/0201-08.htm>

Invade Iran= impeachment

Dennis J. Kucinich

Congressman Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) accused the White House of mounting a media blitz to prepare the U.S. public for an eventual attack on Iran. Today The Washington Post reported the Bush administration has authorized the U.S. military to kill or capture Iranian operatives inside Iraq as part of an aggressive new strategy to weaken Tehran's influence across the Middle East.

"The White House is up to its old tricks again: Providing information by anonymous sources and portraying Iran as an aggressor in Iraq," Kucinich said.

"The President is mischaracterizing U.S. action vis-a-vis Iran. In fact, the U.S. is already engaged in offensive and provocative acts against Iran. The President's strategy, by portraying our involvement as only being on the defensive, is laying out the groundwork for him to attack Iran and bypass authorization by Congress," Kucinich said.

The Washington Post article stated: "A senior intelligence officer was more wary of the ambitions of the strategy. 'This has little to do with Iraq. It's all about pushing Iran's buttons. It is purely political.' The official expressed similar views about other new efforts aimed at Iran, suggesting that the United States is escalating toward an unnecessary conflict to shift attention away from Iraq and to blame Iran for the United States' increasing inability to stanch the violence there."

Kucinich said, "The White House spin machine is at it again: this time providing justification for a new war—a war against Iran." Kucinich pointed out that while the term 'officials' is mentioned 21 times in the Post article—not once are the officials identified by name.

In his January 10 address to the nation, President Bush asserted that succeeding in Iraq begins with addressing Iran and Syria. "Iran is providing material support for attacks on American troops. We will disrupt the attacks on our forces. We'll interrupt the flow of support from Iran and Syria. And we will seek out and destroy the networks providing advanced weaponry and training to our enemies in Iraq," Bush said.

"The Washington Post is quoting strategically placed Administration sources who are providing justification for an attack against Iran," Kucinich said. "This new twist on Iran, a country this Administration refuses to have free and open diplomatic talks with, is stating the Administration's case for war."

"The degree to which this President continues to take steps to go to war against Iran without consulting with the full Congress is the degree to which he is increasingly putting himself in jeopardy of an impeachment proceeding," Kucinich said.

Source: *t r u t h o u t | Press Release 1/26/07* <http://kucinich.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=56365>

"The degree to which this President continues to take steps to go to war against Iran without consulting with the full Congress is the degree to which he is increasingly putting himself in jeopardy of an impeachment proceeding."

Support troops, end the war



The crowd at the peak of the Jan. 27 DC rally, during Rev. Jackson's speech. Estimated to be at least 100,000. Spoke to park police to gauge their estimate. They reported that they had no idea how many people there were. They've been relieved of their counting/estimate duties after their counts had been challenged as regularly conservative. United for Peace claims as many as 500,000 protestors, detractors including the White House cite an unnamed park police source cited by a press report that said less than 100,000.

Rep. Ron Paul (R-Texas)

I have never met anyone who did not support our troops. Sometimes, however, we hear accusations that someone or some group does not support the men and women serving in our armed forces. This is pure demagoguery, and it's intellectually dishonest. The accusers play on emotions to gain support for controversial policies, implying that those who disagree are unpatriotic. But keeping our troops out of harm's way, especially when war is unnecessary, is never unpatriotic. There's no better way to support the troops.

Since we now know that Iraq had no weapons of mass destruction and was not threatening anyone, we must come to terms with 3,000 American deaths and 23,000 American casualties. It's disconcerting that those who never believed the justifications given for our invasion, and who now want the war ended, are still accused of not supporting the troops! This is strange indeed!

Instead of questioning who has the best interests of our troops at heart, we should be debating which policy is best for our country. Defensive wars to preserve our liberties, fought only with proper congressional declarations, are legitimate. Casualties under such circumstances still are heartbreaking, but they are understandable. Casualties that occur in undeclared, unnecessary wars, however, are bewildering. Why must so many Americans be killed or hurt in Iraq when our

security and our liberty were not threatened?

Clichés about supporting the troops are designed to distract us from failed policies, policies promoted by powerful special interests that benefit from war. Anything to steer the discussion away from the real reasons the war in Iraq will not end anytime soon.

Many now agree that we must change our policy and extricate ourselves from the mess in Iraq. They cite a mandate from the American people for a new direction. This opinion is now more popular, and thus now more widely held by politicians in Washington. But there's always a qualifier: We can't simply stop funding the war, because we must support the troops. I find this conclusion bizarre. It means one either believes the "support the troops" propaganda put out by the original promoters of the war, or that one actually is for the war after all, despite the public protestations.

In reality, support for the status quo (and the president's troop surge) in Iraq means expanding the war to include Syria and Iran. The naval build up in the region, and the proxy war we just fought to take over Somalia, demonstrate the administration's intentions to escalate our current war into something larger.

There's just no legitimacy to the argument that voting against funding the war somehow harms our troops. Perpetuating and

escalating the war only serve those whose egos are attached to some claimed victory in Iraq, and those with a determination to engineer regime change in Iran.

Don't believe for a minute that additional congressional funding is needed so our troops can defend themselves or extricate themselves from the war zone. That's nonsense. The DOD has hundreds of billions of dollars in the pipeline available to move troops anywhere on earth—including home.

We shouldn't forget that the administration took \$600 million from the war in Afghanistan and used it in Iraq, before any direct appropriations were made for the invasion of Iraq. Funds are always available to put our troops into harm's way; they are always available for leaving a war zone.

Those in Congress who claim they want the war ended, yet feel compelled to keep funding it, are badly misguided. They either are wrong in their assessment that cutting funds would hurt the troops, or they need to be more honest about supporting a policy destined to dramatically increase the size and scope of this misadventure in the Middle East. Rest assured one can be patriotic and truly support the troops by denying funds to perpetuate and spread this ill-advised war.

The sooner we come to this realization, the better it will be for all of us.

Source: <http://www.antiwar.com/paul/?articleid=10444> 2/1/07



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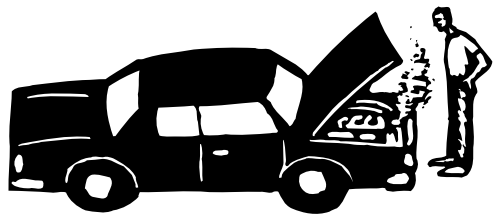
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What's wrong with the Governor's health plan?



Just ask Mary. Mary is a freelance bookkeeper and tax preparer. She's really busy during tax time and fills in as a part-time bookkeeper for several small businesses the rest of the year. She makes about \$55,000 a year—enough to support herself and her two children who are in public middle schools. Mary's husband, John, has asthma bad enough to keep him from working as a tool & dye maker. He's on a respirator most of the time because he has trouble getting his breath. It's a condition he's had since birth, but it's gotten worse over the years even though he's very careful about diet and exercise.

Because health care is an important part of Mary's life, she was delighted to learn about the Governor's universal healthcare plan. As it is, she has been unable to get coverage for her husband at all because of his "pre-existing condition." A private insurance plan that covers her and her children costs about \$1100 a month. John's medications and breathing apparatus costs her another \$200 a month, so she's spending just under 30% of her income on health care. She hoped the Governor's plan would help.

Then she read the fine print in the plan.

"Everyone HAS to buy health insurance, if you can afford it or not," Mary said. "Arnold's going to subsidize the poor, but I make just enough to get no subsidies, so the insurance companies can charge me whatever they want. If I don't buy what they offer, I'm breaking the law. And it doesn't say anything about what KIND of coverage we'll get. It leaves all that up to the insurance companies. If they have to cover everyone, the rates are going to skyrocket and we'll be WORSE off."

She's correct, according to Senator Sheila Kuehl, author Senate Bill 840, a comprehensive, single-insurance that would cover everyone in the state. Under the

Governor's plan, Kuehl says in a recent essay, there would be "no controls on raises in premiums and no requirements for comprehensive or even adequate coverage, so every Californian would be required to pay high premiums, high deductibles, high co-pays and high out-of-pocket expenses, for very little coverage."

"It's outrageous, calling this universal healthcare," says Dr. Jo Olson, a pediatrician. "It's universal subsidies for private insurance companies that are in the business of making money, not providing care. Doctors and hospitals will still have to deal with thousands of insurance plans, and we're going to have to pay a percentage of our income to bail out the state," she says. The plan calls for hospitals to pay 4% and doctors 2% of gross revenue into state coffers to cover the uninsured. "So it's sick people subsidizing the uninsured by way of the insurance companies. That's nuts," says Dr. Olson.

"What's worse is that businesses will leave individuals holding the bag" says Andrew McGuire, Executive Director of Health Care for All-California. "The Governor's plan requires them to pay only 4% of their payroll toward health insurance. Right now, even Wal-Mart pays 7% toward employee healthcare, and it's inadequate coverage. That means that it will be you and me taking up the slack—buying individual health plans at whatever rate the insurance companies want to charge."

"Here's all you need to know about the Governor's healthcare plan," says Dr. Don Schroeder, Emmy-winning director of "The Healthcare Solution: California OneCare," a 22 minute film that explains Senator Kuehl's plan. "Schwarzenegger took almost \$4 million dollars from the insurance industry to get re-elected. This is payback."

COMPARE THE PLANS

Schwarzenegger's piecemeal healthcare plan

Health insurance is **required**. Everyone has to buy it from private firms.

Health insurance is **not** universal because not everyone will comply. Auto insurance is mandated but 25% of drivers in California are uninsured.

Insurance companies decide how much it will cost.

Insurance companies decide how much to charge above **required minimums** for deductibles (\$5,000) and co-pays (\$7,500).

Doctors and Hospitals pay a percentage of their revenue to subsidize the uninsured.

Insurance companies must cover everyone, but will 'red-line' districts and determine their own rates based on gender, age, and region.

Businesses with more than 10 employees must pay only 4% of payroll for health insurance, as opposed to more than 8% for those who currently provide coverage.

Businesses with less than 10 employees (80% of businesses in California) don't have to pay anything—coverage is up to individuals.

People with incomes up to 250% of the poverty level (\$50,000 for a family of four) get subsidies but will be spending up to 6% of their income on mandated insurance.

The Federal government must increase subsidies for medical care. No guarantee this will happen.

Money now paid to hospitals to care for the indigent will now go to insurance companies to cover the indigent, so at least 15% will be lost to overhead.

Insurance companies' overhead is capped at 15%, but the premiums they may charge are unlimited.

Insurance companies can dictate which doctors and hospitals patients may use.

No controls on the cost of care.

No controls on the cost of insurance premiums.

No requirement for electronic record-keeping.

