

# connections

PRICELESS

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May 2008

## SAVE THE DATES

**APRIL 19**  
**PEACE PARTY (P. 20)**

**APRIL 20**  
**EARTH DAY FESTIVAL**

**MAY 31**  
**WALDO CONSERVANCY FESTIVAL**

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## Mayoral candidates against sprawl

*Bruce Giudici*

On the eve of tax day, Campaign for Common Ground hosted a forum that exposed the views of five of the six mayoral candidates. Present for questions that focused on issues of urban growth, development and crime were Woody Alspaugh, retired longshoreman; Steve Gutierrez, San Joaquin County Supervisor; Ann Johnson, former City Councilmember and businesswoman; Motecuzoma Patricio Sanchez, an Iraq war vet and war critic; and Ralph Lee White, former City Councilmember and businessman. Absent was Clem Lee, sitting City Councilmember.

After the candidates answered a series of randomly selected questions, a theme of putting the brakes on current development became evident. On questions of smart growth, a greenbelt between Lodi and Stockton, city infill, and Measure Q support, all voiced concern about the current direction of the recently-approved General Plan. On the downtown waterfront, Albaugh preferred housing on the south, with commercial development on the north past I-5 on the west. Most of the statements made by the candidates denigrated rampant development, giving hope to those who want a slower growth path in the General Plan implementation.

The absence of Clem Lee in this discussion was felt, since his acceptance of significant developer campaign funding presupposes pro-development beliefs. The fact that Lee has raised three times

the funds of the other candidates combined (see box) may explain his lack of attendance at a forum the Stockton Record devoted a full 91 words to on page B3, April 15. Stockton Record coverage featured one small Gutierrez quote, mentioned that Lee was at another event and gave a single Johnston position. The other three candidates were not mentioned.

Candidates also addressed issues of crime and graffiti prevention, unemployment and job creation, the importance of education and libraries, community action and mismanagement of Stockton's money-losing ventures - the Fox Theatre, Arena and Ballpark. Crime was Gutierrez' and Johnston's number one priority, while Sanchez emphasized an unemployment problem that creates the atmosphere for criminal and gang activity. At 32, Sanchez pointed out that he is closest to Stockton's median age (29), and that through better educational and employment opportunities, crime could be cut. While increasing the number of police staff was on Johnston's and Gutierrez' agenda, both White and Sanchez disagreed, saying that a re-deployment of existing police staff was possible and could more efficiently marshal available resources. White made a pledge that he would not take a City salary if he were not able to reduce crime by 40% in his first year as Mayor, claiming that he had achieved this figure in his south Stockton neighborhood.

On the issue of graffiti, Johnston

strongly urged that offenders be punished, while Gutierrez and Sanchez both took an approach that emphasized neighborhood and community outreach and education. Gutierrez underlined his experience in community outreach as a County Supervisor, saying that this approach of mediating disputes can bring positive results on issues between the City of Stockton, the county and neighboring cities.

Management of the downtown venues was an easy target, with each candidate complaining about the terms of the city contracts that all would re-negotiate. Sanchez said that opening these venues to more local acts would keep money in the community and create jobs; Johnston said the contracts could be better managed and that delegating too much power to the City Manager should not happen again. Others agreed.

On foreclosures, the City can do little, although Johnston pointed out that through code enforcement, abandoned houses needn't bring



down neighborhood housing values. She also said that, with available funding, the city could purchase homes and re-sell them through the City's re-development efforts. White complained about code enforcement, saying this made the community distrust the police.

White thought a restriction on campaign financing would violate free speech, favoring a return to district voting (where candidates spent less in order to get elected) from the current city-wide voting, which requires a much larger budget.

### As of March 17

THE MONEY	RAISED	AND SPENT
Clem Lee	\$105,391	\$44,068
Ann Johnston	\$35,382	\$6,609
Steve Gutierrez	\$500	\$0

As reported in the *Record*, "Lee's fundraising has relied most heavily on developers and development-related businesses. A.G. Spanos Co., for example, contributed \$5,000. Johnston's largest contributions were from two city labor groups, which each gave \$5,000, according to her report."

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# Holidays

*Bruce Giudici*

Earth Day, May Day and Mother's Day all began for different and important reasons - reasons we should now remember, as the distractions of food, shelter and clothing blow away in the winds of the coming recession. These were progressive, liberal holidays grounded in an idealism determined to move society forward and to make the world a better place in which to live.