Feb. 27

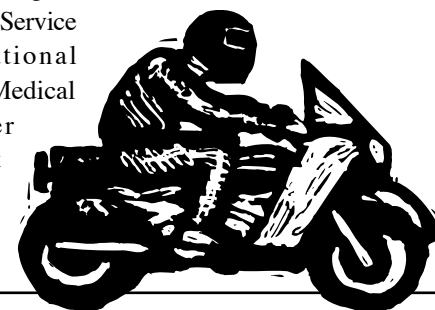
Real universal health care bill comes to Assembly

Assembly Health Committee
Subject: Health Care Reform:
What are the Choices?
Tuesday, Feb 27, 1:30 p.m.
Mervyn Dymally, Chair
State Capitol Room 4202

This hearing is an important opportunity to demonstrate the growth of grassroots support for the bill. We want to show the legislature the kind of health care system Californians really want: universal single payer health care. Please make every effort to attend the hearing and to get others to attend. For more info, call (916) 651-4023.

Opponents of single payer are frightened by our strength and they are searching for a way to fight back. For example, the following comes from an article in today's S.F. Chronicle about the governor's proposal: "A diverse group of interests—including the Service Employees International Union, the California Medical Association, Kaiser Permanente, Health Net and Blue Shield—are

expected to announce today creation of a coalition intended to help Schwarzenegger and the Legislature attain significant overhaul of the system. (E)I think people realize that if they are not players in this, they could be in a far worse situation down the road,' said Tony Quinn, a former Republican consultant who is now co-editor of the Target Book, which tracks California politics... Quinn said that the business community has to be especially concerned about what might happen if Schwarzenegger is not successful. (E)They should be very aware that the whole private insurance system is on a very short leash,' he said. (E)The public could just decide to junk the whole thing and vote in a single-payer system.'"



No allocation for seismic retrofitting of hospitals.

Minimum coverage offered--no dental, eye care, mental healthcare, home healthcare, etc.

Senator Kuehl's comprehensive healthcare plan--SB840

Private health insurance firms are eliminated.

Everyone is **automatically** covered by a single state insurance plan.

Coverage is comprehensive, including medical, dental, eye care, mental health, home health, dialysis, therapy, substance abuse, elderly daycare, hospice care and much more.

No deductibles, co-pays, or exclusions for pre-existing conditions.

Costs to individuals and families **decrease** over current premiums.

Costs to employers **decrease** over current premiums.

Costs to the state **decrease**.

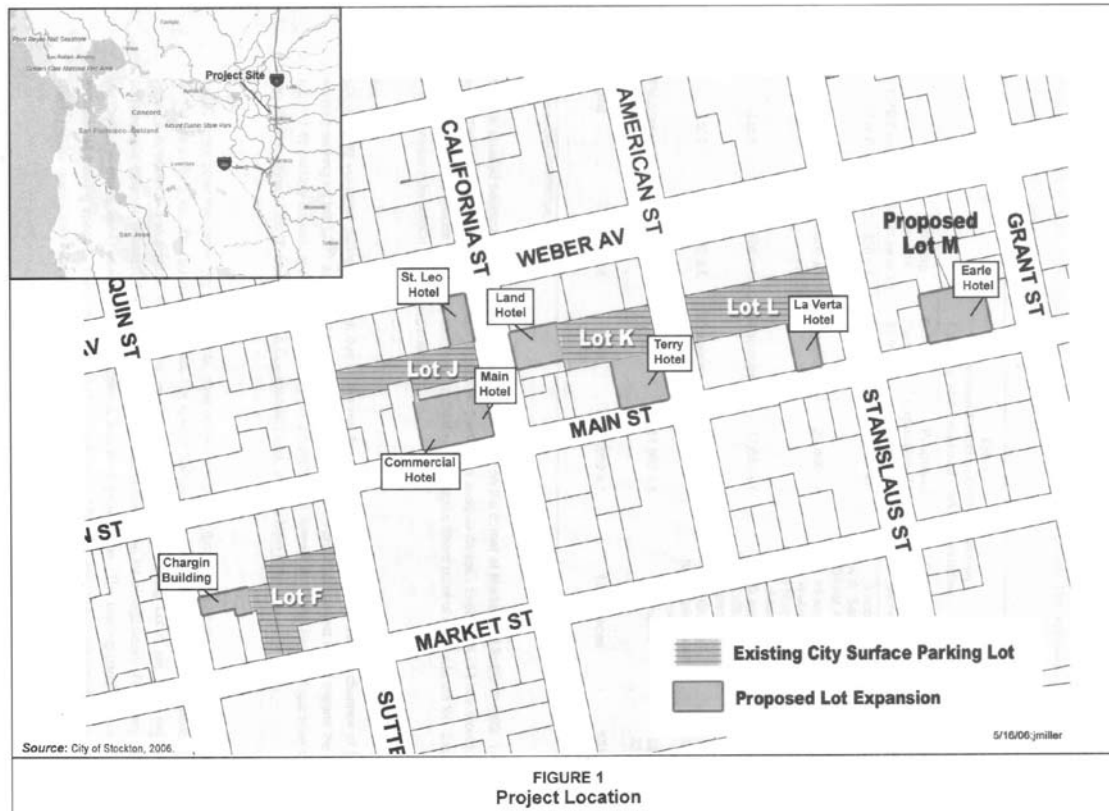
Patients may choose any doctor, hospital, or healthcare provider they wish.

Doctors, hospitals and other healthcare providers are fairly compensated for all of their services and are not required to pay into the system.

Source: OneCareNow Campaign for Universal Health Insurance release 1/26/07

Take action now

Downtown Stockton parking expansion destroys history



Joy Neas

The Downtown Stockton Central Parking District Expansion Project, which proposes to demolish eight historic downtown hotels in order to create 130 surface parking spaces, is the single greatest assault on historic resources in Downtown Stockton since the West End Redevelopment Project in the 1960's. Has Stockton learned nothing from its past? The City of Stockton cannot afford to be so careless with our historic resources. Once they are gone, they are gone forever: remember the courthouse.

The parking proposal removes sources of housing and commercial opportunities in need of preservation. In San Francisco, affordable housing is so important that SRO Hotels are protected from demolition. Are there no more developers interested in creating quality adaptive reuse projects?

The goal of Stockton's general plan is to protect historic resources. Protection does not include demolition. Seven of the eight hotels are eligible to be state landmarks. This fact alone should afford them respect

rather than disregard. Where are the feasibility and economic studies for restoration? The City of Stockton can accomplish great things when they are motivated - recent examples include the Hotel Stockton, Bob Hope (Fox) Theatre and the Cabral (ACE) Train Station.

Vibrant downtowns - earning large sums from heritage tourism that could be reinvested into preservation - depend on a widespread collection of historic resources rather than a select few. If the hotel demolitions are allowed to proceed as proposed, the downtown will no longer be eligible to be a historic district. Demolitions may result in the loss of structural integrity of neighboring structures, requiring unintended demolitions. Other impacts not mentioned are loss of mural art and disruption of transit routes by new entrances to parking lots.

Historic hotels are said to be a drain to maintain and sources of visual blight impacting no views, which begs the question: what constitutes a view? Streets rich with historic architecture are some of a city's best views. Could

surface parking lots be considered blight? You decide.

It is pointless to debate parking. As Stockton continues to grow; so will the need for parking. However, we must accommodate parking without sacrificing our limited historic resources. Well-placed parking structures requiring no demolition are a more sustainable land use strategy.

What are the unstated reasons for the project? Demolition is a short-term solution to city management. Will the newly created parking lots ultimately be built upon when more attractive proposals than aging hotels are suggested or when land becomes too valuable for parking lot use?

The Draft Environmental Impact Report for the parking expansion is currently available from the Stockton Redevelopment Agency located on the 3rd floor of City Hall. Anyone can pick up a copy free of charge. Public comments in writing are due regarding the sufficiency of the document by March 12 at 5 pm. The public is also invited to comment at an upcoming council meeting. For more information, contact Joy Neas at (209) 464-6868.

Developers paving our future

Editor,

Our elected leaders are letting us down. The City is in the process of developing a new General Plan (for development of Industrial, Commercial and Residential construction) to the year 2035. Prior to citizen input and approval of this plan, last year's City Council approved Arnaiz Development's request to amend the current General Plan to develop 771 acres (3,800 homes) on farm land north of Eight Mile Road. Previously they voted to support an application from A. G. Spanos Co. to develop 2,200 acres of farm land for commercial and residential development (7,500 homes), also north of Eight Mile Road. While this is legal and not (yet) finally approved, on Nov. 2, 2004 the citizens of Stockton spoke clearly; in passing measures "Q" and "S," they wanted to stop the sprawl in Stockton and protect our valuable farm land.

Last month the County Board of Supervisors approved Flood Protection maps that will help developers build nearly 10,000 homes in the flood plain outside Stockton city limits. A recent article in the Record reported more than half-dozen levees protecting development here are very vulnerable to failure. This action sounds like "sink or swim."

The question has been asked, do we want to look like the L.A. basin? Our City and County leaders are already allowing that to happen. They are not leaders; they are followers of the building industry.

If you are fed up with this state of affairs, go to campaignforcommonground.org, read our Citizens Proposed Alternative General Plan and join with us to stop the land grab by developers.

Byron R. Roberts

PETITION

To: Mayor Edward Chavez
Stockton City Council Members
Re: Growth and Development in Stockton

We the undersigned Citizens respectfully request you to stop the building sprawl in Stockton.

This unchecked growth has contributed to an already untenable state of gridlock on our streets and freeways, overcrowded our schools, and added more pollution to the air we breathe, the water we drink, brought more crime to our city, and paved over our highly valuable farm land. This development is only making us a bedroom community for those who work out of Stockton and draws down on our over stressed infrastructure, water resources, garbage disposal, police and fire services.

We request you to put a moratorium on any further development outside our current city limits. We request no future exemptions under the current General Plan be approved, until such time as the New General Plan 2035 has been adopted and any and all challenges to it are resolved. Further we request this council to bring our sphere of influence back to the pre-2004 status with Eight Mile Road as our northern most boundary, State Highway 99 as our eastern boundary, French Camp Road as our southern boundary and one mile west of the San Joaquin River as our western boundary.

We encourage this council to focus its efforts on downtown revitalization that bring jobs, housing, recreation and reduced crime to our city center.

Please sign the above petition and note your address. Cut and return to Campaign for Common Ground, PO Box 693545, Stockton, 95269.

If you have any questions e-mail byronrobert@comcast.net

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Compassion and action needed for Iraq

Cindy Litman

*"This I believe to be the
privilege and the burden of all of
us who deem ourselves bound by
allegiances and loyalties which
are broader and deeper than
nationalism and which go beyond
our nation's self-defined goals and
positions. We are called to speak
for the weak, for the voiceless, for
victims of our nation and for those
it calls enemy, for no document
from human hands can make these
humans any less our brothers."*

—Martin Luther King, Jr.,
April 4, 1967

The landscape has shifted and we are finally hearing significant bipartisan opposition to the war. Yet little of this opposition addresses the plight of the Iraqi people. Even the peace movement, with its focus on supporting the troops by bringing them home, is largely silent on the question of Iraqi victims of the war.

I made my debut as an activist writer six years ago with an OpEd piece in the Davis Enterprise opposing the US/UN sanctions against Iraq. At the time, a small handful of Davis activists were trying to raise awareness about the effects of the sanctions on the Iraqi people. Week after week we tabled at the Davis Farmers Market and week after week I witnessed an outpouring of empathy and donations—not for the 100,000 Iraqi children who had died as a result of the sanctions, but for the neighboring booth, Labrador Retriever Rescue. At that time, I puzzled over the question of what it would take to rouse similar interest in the plight of Iraqis.

Now, six years later, the escalating Iraqi death toll and refugee crisis is astounding. According to a study by researchers at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, 654,965 civilians—about 2.5 percent of Iraq's civilian population—have died as a consequence of the occupation. Over 90 percent of the deaths were caused by violence. Thirty-one percent of deaths were directly linked to coalition forces

About 2.5 percent of Iraqi's civilian population have died as a consequence of the occupation.

(http://www.jhsph.edu/publichealthnews/press_releases/2006/burnham_iraq_2006.html).

In addition, 2 million Iraqis—about 8 percent of the prewar population—have been forced by violence and persecution to flee their homes, according to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. Another 1.7 million have been displaced inside Iraq.

As the belligerent occupiers of Iraq, US conduct is governed by the Geneva Conventions and the Hague Regulations. International law generally requires that a state using force unlawfully should pay reparations for the damage caused. Iraq paid billions of dollars to Kuwait and others for its unlawful invasion in 1990. The same rule requires the US and other members of the coalition to pay for the damage they have caused in Iraq. Yet of the numerous bills in Congress aimed at de-escalating the war, only one, H.R. 508 (Woolsey, [CA-6]), acknowledges responsibility and provides compensation for Iraqi victims of the US occupation.

Asked about the absence of reparations for Iraqi casualties in his bill, H.R. 787, Congressman Mike Thompson responded, "The number of innocent Iraqis killed by sectarian violence is a tragedy of incomprehensible magnitude. However, the war in Iraq has cost American taxpayers more than \$400 billion, and the president just requested an additional \$100 billion for this year and nearly \$150 billion for 2008. With a national debt of nearly \$9 trillion, our country simply does not have the funds to compensate wounded Iraqis."

The Congressman likewise abdicated U.S. responsibility for the Iraqi refugee crisis, suggesting that "Iraq's neighbors must play

a role in helping these refugees." According to UNHCR, Jordan and Syria have taken in 1.2 million Iraqis and are unable to accommodate additional refugees; last week, the agency issued a plea to all nations to share the burden. The official quota for Iraqi refugees to be allowed into the US this year stands at 500.

The U.S. has a legal and moral obligation to very generously compensate the Iraqi people for the immeasurable harm we have done them and their country. But even if we are not moved by legal and moral obligations, we should heed the strategic imperative of providing such reparations. According to UNHCR's Andrew Harper, "We cannot afford to neglect Iraq, because Iraq and its humanitarian consequences are going to be a problem for the international community for years to come." As are its political consequences in a world that is increasingly outraged by U.S. hegemony.

ACTION: Urge your elected officials to oppose any new funding of the occupation and to honor our legal and moral obligation to provide generous compensation for Iraqi war victims. Ask your representative to consider co-sponsoring H.R. 508 (*see p. 10*).

Add to your calendar: "Battlefield without Borders: A poet reports back from the war in Iraq and a fundraiser for Iraqi War Victims," by David Smith-Ferri. All proceeds from the sale of David's book support Iraqi war victims. Davis: Sun, March 4, 12:30pm, Unitarian Church, 27074 Patwin Rd. 95616. Sacramento: Mon, March 5, Monday, March 5, 7pm, Newman Center of Sacramento, 5900 Newman Ct. 95819. Information: litvin@dcn.org, 530-758-8575

Can Congress stop this war?

Kevin B. Zeese

Senator Russell Feingold (D-WI) brought together a panel of legal scholars, many with experience in the executive and legislative branches of government, to examine what power Congress has to stop the Iraq War. The hearing demonstrated the constitutional basis for Congress acting to end the war. At the outset he said the purpose was not to discuss the policy pros and cons of Congressional action, but rather to look at the legal issues. What does the Constitution authorize the Congress to do?

“The Constitution makes Congress a coequal branch of government. It's time we start acting like it,” said Feingold at the outset of the hearing. He accused the president of ignoring the will of the voters expressed on Election Day and therefore “it is up to Congress to act.” He was joined by Republican Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA), the former Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, who challenged President Bush's declaration that “I am the decision-maker” on issues of war, Specter saying “I would suggest respectfully to the president that he is not the sole decider—the decider is a shared and joint responsibility.”

At the conclusion of the hearing Feingold said “Congress has the power to stop the war, if we want to.” Further, “Congress has the responsibility to stand up to the president when he is not acting in the national interest.” Feingold also dealt with some of the common claims of opponents of congressional action. He argued that using the power of the purse does not threaten the troops. “The troops will remain safe as we will provide them with the protection they need. Forcing the president to safely bring the troops home protects the troops.” He also argued that “setting a clear policy is not micromanaging, it is exactly what Congress is supposed to do.” He concluded that “any effort to end the war requires us to protect our troops and our national security” and announced he would be introducing a bill the next day to require redeployment of U.S. troops in six months.

The first witness was Professor David J. Barron of Harvard Law School who argued that the

Congress has a “substantial zone of authority” when it comes to war policy. Congress has used its powers to cut off or put conditions on funding for many wars including Vietnam as well as conflicts in Cambodia, Somalia and Bosnia.

This was consistent with the view of the next witness, Robert Turner of the University of Virginia Law School, who said Congress has very specific powers: to declare war, to raise armies and to appropriate funds for wars. But, this is balanced with the powers of the president who has responsibility over the general management of the relationship between the United States and the external world. Turner's views provided the greatest power to the president of any of the panelists but he acknowledged that Congress has the power to limit the “duration and scope” of military activity and “once Congress acts that limits the scope of the president's power.”

Lewis Fisher, who is a specialist in Constitutional Law for the Law Library of the Library of Congress, describing Congressional power by saying “Congress has the authority, duty and responsibility to decide national policy—that is why you are elected.” He described the rational of checks and balances put in place by the framers of the Constitution as recognition that human nature is not trustworthy. Therefore, “when you passed the use of force resolution you did not cede authority, in fact, you have a duty to revisit this.”

Also testifying was Bradford A. Berenson, who served as Associate Counsel to the President from January 2001 to January 2003. He noted that the power of commander in chief gives exclusive power over tactics, strategy and selecting sub-commanders. Congressional power is over broad national policy, e.g. where we fight, who the enemy is, and how many troops can be used. If the Congress wanted to say “end hostility within six months,” doing so would be in its constitutional power but the president would still have emergency powers to protect the troops in that process. He concluded “the constitutional scheme does give Congress broad authority to terminate a war.”

The final speaker was Walter Dellinger, a former Solicitor General of the United States who is

a professor at Duke University. He said the president had “authority to command the troops and a great deal of authority to protect national security, when Congress is silent. But when Congress has acted to decide the size, scope and duration of military force, it limits the president.” Dellinger did not believe that Congress was limited to the power of the purse but rather could limit presidential actions under the necessary and proper clause of the Constitution as well.

Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA) brought up the issue of Iran asking whether or not the president had authority to attack Iran or whether Congressional action was necessary. Professor Turner said that the president does have the power to protect the troops from Iran in isolated incidents, but beyond that he would need Congressional authority. Professor Barron looked to the authorization of force resolution and asked whether that provided sufficient power. He said Congress could take action to restrict the President. Berenson said this was an area of shared power, the President could act to protect national security in the absence of Congressional legislation and this could include acting to prevent Iran from having nuclear weapons. Professor Dellinger said the president has the authority to introduce troops into hostilities, but not into a war. Further, Congress can impose limits before or after such hostilities.

Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) asked whether, since the predicates for the Iraq invasion, i.e. weapons of mass destruction and the abusive rule of Saddam Hussein, were no longer in existence, if the resolution authorizing force was still valid. Professor Turner said that the approval of appropriations can be sufficient to provide ongoing authority. But if Congress puts on limits that would be controlling. Professor Dellinger said that the predicates of the Oct 2002 resolution no longer being valid show the importance of Congress revisiting the issue. He argued that “we need debate on whether this policy is in the national interest. We owe it to soldiers and their families to have that debate.”

This hearing built the case that Congress has the power to end the war, but it went further showing

Bring the troops home

Support HR508

In an act of uncommon courage for a freshman Congressperson, Rep. Jerry McNerney has cosponsored HR508, the Bring the Troops Home and Iraq Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2007. On this "controversial" issue, it is important to let Rep. McNerney know he is supported in this action. Action: Thank Rep. McNerney and contact Rep. Cardoza, encouraging him to sign on as well.

H.R.508: Bring the Troops Home and Iraq Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2007

Purpose: To require United States military disengagement from Iraq, to provide United States assistance for reconstruction and reconciliation in Iraq, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep Woolsey, Lynn C. [CA-6] (introduced 1/17/2007) Cosponsors (34)

Latest Major Action: 2/2/2007 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law.

Summary as introduced:

Declares that it is U.S. policy to: (1) end the occupation of Iraq; (2) accelerate the training and equipping of Iraq's military and security forces; (3) pursue security and stability in Iraq through diplomacy; (4) help preserve the territorial integrity of Iraq as a nation state; (5) account for any missing U.S. Armed Forces personnel or U.S. citizens in Iraq; and (6) turn over internal security activities and military operations in Iraq to the elected government of Iraq within six months.

Repeals the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002.

Requires the withdrawal from Iraq of all U.S. Armed Forces and contractor security forces within six months.

Prohibits, with exceptions, fund use to continue deployment of U.S. Armed Forces in Iraq.

Prohibits: (1) the construction of permanent U.S. military installations in Iraq; and (2) production sharing agreements for Iraqi petroleum resources.

Limits the total number of personnel at the U.S. embassy in Iraq.

Authorizes the President to: (1) support the deployment of international stabilization forces in Iraq; (2) provide assistance for an Iraqi reconstruction corps, mine and ordinance clearing, cultural and historical restoration, and for an Iraqi institute of peace; and (3) establish international funds to redevelop Iraqi civic and health institutions.

Revises authorities respecting the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction.

Provides for compensation of Iraqi noncombatant civilian casualties.

Provides funding availability for veterans health care.

Establishes the Joint Select Committee to Review the Origins and Conduct of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

the Congress has the responsibility to revisit the Iraq War in order to represent the views of the voters and determine whether the policy is in the national interest. And, with all the evidence indicating potential military action against Iran, it is imperative for Congress to revisit

the issue to prevent the president from expanding the war in Iran.

Kevin B. Zeese is executive director of DemocracyRising.US and a co-founder of VotersForPeace.

Source: <http://democracyrising.us/content/view/754/151/>

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is for good people to do nothing.*

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Army officer Ehren Watada tests legality of Iraq war

Norman Solomon

The people running the Iraq War are eager to make an example of Ehren Watada. They've convened a kangaroo court-martial. But the man on trial is setting a profound example of conscience—helping to undermine the war that the Pentagon's top officials are so eager to protect.