Earth Day 1970 was a reaction to a lake you could walk on, a river that caught fire and air you couldn't breathe: as a result, the modern environmental movement was born. May Day commemorated a deadly Chicago worker's riot that began as a rally for the 8-hour work day in 1886: subsequently, the US labor movement began. Originally a reaction to the horror of the American Civil War, Mother's Day in 1872 was an effort to have women come together across national lines and commit to finding peaceful resolutions to conflicts: regrettably, war remains.

So, where are we today? Similarities to those past days

remain. The rich-poor divide remains, and the disadvantaged still fight the wars for the wealthy and powerful. Yet the differences are more important. We are seemingly more informed, yet not. Connected, but more distant. Most important, our self-confidence in our abilities as a people, a society, and a community have diminished significantly. Beaten for decades, convinced of our own ineptitude, we can't even figure out the DVD timer or how to build anything. We are told we can't even do our own taxes—so we don't even try. The list is long.

Now is the time, however, when we must face the reality before us and come up with new holidays, new inspirations, new actions. Looking back 40 years at civil rights actions is meaningless, if it doesn't inspire civil rights actions today. Holidays are not just an excuse for a three-day weekend (of which we would have more—divorced from holidays—if we had an alive worker's movement). They can mean something—but we are too often worn down by the economic system to take them for what they mean. Too often, popular culture drains the life out of meaningful events, substituting

a commodity to be sold for an action to be taken. Buy the t-shirt and it's as if you were there. This has to stop.

This year, think of celebrating the meaning of the holidays we have—celebrate the earth, labor, peace. By understanding the past, we should be able to build a better future based on meaningful work

## Feedback

### Fran Abbott remembered

Editor,

Thank you for running the memorial box for Fran Abbott in your March issue.

Fran and I crossed paths when we both worked at University of the Pacific. I found her a little scary at first—she could be pretty



*Bruce Giudici, editor*



on a peaceful and livable planet. And who can argue with that? Happy Holidays!

intense—but her joyful kindness soon brought me into her capacious fold.

When I had the hot idea to bring a labyrinth—an ancient spiritual tool that encourages contemplation and meditation—to Stockton, I knew Fran would know how to proceed. She did! She brought us together with three other supportive women and over lunch at the Wok Inn, she worked with us to come up with a name—Women's Spiritual Forum—and a mission statement.

Fran Abbott was the Queen of Networking. She often did a great deal with little or no money. Our Women's Spiritual Forum tagged along with the Celebrate Diversity party at Pacific in 1997, and we built our labyrinth on the south campus out of donated and scavenged rocks, with help from more interested women and some of our husbands. We brought in an expert to lay it out according to sacred geometry and were even able to pay him a stipend through donations.

When Pacific asked us to take the labyrinth out, Fran offered the garage at the Anderson Y Center (now the Center for Community Involvement) to store our rocks, which eventually were installed as a labyrinth near Central Methodist Church. Now there's a more permanent one at the Hospice next door. Labyrinths are practically ubiquitous 10 years later, and Stockton has one because of Fran Abbott.

She wholeheartedly lived a spiritual life, always exploring, so open to the next thing. She was completely at home anywhere. She took the basics, like reading

*(continued next page)*

## Earth Day 2008 Environment Grants

The following classes won Earth Day Festival 2008 grant awards of \$250 each to further environmental study in their classes. Congratulations to all!

TEACHER	SCHOOL	GRADE	PROJECT
Julia Khade	Stagg High	9-12	Students do shoreline clean-up and do research into non-point source pollution, students create informational booklets to be distributed in the community, showing ways to reduce pollution
Dinah Frey	Lincoln Elementary	1-3	Students collect samples of water and plant life in local pond and slough. Examine water for microscopic organisms with EyeClops which projects the images onto a television so all the students can see. Study food chain and threats such as pollution.
Denise Vaughan	Waverly Annex	7-8	RECYCLE: Create DVD's about recycling to share with other classes and with parents. REUSE: Disseminate reusable grocery bags along with the class DVD REDUCE: Adopt a Manteca park to clean up monthly
Chris Negus	Redwood	SH	Establish a pond and study aquatic creatures, build planters for existing greenhouse and establish a garden.
Caroline Mayhew	Write Start Preschool	PreK	Explore varying stages at which all things grow and learn, including us. Root-vue farm, butterfly kit, praying mantis kit, private greenhouses
Elizabeth Coffey	Fremont Elementary	SDC element	Students make vermicomposting bins to use in their homes and share their knowledge with their families.