"The judge in the case against the first US officer court-martialed for refusing to ship out for Iraq barred several experts in international and constitutional law from testifying Monday about the legality of the war," the Associated Press reported.

While the judge was hopping through the military's hoops at Fort Lewis in Washington State, an outpouring of support for Watada at the gates reflected just how broad and deep the opposition to this war has become.

The AP dispatch merely stated that "outside the base, a small group that included actor Sean Penn demonstrated in support of Watada." But several hundred people maintained an anti-war presence Monday at the gates, where a vigil and rally—led by Iraq War veterans and parents of those sent to kill and be killed in this horrific war—mirrored what is happening in communities across the United States.

Many of the most compelling voices against the Iraq War come from the men and women who were ordered into a conflagration that should never have begun. Opinions may be debatable, but experiences are irrefutable. And the devastating slaughter that the US war effort continues to inflict on Iraqi people has a counterpoint in the suffering of Americans who are left with unspeakable grief.

In direct resistance to the depravity of the Bush administration as it escalates this war, Lieutenant Watada is taking a clear and uplifting position. Citing international law and the US Constitution, he points out that the Iraq War is "manifestly illegal." And he adds: "As the order to take part in an illegal act is ultimately unlawful as well, I

**Many of the most compelling
voices against the Iraq War come
from the men and women who
were ordered into a conflagration
that should never have begun.**

must as an officer of honor and integrity refuse that order. It is my duty not to follow unlawful orders and not to participate in things I find morally reprehensible." Watada says: "My participation would make me party to war crimes."

Outside the fence at Fort Lewis—while the grim farce of Watada's court-martial proceeded with virtually all substance ruled out of order—the criminality of the war and the pain it has brought were heavy in the air. Darrell Anderson was a US soldier in Iraq. He received a Purple Heart. Later, he refused orders to return for a second tour of duty. Now, he gives firsthand accounts of the routine killing of Iraqi civilians. He speaks as an eyewitness and a participant in a war that is one long war crime. And he makes a convincing case that "the GI resistance" is emerging and pivotal: "You can't call yourself anti-war if you're not supporting the resistance."

At Fort Lewis, outside the gates, I met Carlos Arredondo. He's traveling the country in a long black hearse-like station wagon, with big photos and letters from his son Alexander plastered on the sides of the vehicle.

At age 20, more than two years ago, Alexander died in Iraq. Now, a conversation with Carlos Arredondo is likely to leave you in tears, feeling his grief and his rage against this war. "When the Marines came to inform Arredondo of his son's death and stayed after he asked them to leave, he set their van on fire, burning over a quarter of his

body in the process," the *Boston Globe* has reported. Carlos and his wife Melida Arredondo are now members of Military Families Speak Out.

Among the speakers at a nearby event the night before Watada's court-martial began was Helga Aguayo, whose husband Agustin Aguayo is a US Army medic now charged with desertion. After deployment to Iraq in 2004, he applied for recognition as a conscientious objector, without success. During a year in the war zone, he refused to put ammunition in his weapon. Today, he is looking at the prospect of up to seven years in prison. Many others in uniform are struggling to extricate themselves from the war machine. Information about some of them is available at: www.couragetoresist.org.

Soldiers have to choose from options forced upon them by the Commander-in-Chief and Congress. Those who resist this war deserve our gratitude and our support. And our willingness to resist as well. Ehren Watada faces four years in prison. Half of that potential sentence has to do with the fact that he made public statements against the war. The war-makers want such honest courage to stop. But it is growing every day.

Norman Solomon's latest book, War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death, is out in paperback. He is executive director of the Institute for Public Accuracy.

Source: www.truthout.org 2/6/07 truthout | Guest Contributor

United for Peace & Justice march on Washington

Marilyn Dungan, Tuolumne County Citizens for Peace

On Saturday, January 27th I joined over 500,000 people from 47 states and an estimated 54 countries to brave the elements in Washington DC to tell Congress and the White House to de-escalate the war and bring the troops home. In addition to the march which, for the first time in history, surrounded the Capital with protesters, United for Peace & Justice had planned lobby training on Sunday and congressional meetings on Monday.

On Sunday, over 300 of us crowded into the Chevy Chase High School Auditorium in Bethesda Maryland for training, inspiration and camaraderie. We were joined by Holly Near, Phylliss Bennis, Tom Andrews, Brian Hill, Michael McPhearson and others. Just a few of the messages I heard:

- We need to "demystify activism" in our communities; many people do not know how to do it and we need to show them.
- Bills in Congress are sometimes meant to distract us. We need to defund.
- Check out www.movecongress.org—site opens February 14th.
- When we hear Iraq will be worse if we leave, we need to respond with the fact that no one really knows. But, we do know it will get worse if we stay, and 60-70% of Iraqis do not want us there.
- The famous Iraqi elections

War cost: one district

According to the National Priorities Project, January 2007, the cost of the Iraq war to date to California Congressional District 11 (McNerney): \$974,122,241

In this district, for that same money: 151,914 children could have been provided with health care for the length of the war, 5,680 affordable housing units could have been built, or 106 elementary schools could have been built.



(purple finger, etc) voted for candidates that advocated getting the US to leave.

- Most of the troops are not combat ready. IF we send more, we MUST demand that the troops we send are combat ready.

On Monday morning, several hundred peace workers had appointments to meet with at least 80 representatives or staffers in the Rayburn Congressional Office Building. I was proud to represent Tuolumne County Citizens for Peace for George Radanovich's (R) gerrymandered 19th district from north Fresno to Tuolumne. The California contingent was well represented for Dan Lungren (Calaveras, Amador, San Joaquin) and Jerry McNerney (San Joaquin).

Radanovich's office is basically bare, save an oil painting of Yosemite and a television which was tuned to Fox News. Lacey Kiriskau, a native of Turlock, politely met with us and listened to our points. She repeatedly let us know that the Congressman will always support the President. No matter what our point or query, the response was the same; "He backs the President."

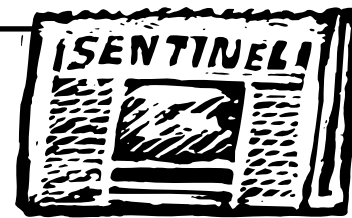
We told her that there are many contingents that do not support the President's plans for escalation of the war, and specifically ask for

the war not to be funded, reject all funding of the war unless tied to a specific plan for withdrawal, block a future war with Iran and investigate this war including the misuse of intelligence. And we, the peace workers in California, need to follow this up with letters, faxes, emails, and telephone calls. We need to organize meetings in the California offices of our congress representatives. We need to persistently keep on them.

ACTION: Contact your representatives and ask them to:

- Stop funding this war. Vote NO on the upcoming supplemental spending bill.
- Support amendments that add conditions to the spending in case the bill does pass.
- Support S.121 (Feingold)
- Co-sponsor S.233/ S.287 (Kennedy)
- Co-sponsor HR 508 (Woolsey, Lee, Waters, McNerney...)—The Bring Our Troops Home and Iraq Sovereignty Restoration Act

And lastly, we all know of the websites to gather information from. www.unitedforpeace.org is my favorite, and they deserve much appreciation for this past weekend. For more info, contact Tuolumne County Citizens for Peace, email TCCP@lodelink.com.



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

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

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

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

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

Think Progress <http://thinkprogress.com>

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

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

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<http://www.reclaimthemedias.org>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We're on the web too!

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

<http://www.pjnsjc.org>

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of San Joaquin County



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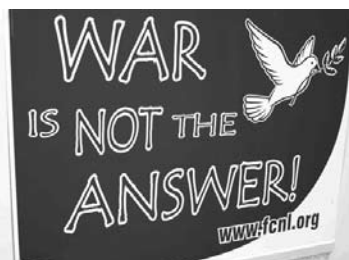
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"War is NOT the answer" lawn signs come from the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). We are requesting a \$5 donation to cover costs (sorry, we can't ship lawn signs). We also have elegant pins made of pewter in the shape of the peace 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.



Global warming meltdown a no-brainer

Sally Galiste

The Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has just been released to the public, produced by 600 authors from 40 countries around the world. Representatives from 113 governments reviewed and carefully revised the Summary before adopting it and accepting the underlying 21-page report. Here are some of the quotes coming out from this historic report:

"Global warming is happening now, it's very obvious. When you look at the temperature of the Earth, it's pretty much a no-brainer." (Jerry Mahlmann, former director of NOAA's Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Lab)

"There can be no question that the increase in greenhouse gases are dominated by human activities." (Susan Solomon, a top U.S. government scientist)

"The situation is more dire because we have real possibilities that the situation can be much greater than we have seen before. This is just not something you can stop. We're just going to have to live with it. We're creating a different planet." (Director of Climate Analysis at the U.S. National Center for Atmospheric Research Kevin Trenberth)

"The point here is to highlight what will happen if we don't do something and what will happen if we do something. I can tell you if you decide not to do something the impacts will be much larger than if we do something." (Jonathan Overpeck, University of Arizona)

The next step is up to public officials, scientists said. "I want to see action—not messages." (Swiss scientist Thomas Stocker)

"Alarm bells are ringing. The world must wake up to the threat." (Catherine Pearce of Friends of the Earth)

...and this is the sugar-coated version. The panel predicted temperature rises of between 2 to 11 degrees Fahrenheit and a rise in sea levels of between 7 to 23 inches—by 2100. But consider Greenland. It's glaciers are melting fast—very fast. They have been

**Join local "green" activists as we
approach S.J. Co. administrators
and City of Stockton officials
urging them to implement climate
change strategies and commit
to firm resolutions to reduce
emissions.**

sitting on land, not floating on the seas. Once Greenland is icefree (as some scientists believe could happen in 50 years or less), the world's oceans will have risen by nearly 23 feet, just from the glacial meltdown of Greenland.

Now consider Antarctica. It's glaciers are also melting fast—very fast. Between warmer sea temperatures underneath and meltwater seeping down from on top, escalating in a meltdown-loop, the glaciers are breaking apart and literally sliding into the sea.

Care to guess how much an ice-free Antarctica would add to our sea level? Anywhere from 150 to 200 feet. Ice cores tell us that happened in the Earth's past with only an average temperature increase of 5 to 8 degrees. Even if just one-quarter of Antarctic glaciers have melted in 50 years (a likely scenario), that's 40 to 50 feet of sea-level rise. The correlation between higher greenhouse gas levels to higher average temperatures on Earth is written in the ice itself—ice cores drilled out tell of an undeniable link between the two, over hundreds of thousands of years of Earth's past.

As CO2 and methane levels go up, planetary temperatures go up. As greenhouse gases go down, temperatures drop. But this time it's happening even faster than ever before, and we, as humans, are the cause. Have we reached the "tipping point of no return?" Maybe, maybe not. Hopefully, very hopefully, not.

The only way to slow down this runaway greenhouse effect is to take action now to slow the flow of greenhouse gases entering our atmosphere. What we do with this knowledge will determine how our world looks in only a generation or two.

As Achim Steiner says, "The public should not sit back and say 'There's nothing we can do.' Anyone who would continue to risk inaction on the basis of the evidence presented here will one day in the history books be considered irresponsible." (U.N. Environment Program Executive Director Achim Steiner) For more information, download the Summary from www.ipcc.ch and <http://picc-wgl.ucar.edu>.

ACTION: Be an advocate and an example for reducing greenhouse gas emissions—at home, at school, on the road, at work, wherever you spend your time. Speak up in your city, to your county, at your state, shout out to America. Demand accountability and action. Don't let governments be complacent. Act now for the future of our planet.

Join me and other local "green" activists as we approach San Joaquin County administrators and City of Stockton officials urging them to implement climate change strategies and commit to firm resolutions to reduce emissions.

Contact me (Sally Galiste) at Peace & Justice Network (209)467-4455, at home (209)478-4608, or through e-mail at sgaliste@sbcglobal.net.

Libby trial pulls back the curtain on Bush/Cheney deeds

Laurie Litman

You may have heard about the Libby trial and wondered what all the fuss was about. On the face of it, Scooter Libby, VP Dick Cheney's right hand man, is on trial for lying to a grand jury about his role in revealing the name of a covert CIA agent, Valerie Plame, to reporters.

Look behind the indictment, however, and you'll find that there is much more to this trial—it exposes the cynical machinations of the Bush Administration as they led the country to war. And it's not a pretty picture.

Valerie Plame was the wife of former Ambassador Joseph Wilson who went to Niger before the war in 2002 to investigate the charge that Iraq was attempting to buy yellowcake uranium for nuclear weapons. He found little to support the accusation and was surprised to hear it stated as fact in the president's 2003 State of the Union address. After Wilson went public with the information he found, including an op-ed article in the NY Times entitled "What I Didn't

Find in Africa," the White House went on a crusade to discredit him. One part of that campaign was the outing of his wife, who worked on issues of nuclear proliferation and WMD in Iraq and Iran.

In response to this act of treason, Special Prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald was appointed to investigate the case. Fitzgerald, a man of unusual integrity, actually did his job.

Much more than Libby is on trial here. We are seeing what happens when the press is too cozy with those it is supposed to be covering. Reporting in the run-up to the war was a sham and a scam. The White House leaked information to select reporters who put it in print as dictated, without question; then the White House used the printed articles as proof of their claims. We saw that play out in the lead-up to war with Iraq and are starting to see the same tactics with Iran.

In addition, all roads seem to lead to Dick Cheney. It appears that Cheney was behind the campaign to discredit Wilson—notes and talking points from him directed

Libby to leak Plame's identity. As more comes out about the Office of the Vice President a truly frightening picture is emerging. This could be the first step toward impeachment.

If nothing else, shining light on this ultra-secretive cabal may make it harder for them to play the same tricks again.

The trial, now in its third week, is worth your time and attention. It is like reading a thriller (except we are living in it). There are a number of experts (aka Plamologists) who analyze and interpret what is going on in the courtroom and it is great fun to follow the action and the various discussions on strategies and possible outcomes.

The best source of information is Firedoglake (<http://www.firedoglake.com>) which is providing live-blogging from the courthouse. In addition, Marcy Wheeler, Plamologist extraordinaire, wrote a book called *Anatomy of Deceit: How the Bush Administration Used the Press to Sell the Iraq War and Out a Spy* that lays out the whole story.

Support Student Debt Relief

The cost of attending college continues to spiral out of control, forcing an increasing number of students to either struggle under the load of student debt or forgo the dream of a college education altogether. Between the 1995-96 and 2005-06 school years, tuition and fees at colleges and universities rose anywhere between 34 and 52 percent after inflation, while median family income increased by only 3 percent during that same time. The average student graduates from college with \$17,500 in loan debt—more than double of just a decade ago. Increases in student aid covered an average of only 74 percent of the increase at public colleges and only 26 percent at private colleges.

Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA), chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions committee, recently introduced

the Student Debt Relief Act of 2007 (S. 359). This important bill will cut student loan interest rates in half to 3.4 percent, similar to H.R. 5, which recently passed in the House. In addition, the bill will increase the maximum Pell grant to \$5,100 in the first year, with further incremental adjustments in each subsequent year. The Student Debt Relief Act will voluntarily cap federal loan payments at 15 percent of a borrower's monthly income, forgive loans after 25 years, and provide loan forgiveness for public sector employees after ten years. The bill will also reduce origination fees in the Direct Loan program, allow students to consolidate loans, and close several loopholes in current law that allow schools to circumvent school and lender restrictions and permit lenders to reap unusually high reimbursements from the government for defaulted loans.

Soaring debt is a growing problem for most students. The lifelong impact of college expenses can serve as a deterrent for some prospective students who fear the debt they accumulate will be insurmountable. Loan repayment is an even more significant burden for women, who earn less on average over the course of their lives than their male counterparts. Since women are more likely to borrow than men and will make less on average after graduation, female graduates are more likely to struggle with their loan debt. In 2005, women ages 25-34 with bachelor's degrees earned 70 percent more than those with high school diplomas.

ACTION: Urge your senator to cosponsor and support the Student Debt Relief Act of 2007.

Source: AAUW Action Network alert 2/9/07 www.aauw.org



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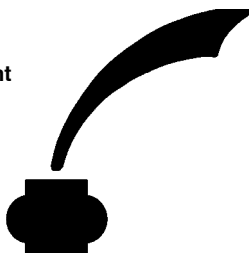
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Sen. Barbara Boxer, 1700 Montgomery St, Ste 240, San Francisco, CA 94111. 415-403-0100; 112 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510. 202-224-3553, senator@boxer.senate.gov

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Big heart of Texas: farewell to Molly Ivins

Gary Barrington

Over the years, Texas' reputation as a dark place has grown as the state races to lead the nation in executions, hate crimes, and generating false leaders like George W. Bush and Tom Delay.

But the sounds of Buddy Holly, Stevie Ray Vaughn, The Fabulous Thunderbirds, Willie Nelson and a host of others and the strong voices of steadfast progressive folks like Jim Hightower reminds us that there is still a lot of soul in the heart of Texas.

And the biggest heart was Molly Ivins'. She passed on recently but she left us a legacy of inspiration and fiery spirit that will be with us forever.

"We are the people who run this country. We are the deciders. And every single day, every single one of us needs to step outside and take some action to help stop this war. Raise hell. Think of something to make the ridiculous look ridiculous. Make our troops know we're for them and trying to get them out of there. Hit the streets to protest Bush's proposed surge. If you can, go to the peace march. We need people in the streets, banging pots and pans and demanding, "Stop it, now!" "

"I believe politics is the finest form of entertainment in the state of Texas: better than the zoo, better than the circus, rougher than football, and even more aesthetically satisfying than baseball."

"The poor man who is currently our president has reached such a point of befuddlement that he thinks stem cell research is the same as taking human lives, but that 40,000 dead Iraqi civilians are progress toward democracy."

"I dearly love the state of Texas, but I consider that a harmless perversion on my part, and discuss it only with consenting adults."

"The first rule of holes: when you're in one, stop digging."

"The United States of America is still run by its citizens. The government works for us. Rank imperialism and warmongering are not American traditions or values. We do not need to

"We are the people who run this country. We are the deciders. And every single day, every single one of us needs to step outside and take some action to help stop this war. Raise hell. Think of something to make the ridiculous look ridiculous. Make our troops know we're for them and trying to get them out of there. Hit the streets to protest Bush's proposed surge. If you can, go to the peace march. We need people in the streets, banging pots and pans and demanding, "Stop it, now!" "

—Molly Ivins' last column

dominate the world. We want and need to work with other nations. We want to find solutions other than killing people. Not in our name, not with our money, not with our children's blood."

"The problem with those who choose received Authority over fact and logic is how they choose which part of Authority to obey. The Bible famously contradicts itself at many points (I have never understood why any Christian would choose the Old Testament over the New), and the Koran can be read as a wonderfully compassionate and humanistic document. Which suggests that the problem of fundamentalism lies not with authority, but with ourselves."

Wherever good hearts go when their time here among us is over, it is a good bet that Molly is kicking back, drinking a Lone Star, listening to Buddy and having a hell of a good time. A fitting tribute to the memory of Molly Ivins is to follow her best advice:

"So keep fightin' for freedom and justice beloveds, but don't you forget to have fun doin' it. Lord, let your laughter ring forth. Be outrageous, ridicule the fraidy-cats, rejoice in all the oddities that freedom can produce. And when you get through kickin' ass and celebratin' the sheer joy of a good fight, be sure to tell those who come after how much fun it was."

Calling the *Record* to task

Joe Palooka

The recent passing of columnist/author/progressive Molly Ivins saddened Joe considerably. This small, fierce, humorous, independent-minded woman from Texas was a key player in shining the light of truth upon a disingenuous, morally bankrupt Bush administration. Her's was an unwavering voice of well-informed criticism that entertained us, enlightened us and reaffirmed what many of us had suspected all along—that she could make us laugh or cry with equal ease is a testament to her skills as a writer and to her keen insight as to the nature of human beings. Joe will sorely miss her and shudders to think of whom the *Stockton Record* will replace her with.

Speaking of the *Record*, did anyone notice Cal Thomas' column on February 1st entitled, "We Can't Pacify Terrorists?" Anyone familiar with Mr. Thomas' pseudo-religious, imperialist- leaning, take-no-prisoners viewpoints wouldn't be surprised by the acrimonious rhetoric contained within the piece. Joe was, however, a bit taken aback by the opening salvo propelled at the reader: it said, "The ideologically decrepit anti-war crowd returned to Washington last weekend for a reunion." He was referring to an anti-war protest march in Washington, D.C. on January 26th. The article reviles protesters as "aging hippies and their progeny" and "a pampered generation." Thomas implies that the protesters were legions of self-deluded leftovers from the "age of Aquarius" who outrageously

demand an end to war, along with other goals bizarrely seen by Thomas as ridiculous, such as "clean air and water."

Thomas is an unmitigated war monger, convinced that the only way to fix the world is to initiate "peace" from the barrel of a gun; a simplistic "us versus them," black and white, good versus evil mentality. Mr. Thomas, like others of his mindset, lives in a world without mirrors, unable to see the real menace lurking in their primitive ideas which have besieged mankind since its inception. Joe has not figured out Einstein's theory of relativity, but his astute observations as a bar room philosopher extraordinaire have brought him to this obvious conclusion. Violence begets violence, creating a culture of indifference to the costs in human suffering. The country is at war. How many of us really act like it is and acknowledge that on a daily basis? The ideologically decrepit anti-war crowd? Shouldn't we all be anti-war? Isn't any sane person anti-war? Think about it.