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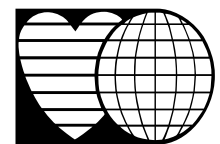
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Community Calendar: vacant

Deadline: 7th of each month (except Aug & Dec)

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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."*

# Why I crossed the line

Ria de Groot

After attending numerous Good Friday Services at Livermore Lab over the years, I began to wonder: why not cross the line? Then in 2007, Marylia Kelly again sent out her newsletter with the latest development. This time, mini-nukes were now going to be designed and developed at Livermore Lab. My heart fell, "Isn't this enough already?" Not more nuclear weapons.

So I decided that at the next Good Friday Service, I too would cross the line with the others. This next step of designing mini-nukes is too much and someone needs to say no.

This winter, a newsletter arrived in the mail from Marylia, announcing open hearings in Livermore and Tracy on our current administration's intention to "Revitalize the Nuclear Weapons Program" beginning in the summer of 2008. Livermore Lab would be one of eight sites where the work would be done, including an increase by substantial amounts the level of plutonium on the grounds

of the lab.

As the three Physicians for Social Responsibility and many others stated so clearly during the hearings, this is not safe for the workers at the Lab and not for the 7 million people living within a 50-mile range. Already convinced that it was important for me to cross the line on Good Friday, this news just added to my conviction.

We prepared ourselves for this crossing the line, by having a Passover meal at our home with friends and family. If Moses can cross the Red Sea in order to gain liberty from oppression, then we too can cross over that line at Livermore and gain freedom from the oppression of nuclear weapons in our world.

On the actual day we listened, prayed and sang songs of freedom and peace. Supporters were there to cheer us on: Barry Stadtner, Art Raab, Lynn Kirk Connell, Judy O'Donnell, Nita Stevens and John Morearty. Along with ninety others, Katherine Hourcade and I, both from Stockton, then crossed the line and did not resist arrest.



Ria DeGroot arrested for protesting nuclear weapons development at Livermore Lab on Easter Sunday.

## A few bad apples? Bush admits to approving torture

On April 11, in a national television interview, President Bush directly admitted what we have suspected all along: The White House was deeply and intimately involved in decisions about the CIA's use of torture.

For the first time, George W. Bush acknowledged that he knew his top national security advisers discussed and approved specific details of the CIA's use of torture. "I'm aware that our national security team met on this issue and I approved," he said. He also defended the use of waterboarding—simulated drowning where the victim feels like they are about to die.

Congress should long ago have gotten to the bottom of which top officials approved, condoned and authorized U.S. involvement in torture. But, now that the President has admitted to a policy of top-down torture, the ACLU is calling on Congress to demand an independent prosecutor to investigate possible violations of the War Crimes Act, the federal

Anti-Torture Act and federal assault laws.

These latest revelations confirm our worst fears about subversion of the Constitution and betrayals of the rule of law by top government officials. Recent reports indicate that members of the Bush administration including Dick Cheney, Condoleezza Rice, Donald Rumsfeld, Colin Powell and George Tenet met regularly and approved the CIA's use of "combined" "enhanced" interrogation techniques, even pushing the limits of the now infamous 2002 Justice Department "Yoo torture memo."

That long-secret memorandum became public recently as a direct result of ACLU lawsuits aimed at getting out the truth. And the truth is, the indefensible legal opinions put forward in the torture memo tried to give the President a virtual blank check to ignore the rule of law and to violate human rights standards.

If President Bush's admission finally gets Congress to challenge

the Bush administration's torture policies head-on, we can begin restoring the values and due process that the Bush administration has severely undermined in the name of national security.

**ACTION:** There must be an unyielding public outcry. Demand that your members of Congress reject torture by holding to account those responsible for approving and implementing these un-American policies. Contact your representatives and visit <http://action.aclu.org/>

Source: ACLU letter, ACLU, 125 Broad Street, 18th Floor New York, NY 10004



### Feedback *(continued from page 2)*

to children, and built community. The very best thing I learned from Fran is to relax, accept everyone just as they are. Such a simple concept, so hard to get. It wasn't a conscious exchange of information at all, rather more like it came from her heart, and just landed on me because I happened to be within her circle of love. How lucky we all are, this entire community, to have lived when she did! Fran Abbott made us all rich.