Next up on the Palooka Blue Plate Special is another piece in our journalistic gem, the *Stockton Record*. As anyone who knows Joe could testify, the editorial page of the *Record* is a constant source of irritation in the Palooka family household. All the little Palookas can testify to being awakened out of a sound sleep by the ranting and ravings of one aka Joe Palooka after scanning the editorial page.

Joe's latest beef with the bunch down on Market Street was the editorial, "Why are we

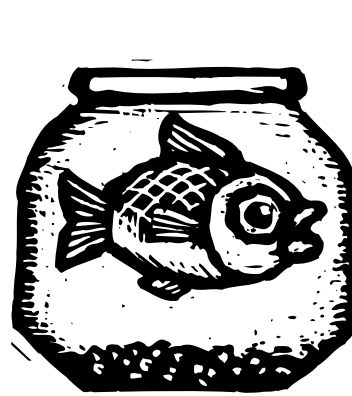
sacrificing?" on January 29th. After reading this, while eating a bowl of Shredded Wheat, a flabbergasted Joe was left shaking his bald, incredulous head. His first reaction was to find a dictionary (after locating his cursed reading glasses) and make sure the definition of "hypocrisy" hadn't changed. Having reaffirmed that it hadn't,

Joe remained dumbfounded. Here was the *Record*, long time scourge of rational thinking, unabashed supporter and cheerleader of the war in Iraq, saying things that actually made sense! Who'd a thunk it? Things like "US policy was more about maintaining stability than exporting democracy" or "Western relationships in the Middle East long have been fragile and misunderstood" and "If Americans have been repelled by recent events, realize this: we've become part of the problem."

If Joe recalls correctly—and he does—the *Record* sure wasn't talking this way for the first three and a half years of this war or more. It took Joe back to the calculated and frequent forays into near-sensationalistic, numbingly jingoistic journalism laid out on the front page and the editorial page prior to and during much of the war and its ill-fated development. *Record* editorial writers also live in a house with no mirrors.

When they say, "we've become part of the problem," Joe doesn't think they understand the real implication of that admission. These writers, like so many other flag-waving yahoos "became" part of the problem when they abandoned the principles of integrity and honesty and instead wrapped themselves in a false flag of cancerous nationalism. Instead of giving readers the true facts about Iraq, which, Joe figures, they should have access to; they chose to treat their audience with contemptuous disregard. Now that the whole mess is blowing up in our faces, both literally and figuratively, the *Record* is singing an unfamiliar and patronizing tune.

As for the notion, "We've become part of the problem," as if



it happened yesterday, Joe would suggest the following: a refresher course in Middle-Eastern history and policy, particularly the areas involving the United States and Britain and their "vital interests" in the region. Happy reading.

Well, I know you're all wondering if there's gonna be another Joe quiz, and I can happily report that there will indeed be another mind bending, nerve wracking excursion of Palooka pondering. Are you ready? Here goes.

1. Seven Republican Senators voted "Not guilty" in the impeachment trial of Democratic President Andrew Johnson in 1868. What was their fate?

a. They were fired from their moonlighting jobs as Fox News analysts.

b. Leaving Congress, they traveled West and established Berkeley, California.

c. They were labeled as traitors, with no political future.

d. They accepted new positions in the cabinet of a grateful President Johnson.

2. Benedict Arnold is infamous for being what?

a. Tom Arnold and Roseanne Barr's love child.

b. Arnold the Pig's bastard son.

c. Arnold Palmer's non-golfing, evil twin brother.

d. A Revolutionary War traitor.

3. The Iraq War has now lasted longer than US participation in:

a. World War I

b. World War II

c. The Korean War

d. All of the above

4. Barack Obama is only the second African American to serve in the US Senate. Who was the first?

a. Booker T. Washington of Alabama.

b. Hiram Revels of Mississippi.

c. W.E.B. Dubois of Georgia.

d. Frederick Douglas of Maryland.

5. After reading Joe Palooka's latest *Connections* piece, the editorial staff of the *Stockton Record* may invite Joe to:

a. An old-fashioned neck-tie party.

b. A ceremonial keel hauling on the Battleship Iowa.

c. A symposium on the effectiveness of spanking.

d. A through C are correct.

(The answers to the Joe Quiz are: 1C; 2D; 3D; 4B; and 5D.)

Well, now that Joe has left the shameless provocateurs of the *Stockton Record* hanging from the gallows of irresponsible journalism, it's time to close up shop. One of Molly Ivins' final columns called on all Americans to use voice, pen and presence to bring a halt to the insane war in Iraq. Joe has tried in his own humble fashion to honor that request during the writing of this article. It is my sincere hope that together the chorus of our voices will be heard, even in the far reaches of Washington, D.C., where men disconnected from the rigors of reality continue to approve mass death sentences for those they've never known. Let's all pledge to do our part. Molly wouldn't have it any other way. Until next time, this is Joe Palooka signing off.

Joe Palooka goes by Dave Walden by day.

These writers, like so many other flag-waving yahoos became part of the problem when they abandoned the principles of integrity and honesty and instead wrapped themselves in a false flag of cancerous nationalism.

A young California yankee in New Orleans

Mallory Josol

NEW ORLEANS, LA -

Anyone not from here, but who moved here after the hurricane is known as 'one of the damned Yankee recovery workers'—said with either a smirk or a genuine smile. A smirking person might know us as damned Yankees because:

- a) We don't speak the same, or we talk way too fast and listen just as quickly;
- b) We have unrealistic and/or misdirected ideals;
- c) We are taking New Orleans space from those who have not made it home yet; or
- d) We are doing the jobs they could or should be doing themselves, if they had the time or money or ability too.

Nearly everyone I encounter knows that I am not from here, either by my demeanor or my voice and are not shy about asking me where I'm from and if I'm "mixed." (I'm from Stockton, both Filipino and Irish). Upon realizing why I came to New Orleans, the conversation turns from slightly confrontational and suspicious to down right 'we-go-way-back.' friendly. More often than not, folks are welcoming and willing to help.

As a new college graduate from Sac State, I feel very impressionable but at the best point in life to be impressionable.

Up until now, I've deemed it impossible to make money or even to continue education in the face of activism or community organizing because both facets take so much time, money, dedication, and a certain amount of passion for completion. I've come to realize in order to save time, sanity, and perhaps effect more positive change, you can and must combine these efforts. I have a renewed fervor for completing my education once I have finished my City Year, as well as continuing community involvement.

It was love at first sight with this city. It has it all, history, art, community involvement, and the aura that can come only with



A California yankee's reflections on New Orleans

On time in New Orleans is actually an hour and a half after the scheduled beginning.

Girls drink free in all cities.

The Saints and LSU football are two of the biggest economic draws for the recovery of New Orleans because of the wave of tourism; they get more help from this than from the government.

The bars never close; the music goes on all night. Every bar and restaurant has at least one act every night, but often times more; there are rarely cover charges.

Everyone here can either sing or play an instrument. At night on my porch, my block is actually a live version of FM radio.

People think California is a foreign country and everything I wear apparently indicates that I am from California.

This is the most beautiful city in the world. There is and always will only be one New Orleans.

Everyone has a porch swing; I think it's good for their souls because everyone here is friendly with a capital F and just as helpful with the corresponding capital H.

Our City Year office is on Oretha Castle Haley Blvd. and has been recently named a main street within the revitalization process. Oretha Castle Haley Blvd. is named after a famous black activist from New Orleans. This was the first place in Louisiana to have black-owned business and black-run offices and black public schooling. This was pertinent because during the Civil Rights Movement and as groups became more organized and started the boycotts and protests, the black community was still able to function; they could shop, eat,

revitalization and renaissance. These people are fervent about the rebirth of this place and it's contagious.

go to the doctor's or go to school. However, over time, political racism, class prejudices and big hurricanes have rendered it a ghost town.

Then the nonprofits came

Nonprofits from all over the country have revitalized the place enough to make their offices here, transforming the surrounding buildings. The community is still here, and those few that I have talked to surrounding Oretha seem to mourn for it and harbor hope at the same time. It is as if Oretha's in a coma and these people are the widows of living men—not for long (if not forever) is my hope.

City Year is one of many organizations which has made this place a home and the focal point of their service projects. City Year has implemented landscaping projects, which directs water into gardens and irrigation to places other than the drains (the only other city in which this is practiced is Seattle). It has gutted many of the surrounding apartment buildings and offices that have been ravaged by the floods, so they can start renting space out to generate revenue for the area. City Year began minor renovations (gutting, painting, landscaping, signing) on a historical abandoned high school—Booker T. Washington—because, within the next couple of years, if the politicians don't forget about this area, it will become a civil rights museum. They've painted murals of famous black leaders along the underpasses of the interstate, which was built through (and to the detriment of) what used to be the street's Farmers Market and Culture Fair. And this is only what they've done on one street in six months. I can't wait to get started.

For more info, visit <http://www.NOLA.com> and for news, visit http://cat.xula.edu/unmasked/articles/406/Oretha_Haley; <http://www.project-neworleans.org/urbandesign/centralcity1.html>; <http://www.myspace.com/rebirthbrassbandRebirth>

The neighborhoods, now the water is gone

I still haven't seen the most

affected areas (lower ninth, Kenner) and don't intend to ask anyone to take me sightseeing for such a tragedy. From what I've been hearing, the mess is going to be around for awhile since they're not getting enough or any help. I have seen the FEMA trailer parks and there are dozens of trailers sprinkled about the neighborhoods in empty lots or on people's front lawns. Yes, I am talking about the trailers that were given to these people months after they lost their homes and which will soon be taken away from them again.

Even on the least affected buildings you can see the brown waterline where the flood left a permanent mark. Along with the water lines there are the grids that emergency rescue teams left on each building indicating in boxes when they entered, whether the building was inhabitable, when they finished inspection, and how many people were found dead inside in the bottom box. As I walk eight blocks to get coffee in the morning, the number in that bottom box, however faded, is still the most vivid and surreal thing to see—in eight blocks, in one of the nicest and least affected neighborhoods.

Other homes have graffiti on them. Messages of hope and despair from the owners. Some say things like "Come home New Orleans," "Katrina was here," "He forgot about us," "Can't scare me," and "Thank you, Katrina."

Culture and a catalyst

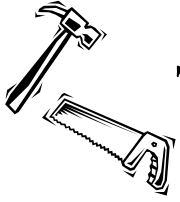
New Orleans reminds me a lot of Stockton. It seems we have similar race demographics and socioeconomic groups. We definitely have comparable crime,

particularly with the murder rates. However, the ratio of progressive community organizations here in New Orleans compared to Stockton boggles my mind. There are definitely passionate and dedicated people in both places, but the organizations here are more plentiful.

The two main differences between Stockton and New Orleans made most evident by the flood are: one—the culture. Here, even politicians promote artistic expression, music and art that is displayed at all times throughout all of New Orleans. In Stockton it's rough going to find a place with an ordinance allowing anyone to play. The second difference is the presence of a catalyst. The hurricane and consequential flood must have flushed the progressives out of their holes because the community (while it has always been known for its culture and food) really became involved with politics and revitalization after Katrina. I would never want something like that to happen to Stockton, but a little reform could help. The progressives in Stockton could plan and organize so much more if the population cared before it was too late.

Mallory Josol is a Stockton native now living in New Orleans as part of a non-profit organization, City Year, which receives much of its funding from AmeriCorps. City Year in New Orleans, a community of passionate idealists, is focused on organizing youth into groups that can effect positive changes within their schools and communities.





Sawznhammers

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

Calling on Cardoza

John Morearty

My very own congressman, Dennis Cardoza, the Democrat (and Pombo ally) who represents central Stockton and points southward, never saw an Iraq war appropriation he didn't like. His office proudly says he's voted for every single billion since before the 2003 invasion. But now, Mr. Cardoza is going to see something he may not like: a massive grassroots protest campaign against his war votes.

On January 6, I mailed this letter, postage stamp and all, to him in Washington:

Dear Congressman Cardoza:

I hope you will vote AGAINST any funding for troop increases to Iraq, and FOR beginning immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops from that country. It's the right thing to do, and (as Congressman Jack Murtha says) the only way to begin addressing the many domestic needs of America and the 18th district-universal health care, clean energy etc.

The times they are a'changing, and your constituents will support you in this change from your previous documented positions of support for the Iraq invasion and occupation.

I myself have been standing along Pershing Avenue recently, holding a red white and blue sign "U.S. OUT of Iraq!" I get a flood of thumbs-up, peace signs and so forth, and only a very few curses or middle fingers. Valley people have had it with this war.

That is evidenced by the drubbing which we administered to your erstwhile colleague Mr. Pombo. Please be on notice: there is more where that came from. We'll be watching how you vote. Sincerely....

Cardoza has not answered my letter.

But I'm not one lonesome voice. We the people are rising up, there's power in numbers. At our January 27 Pacific Avenue/Delta College protest against the war, passing motorists agreed with us, forty to one. Barre Stadtner counted them.



The post-rally march around the capitol.

All around the country, MoveOn.org volunteers are gathering signatures on the Mandate for Change Photo Petition to our congresspeople. It says:

"Representative ____: from health care to energy to the war in Iraq, America needs bold leadership. We call on Congress to remember the people who sent them to Washington and address our concerns."

When people sign the petition, they can also have their picture taken holding one or more of four placards: U.S. Out of Iraq, Health Care for All, Clean Energy Now, and Restore Democracy. Signatures and photos get collected by MoveOn, posted on their website, and will be personally delivered to the representatives.

Here in Stockton, a MoveOn team is hustling. On Martin Luther King weekend six of us worked the entrance to the Civic Auditorium; people stood in line to sign, proud to be photographed. The other day Colleen Beilby and I worked the courthouse and the new downtown bus transfer station for two hours, and got more than fifty signatures. The transfer station, in particular, is a gold mine; it's working people and the young who take the bus, and they were eager to sign. Accompanying this article are photos, a true American gallery. One sturdy young man outside a tattoo parlor told me, "If they'd give

health care to everybody, maybe people would start believing in this country again."

The petition campaign continues full steam. The manager of Sherwood Mall has graciously given us the use of a free table in the mall, Fri-Sun Feb 23-25, to gather signatures (no photos unfortunately) and pass out Connections and flyers for the rally. Stockton Police Lieutenant Eric Ingersoll assures us that the "Pruneyard" decision by the California Supreme Court requires that shopping malls make space and time available for political free speech, subject to reasonable regulations and good taste. We're still negotiating with Weberstown; a very polite call to their manager, Tom Cleveland, 477-0247, might be helpful.

Gathering signatures is easy and heartening work; volunteers can call petition coordinator Colleen Beilby at 465-7181.

Sometime soon, the local MoveOn committee will hold a meeting with Congressman Cardoza at his office in the Hotel Stockton, 137 E. Weber. We hope to have a large (and of course peaceful) throng outside supporting our demand that he stop voting more billions for the war. Human beings are dying. For information, call local MoveOn coordinator Dr. Mario D'Angeli at 477-4015.

The Arms Race Revisited

Just when the superpowers reluctantly sign nuclear ban treaties
depleting stockpiles, arsenals
gigantic
enough to annihilate ourselves
and any precursors.
the Third World flexes its nuclear muscle; not heeding history's lesson
they stockpile and test
Megatons of Mega-death
underground; Nukes nestle in
nooks. Testaments to
Gray Matter, they await
a simple phone call, a finger,
a command, a click.

Smart Bombs know the rest;
they know the way to Eternity
In a warhead, a shell, the
Belly of the Earth, the
placenta of the ocean,
There they await release
There they squirm;
mirrors of our other self:
our Hairy Self, our Brute Self,
They reflect our fear of
each other's skin hue
one another's language
and religious beliefs.

Richard Rios

Ozymandias

In truth, they're bleeding and
dying in Iraq.
Brown-eyed girls and boys,
mothers,
old men limping with canes like
me,
and yes young warriors from
Tracy and Baghdad,
white black yellow brown,
killing and dying,
guts spilling out.
Sorrow mounds up in the desert
like
the monuments of cruel old
kings.

And for what?

John Morearty

And we are planning a huge Convergence for Peace rally in Martin Luther King plaza at high noon on Saturday, March 17, followed by a march to Cardoza's office to present our "petitions for the redress of grievances," as the Bill of Rights says. If he has a change of heart and votes to end the war, we will thank and congratulate him. If not, we will let our elected representative see that, as Arundhati Roy says, "We be many, and they be few. And they need us more than we need them."

My friend Lela Nelson quotes the late great Molly Ivins: "We are the people who run this country. We are the deciders. And every single day, every single one of us needs to step outside and take some action to help stop this war. Raise hell. Think of something to make the ridiculous look ridiculous. Make our troops know we're for them and trying to get them out of there. Hit the streets to protest Bush's proposed surge. If you can, go to the peace march in Washington on January 27. We need people in the streets, banging pots and pans and demanding, "Stop it, now!"

Lela says, "I am going to hang up a pot and pan in front of my office and my home in memory of Molly Ivins who said to bang on pots and pans until we have peace. And I'm bringing a pot and a pan to the rally!"

Report from the Chair

PJN annual meeting and Feb board meeting

Christie Kelley

The Peace and Justice Center provided a warm setting for about 45 participants. After introductions and a brief update on the past year, there were presentations from local activist organizations: Youth Matters, Health Care for All, Campaign for Common Ground, Move On, Restore the Delta, Concerned Citizens, and local peace activists. It was exciting to hear about all the activities and actions being planned by a wide range of groups.

After, a fantastic potluck followed with lots of good food—almost all vegetarian and very healthy—and the new Executive Board was elected: Chair, Christie Kelley; Vice Chair, Gary Barrington; Treasurer, Bruce Giudici; Secretary, Bill McLaury.

Organizational members now include: Health Care for All, United Nations Association, Youth Matters and HEPA. Currently there are eight members-at-large. Anyone who shares our mission is welcome to join the board.

The Peace and Justice Board meets the 1st Thursday of the month, at the Peace and Justice Center, Bedford and Pacific Ave. from 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend. If you have an item of interest and would like to be added to the agenda please contact Christie Kelley at kelleyno2@sbcglobal.net at least one week before the meeting.

February Board meeting:

We reminisced about Molly Ivins who died that morning—a great loss to the progressive community but her words will live on.

Celebrations included

- a thanks to the Stockton Police Department (who did not hinder the 1/27 demonstration at Yokuts and Pacific Ave);
- a great response from the public passing by the demonstration that day and a turnout of at least 100 people throughout the day;
- volunteers collecting signatures for the MoveOn.org petition against the war receiving a warm

welcome at the new bus transfer station and

- congratulations to the city of the new low pollution buses!

The Sonora Sierra Heritage Foundation was added as a new organizational member and P & J will collaborate with Youth Matters in working on a City of Stockton Arts Commission Grant.

Keep your eye out for the March 17th demonstration to take place in Stockton. Financially we are holding our head above water—just barely—and continue to encourage supporters to become monthly contributors. We are doing some serious fundraising, so, if you have ideas, let us know.

The Center continues to host Aikido, Soul Chi, the Mexican Arts Foundation, and movie presentations. *Connections* is going as strong as ever—send in your articles, poetry, art...

Our next meeting will find us reviewing the Bylaws and Standing Rules. And another great board meeting came to a close.

Music: Don't Ride the Fence

reviewed by Christie Kelley

If you have not heard of, or listened to The Coup—it is about time you did. The Coup is a hip-hop group based in Oakland, California, comprised by Pam the Funkstress and Boots Riley, two non-conventional hip-hoppers who have gained not only a huge fan base, but tremendous notoriety for their political views.

The Coup, politically radical and Marxist in their music, align themselves with other radical hip-hop groups like dead prez. Their music is characterized by electronic sounds and bass-driven backbeats overlaid by humorous, cynical and sometimes violent

lyrics criticizing capitalism, American politics, prostitution, and police brutality, among other things.

On their latest album *Party Music* is the profound music video *Ride the Fence*. Told completely in cartoon animation, the song boasts a clever play on words as it takes you through a rapid succession of political issues and stances. The message is blatantly clear. You can't make a difference if you don't stand for something, in other words, "You don't really wanna ride the fence, now do you???"

Source: Wikipedia. Go to <http://video.google.com> and search for "Ride the Fence" and see what you think.

The Coup's *Ride the Fence* lyrics end with the following thoughts:

so I pose a proposition
take a look, be in support or
opposition
then be proactive proceed with
confidence
'cause you know that you can't
change shit by ridin' the fence

Ride the fence
now you don't really wanna
ride the fence
now do you really wanna
ride the fence?
why would you really wanna
ride the fence
don't ride the fence

Town hall meeting with war supporter Lungren

Representative Dan Lungren does not support bringing the troops home from Iraq and defunding the war. Please join Calaveras CodePink and other concerned citizens and let your voices be heard, loud and clear, at a February 26 town hall meeting.

When: Monday, February 26th, 7 to 9 pm

Where: Folsom City Hall, 50 Natomas St, Folsom

In addition, Calaveras CodePink, Amador CodePink and Tuolumne County Citizens for Peace are planning a local joint event on March 17th in support of the Washington March on the Pentagon and to commemorate the fourth year of the war in Iraq. For more information, call 209-293-7177 or email trnsend@volcano.net.

See Blood Diamond

reviewed by Christie Kelley

Blood Diamond is a movie about the desperate diamond trade in the Sierra Leone, vividly portraying human suffering, tragedy, and pain, all based on the reality of many people's lives who have experienced some of the events in the story. Good acting and a good story will have you leave this movie stunned, wondering where human greed will take us...and what we can do in response?