*With much appreciation,  
Joyce McCallister*

### A note from Bear

*(Ed note: Clan Dyken and crew make an annual visit to Big Mountain and the surrounding communities of the Dineh indian reservation in NE Arizona. As in past years, Bear has run the Big Sur marathon to raise funds to help the people at Big Mountain. Interested in pledging? contact [mdyken@goldrush.com](mailto:mdyken@goldrush.com))*

It has been a particularly hard winter on the res. We have sent

out extra funds for firewood and food. People have been stranded in their homes because of the excessive rain, snow, ice, and mud, so we have been asked to send out the message for supporters to do what they can for the elders in resistance.

The issues of coal, and especially uranium, mining are more pressing than ever, with energy demands and prices ratcheting up and the big companies lining up for the next wave of resource extraction and new generators. The time to act is now - to identify old toxic uranium mines and to prevent new ones from going in, as the nuclear industry prepares for another onslaught to the health of these indigenous communities and the earth itself. Spring is the time to plant corn and other native crops so important to the cultures of this region. Please support our spring trip to the reservation by pledging some money on my 26.2 mile vigil.

*Bear Dyken*

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THE ROSE FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT has set up a special fund to help the Waldo Holt Conservancy raise tax-deductible contributions to preserve sensitive habitat in San Joaquin County. Donations to this fund are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Make your donation payable to: Rose Foundation/Waldo Holt Fund.

For more information about the Rose Foundation and its programs, please visit [www.rosefdn.org](http://www.rosefdn.org).

## Measuring the candidates

Michael McGuire

"Obama is the most liberal senator." "McCain isn't conservative enough." "We don't know where Clinton stands." We have all heard these statements the past few months. Is there any objective way we can verify these claims?

I taught a political science class for Delta College for three decades beginning in the 1970s. My classes actually completed an exercise where we attempted to place various congressmen along a liberal/conservative axis using roll call votes. Dozens of organizations score legislators according to whether they vote to support the organization's interests. Some, however, rank congressmen along ideological lines. The two oldest are the Americans For Democratic Action (liberal), and the American Conservative Union (conservative). Both organizations scored congressmen from zero support to 100% support.

In the class exercise each student chose a senator or representative and subtracted the ADA from the ACU score. The result would be a number from -100 to +100, with zero in between. A person with a high liberal score would inevitably have a low conservative score, and would end up on the minus (left) side of the line.

Today you can find these scores, along with dozens of others, at [votesmart.org](http://votesmart.org). It is a non-partisan organization that features biographies of prominent politicians, their major contributors, important roll call votes, and ratings from close to a hundred organizations.

Among the listed lobby groups scoring our congressmen in Project Vote Smart's database are the National Stone & Gravel Association, The National Trust For Historic Preservation, the Academy of General Dentistry, and the Family Research Council. The variety of interest groups scoring legislators is fairly impressive.

A few more common organizations that represent broad categories can demonstrate the usefulness of these measures. The

League of Conservation Voters gave the following rankings to Obama (100), Clinton (71) and McCain (29). The business oriented U.S. Chambers of Commerce rated Obama (55), Clinton (67) and McCain (100). The AFL-CIO union scored Obama (93), Clinton (93) and McCain (7).

The National Journal also ranks politicians as liberals and conservatives. They actually provide separate scores on economic, social and foreign policies. Then they produce a composite score. One could subtract the composite liberal score from the composite conservative score and make a second comparison like the ADA/ACU analysis.

The two comparisons are shown below. In addition to the three front-runners, I have added the scores of a well-known liberal, Ted Kennedy, and the very conservative senator, John Cornyn of Texas.

### Liberal Conservative Scores

Kennedy Obama  
Clinton McCain Cornyn  
---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|  
-100 -87 0 +50 +96

### National Journal Lib/Cons Composite Scores

Kennedy Clinton McCain Cornyn  
Obama  
---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|  
-87 -72 -40 0 +13 +81

While the National Journal and ADA/ACU scores differ, the various politicians still end up in a similar sequence from left to right. Clinton and Obama appear to be solidly liberal, but Hillary may be the more moderate of the two. If McCain is conservative, he is a very moderate one compared to Cornyn. Ted Kennedy, measured by the figures above, is the arch typical flaming liberal, and John Cornyn appears to be a couple of clicks to the right of Attila the Hun.

If you want more details about the candidates, head for [votesmart.org](http://votesmart.org). If you appreciate the service, you may even want to contribute to them.