Excerpts from *Rough Trade: Diamond Industry Still Funding Bloody Conflicts in Africa*, by Paul Kelbie (from *The Independent* UK Friday 10 February 2006) provide some insight. According to Amnesty International (AI) and the campaign group Global Witness (GW), rough diamonds mined in rebel-held areas of Ivory Coast and Liberia are still being traded. The illegal stones are smuggled out of conflict areas and into neighbouring countries where they are either sold on the black market or mixed in with legitimate Kimberley-certified diamonds and passed off as being sourced from elsewhere.

"Diamonds have provided funding for several brutal conflicts in Africa, resulting in the death and displacement of millions of people," says a report compiled by Global Witness looking into

the continuing illegal trade. Four months ago, a Global Witness investigation into the trade discovered that diamonds were being smuggled out of Ivory Coast by rebel agents to Mali and Guinea, where they were sold to international traders. Hundreds of labourers are being forced to work in diamond pits in three villages—Seguela, Bobi and Diarabala—in the north of the country to extract up to 300,000 carats a year worth more than \$25m. For the full report go to www.truthout.org.

In the meantime, if you are looking for diamonds to give to that special someone—please go see the movie first and if you still want a diamond—ask four questions before you buy:

How can I be sure that none of your jewelry contains conflict diamonds?

Do you know where the diamonds you sell came from?

Can I see a copy of your company's policy on conflict diamonds?

Can you show me a written guarantee from your diamond suppliers stating that your diamonds are conflict-free?"

"They should be only too pleased to help you," says a campaign guide from AI and GW. "If they aren't, try somewhere else and tell them why."

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March Calendar

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

Feb 6 - Mar 3

Helen Betz abstract expressionist painter. M-F 10-5, Sat 11-3 Tidewater Gallery, 223 E. Weber Ave, Stockton. 463-4033

Mar 5 - Mar 31

John Nagle Photography. M-F 10-5, Sat 11-3 Tidewater Gallery, 223 E. Weber Ave, Stockton. 463-4033

Feb 1 - Mar 8

Steven Roy Seibel retrospective. Tu 11-4, W-Th 11-6:30, Fri 11-1. DCA/Horton Gallery, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. 954-5507.

Fri-Sun, Feb 9 - Feb 24

Baby with the Bathwater comedy, 8 pm Fri/Sat, 2 pm Sun Gnosis Theatre at the VINO Piazza, 12470 E Locke Rd. \$15 469-3059.

Fri, Feb 16

Drinking Liberally - Promoting Democracy One Pint at a Time. An informal inclusive progressive social group—bring democratic discourse to your local democratic space. Stockton Grand Hotel, 2323 Grand Canal Blvd, Stockton. Free to attend, support event host. (drinking alcohol not required.) 7 pm. 351-3397.

Sun, Feb 18

ASPARA Rhythmic Quilt Dance Project, young and teenagers present Cambodian cultural and classical dance. Doors open 3:30. Pacific Theatre, UOP. \$10, light refreshments to follow. 944-1700

Wed, Feb 21

Opera Piccola presents "The Stolen Aroma," a humorous N. African folktale. 3:30 pm. Ripon library, 333 W Main St, Ripon. Free. 937-8221.

Tue, Feb 22

Candlelight prayer vigil for peace, Annunciation Catholic cathedral, Lincoln/Rose. 7 PM. Bring a candle. All are welcome! Sponsored by Pax Christi. 462-3340, 462-8114.

Fri-Sun, Feb 23 - Mar 4

The Constant Wife by Somerset Maugham. Thurs/Fri/Sat 8 pm, Sun 2 pm. Studio Theatre at Delta College, 3rd floor Locke Center, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$12 general, \$10 students & seniors. Not for anyone under 12. 954-5110.

Sat, Feb 24

Cartoon Family Fun with Morrie Turner (Wee Pals) & Stephen Bentley (Herb & Jamaal). 2 pm. Cesar Chavez Central Library, 605 N El Dorado, Stockton. Sponsored by Charity IOOF, the oldest fraternal organization in the county - 155 yrs. Free.

Night of China: 2007 New Year Performing Arts Showcase. Spectacular exotic Chinese performances. 7-8:30 pm. SJDC Atherton Auditorium, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Free. 954-5146.

Thur, Mar 1

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

Stockton Symphony Classics V featuring violinist Christina Mok. Schumann, Dvorak. 8 pm. Atherton Auditorium, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. 954-5110

Thur, Mar 8

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

Sat, Mar 10

Teach Peace Foreign Policy Symposium presents "What I've learned about US foreign policy," 2 pm. (see page 20). Peace & Justice Center. All welcome. 467-4455

Sun, Mar 11

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

Sat, Mar 17

Peace convergence at high noon with Dolores Huerta. Rally at Martin Luther King Plaza, Stockton, to commemorate 4th anniversary of the Iraq war. (see page 20). 981-0544 or 464-3326.

Sun, Apr 22

Earth Day Festival, free fun family festivities. 11 am - 5 pm. Victory Park, 1201 Pershing, Stockton. 467-4455

Calaveras County Earth Day, free fun family festivities. 11 am - 5 pm. Utica Park, Angels Camp. All welcome. 786-3109

Second Sundays

Vegan potluck, Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. 5:30 pm sjvegans@hotmail.com. (see Mar 11)

Third Thursdays

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

Pacific Theatre University of the Pacific

Spring 2007 Film Schedule

Thurs-Sat, Feb 15, 16, 17	Glory Road
Thurs, Feb 22	Glory
Fri & Sat, Feb 23 & 24	The Inside Man
Thurs, Mar 22	Nina's Tragedies (Foreign, Israel)
Fri & Sat, Mar 23 & 24	Little Miss Sunshine
Thurs, Mar. 29	Bob Roberts
Fri & Sat, Mar 30 & 31	Stranger Than Fiction
Thurs, Apr 5	Time Regained (Foreign, France)
Fri & Sat, Apr 6 & 7	Marie Antoinette
Thurs, Apr 12	Howl's Moving Castle (Japanese anime)
Fri & Sat, Apr 13 & 14	The Prestige
Fri, Apr 13	Beerfest (Tiger Nights Late Movie: 10:30pm)
Wed, Apr 18	Dorian Blues (Independent)
Thurs, Apr 19	The Science of Sleep (Independent)
Fri & Sat, Apr 20 & 21	The Departed
Thurs, Apr 26	Old Joy (Independent)
Fri & Sat, Apr 27 & 28	Casino Royale
Thurs, May 3	The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros (Foreign, Philippines)
Fri & Sat, May 4 & 5	Dreamgirls
Sat, May 5	Employee of the Month (Tiger Nights Late Movie: 10:30pm)

Showtime: 8:00pm unless noted.
Doors open: 7:30pm
Pacific Students: FREE
UOP Staff/Faculty/Alumni: \$3.00
General Admission: \$5.00
Call (209) 946-2025 for Show Recording

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.

Learn to be an EFFECTIVE activist: 2-day training in Sac

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

The DFA Training Academy's mission is to focus, network, and train grassroots activists in the skills and strategies to take back our country. This isn't just about the next election, or what we can do for our country every two to four years. This is about building a movement to take back our

country. Democracy for America's unofficial motto has always been "You have the power." The DFA Training Academy grows out of the need to harness that grassroots power in an organized, skilled, and sustained manner.

At the DFA Training Academy, experienced professionals cover practical strategies and tactics including communications, fundraising, voter targeting, online organizing, and building a sustainable grassroots movement.

You can go out and use the skills you learn right away. Then, we follow up with you to make sure you have the support you need to organize your community.

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

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

US Foreign Policy exposed at P&J Center

The Frank Dorrel film "What I've learned about US Foreign Policy" will open the Teach Peace Foreign Policy Symposium at the Peace and Justice Center on March 10th at 2:00 p.m.

The film, by the publisher of the anti-militarism pamphlet "Addicted to War," conveys the basic message that the CIA, the military-industrial-complex, the Pentagon, multinational corporations, the media and the government of the United States are responsible for the deaths of millions of people in the third world, not to mention the poverty and oppression of millions more.

The US government supports, arms, and trains dictators and militaries that do these evil actions to their own people. All of this is to ensure that we control the natural resources of these countries and their markets, use their people for cheap labor and keep the business of war (which is our biggest business) ongoing.

The mainstream media (or

corporate media as some refer to it), will not tell these truths because it is owned by the very corporations who benefit from all of this. When it comes to foreign policy, the mainstream media gets its stories straight from the Pentagon and the CIA. We have been taught all our lives that the US fights for freedom and democracy, that we are the good guys. And since so many people in America are doing well, do have freedom, opportunity and wealth, or are just trying to get by, there is very little motivation to look into the things being said in this film.

If you're interested in knowing this other truth, difficult as it may be, then please come the Peace and Justice Center on March 10th to watch this video. You will find this alternative reality intriguing and disturbing.

A discussion will follow the screening, hosted by Mario D'Angeli and Jim Walsh. For more information call 467-4455 or see the website <http://www.addictedtowar.org>.

A message to Rep. Cardoza

Peace rally with Dolores Huerta

Dolores Huerta will be the featured speaker at a Peace Convergence at noon on Saturday, March 17. Peace, justice, and environmental activists from the region will converge at high noon for a rally in Martin Luther King Plaza, between the library and City Hall in downtown Stockton. Speakers from many concerned groups in San Joaquin County will address our theme:

Restore Democracy! No War! No war on Iraq, No war on Iran or Afghanistan, No war on health care, No war on education, No war on human rights, No war on immigrants, No war on the poor, No war on science, No war on Mother Earth, No war for empire, No war for oil.

A big box will be featured at the rally front and center, filled with MoveOn.org petitions (with photos of signers) gathered

in recent weeks, addressed to Democratic Congressman Dennis Cardoza, who has voted for all Iraq war appropriations up until now. People can add petition post cards (available at the rally) to the box. After the rally ends at 2:30, the box will be carried in a march to Cardoza's office at 137 E. Weber, in the old Stockton hotel, and presented to Cardoza or his representative, while marchers gather across the street in Hunter Square plaza.

If Cardoza does not receive the petitions from We the People, the box will be left at his front door, and a nonviolent Camp Cardoza will be established on the sidewalk outside, with an American flag, to guard our box of petitions till his office opens on Monday morning. Camp Cardoza is an act of civil obedience, in conjunction with acts of

nonviolent civil disobedience around the country, in which CodePink, Voices for Creative Nonviolence, and Veterans for Peace are occupying the offices of Congressional representatives. (See <http://vcnv.org/occupation-project/campaign-descriptions>)

The rally and march are endorsed by the Peace and Justice Network of San Joaquin County, Pax Christi San Joaquin, Teach Peace, the San Joaquin Green Party, and the Stockton/Tracy chapter of Black Women Organized for Political Action.

To sponsor or volunteer for the rally, please contact committee chair Jim Walsh at 981-0544, or John Morearty at 464-3326. Volunteers are needed immediately to help gather signatures on the MoveOn photo-petitions to Congress. Contact Colleen Beilby at 465-7181.

Become a PEACE PAL!

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

Monthly Giving Enrollment Form

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