## AFL-CIO health survey

Tabulation and analysis Peter D. Hart Research Associates

Over a period of just seven weeks, from Jan. 14-March 3, a total of 26,419 people took the online 2008 Health Care for America Survey sponsored by the AFL-CIO and Working America. Most are insured and employed. Most are college graduates. More than half are union members. These are the people, it would seem, most likely to have positive experiences with America's health care system. Instead, their responses tell a sobering story about the breadth of the problems with health care in America. They

say our system has fundamental problems that must be fixed.

- The demand for change in today's health care system is based primarily on deep concerns about costs.
- The failures of America's health care system, the survey reveals, are a significant factor in broader economic problems facing working families today.
- Having insurance coverage is not insulating families from problems, concerns and dissatisfaction with today's health care system.
- But people who lack insurance—and those who have children younger than 18 who are not

covered—report particularly troubling problems getting the care they need because of cost.

- More than half of survey takers say their health insurance does not cover all the care they need at a price they can afford.
- Medicare is not a shield against unaffordable prescription drug prices.
- Concerns about today's health care system span all ages, races, and education levels and affect the insured as well as the uninsured.

Source: AFL-CIO 2008 Health Care for America Survey 3/26/08 [http://www.aflcio.org/issues/healthcare/upload/healthcaresurvey\\_report.pdf](http://www.aflcio.org/issues/healthcare/upload/healthcaresurvey_report.pdf)

# Delay, diminish, deny, and blame: must be health care

Peter Phillips and  
Bridget Thornton

In order to understand the money and power connections of the health insurance industry, we should look at the boards of directors of nine of the largest insurance companies and the affiliations of each member. We found one hundred thirteen board members who held one hundred fifty past and/or present positions with major financial or investment institutions including such major firms such as J.P. Morgan, Citigroup, Lord Abbett, Bank of America, and Merrill-Lynch. These men and women sit on the boards of financial corporations commanding \$482.2 billion in annual revenues in the US. (Department of Commerce 2006)

Additionally, these board members have connections to some of the largest corporations in the world including General Motors, IBM, Ford, Microsoft, and Coca Cola. We found direct corporate affiliations among the one hundred thirteen health insurance directors to thirty-four corporations on the Fortune 500 list for 2007, which had a combined revenue of over \$2.5 trillion dollars 2006.

The board members also held or hold eighty-two governmental or government-related positions. These positions range from members of the US House and Senate to Cabinet positions, Ambassadors, Governors, State Insurance Commissioners, and Democrat and Republican Parties posts that show a deeply embedded government-health insurance industry inter-connectedness. Three board members actually held positions in the Canadian government as well. Additionally, many board members were/are affiliated with influential policy organizations such as the Trilateral Commission, Brookings Institute, US-China Business Council, US Chamber of Commerce, and The Business Roundtable. The board



members of the major health and disability insurance firms in the US are a core element of the socio-economic-political elite in the US and uniquely positioned to dominate health care policy-making decisions for the American people.

Adding to their direct power in the government, major financial institutions, and across many industries in the US, the health insurance company directors also maintain some thirty direct connections to media organizations in the US ranging from local newspapers, radio, and TV stations to major corporations such as ABC, Washington Post, Cox Communications, and AOL-Time Warner. Thus, they are in a strong position to influence national media editorial policy and news reporting perspectives on key health and disability issues of the day.

Many of the board members have cross-affiliations with the nine companies we researched, whereby board members of one company serve on boards of other companies such as Wellpoint, Unum, Blue Cross-Blue Shield, and Kaiser Permanente, along with many connections to the pharmaceutical industry, health policy organizations, and hospitals.

These board members tend to hold industry-wide perspectives on protecting health insurance company profits, maintaining a healthy business environment for long-term economic growth, and insuring that any movement for expanded health care in the US will maintain their companies as the primary officiators.

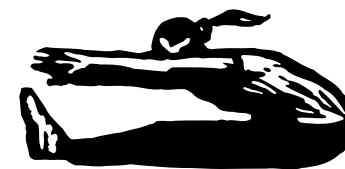
# Majority of doctors support national health insurance

The call for publicly funded health insurance received a major boost April 1 after recent findings that a solid majority of U.S. physicians now support national health insurance, according to a new study published in today's *Annals of Internal Medicine*, a prominent U.S. medical journal. Importantly, the study cites an overall trend of growing support among physicians in favor of national health insurance across a broad range of specialties since 2002, when a similar study was conducted.

The 2008 study found that 59% of U.S. physicians now support government legislation to establish national health insurance, reflecting an increase of 10 percentage points from the 2002 study, at which time 49% of physicians were in support. The increase in support for national health insurance is mirrored by a decline in opposition among doctors, from 40% in 2002 down to 32% in 2008. Support among doctors for national health insurance has increased across almost all medical specialties, said Dr. Ronald T. Ackermann, associate director of the Center for Health Policy and Professionalism Research at Indiana University's School of Medicine and co-author of the study. Dr. Aaron E. Carroll, Director of Indiana University's Center for Health Policy and Professionalism Research and lead author of the study, commented: "Many claim to speak for physicians and reflect their views. We asked doctors directly and found that, contrary to conventional wisdom, most doctors support the government creating national health insurance."

California State Senator Sheila Kuehl, author of legislation to establish a publicly funded health insurance system in California, cited the study as evidence that health care providers are unsatisfied with private health insurance and are ready to support a system where health care is publicly funded but privately delivered, similar to what she has proposed with SB 840.

"Physicians see, first hand, how insurance companies are dismantling the U.S. health care system in terms of affordability, access and quality", stated Senator Kuehl. "This study mirrors the steady growth in support that we've been seeing among the public, generally, as well as nurses and other health care providers. The public is way ahead of the politicians on this issue." SB 840 is the only fully vetted and tested health reform model currently being discussed in California and has been empirically proven able to cover every California resident, contain costs, and improve



healthcare quality. OneCareNow, the coalition made up of hundreds of supporting organizations around the state, is continuing to organize support for SB 840, as well as to educate communities on the need for the bill. SB 840 is currently in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Source: Office of Senator Sheila Kuehl release, (916) 651-4023 [www.sen.ca.gov/kuehl](http://www.sen.ca.gov/kuehl)



## Contact Your Reps

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

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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



**Joanie McCulloch M.T.**  
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# NPR: National Pentagon Radio?

Norman Solomon

While the Iraqi government continued its large-scale military assault in Basra, the NPR reporter's voice from Iraq was unequivocal this morning: "There is no doubt that this operation needed to happen."

Such flat-out statements, uttered with journalistic tones and without attribution, are routine for the U.S. media establishment. In the "War Made Easy" documentary film, I put it this way: "If you're pro-war, you're objective. But if you're anti-war, you're biased. And often, a news anchor will get no flak at all for making statements that are supportive of a war and wouldn't dream of making a statement that's against a war."

So it goes at NPR News, where—on "Morning Edition" as well as the evening program "All Things Considered"—the sense and sensibilities tend to be neatly aligned with the outlooks of official Washington. The critical aspects of reporting largely amount to complaints about policy shortcomings that are tactical; the underlying and shared assumptions are imperial. Washington's prerogatives are evident when the media window on the world is tinted red-white-and-blue.

A few days into the sixth year of the Iraq war, "All Things Considered" aired a discussion with a familiar guest. "To talk about the state of the war and how the U.S. military changes tactics to deal with it," said longtime anchor Robert Siegel, "we turn now to retired Gen. Robert Scales, who's talked with us many times over the course of the conflict." This is the sort of introduction that

elevates a guest to truly expert status - conveying to the listeners that expertise and wisdom, not just opinions, are being sought.

Siegel asked about the progression of assaults on U.S. troops over the years: "How have the attacks and the countermeasures to them evolved?"

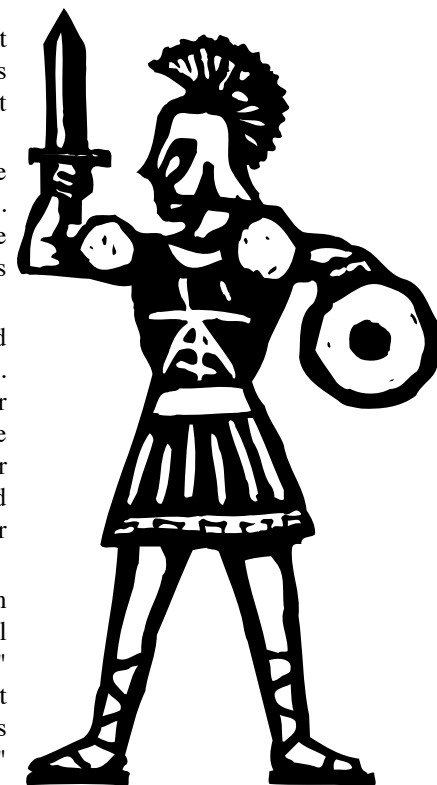
Naturally, Gen. Scales responded with the language of a military man. "The enemy has built ever-larger explosives," he said. "They've found clever ways to hide their IEDs, their roadside bombs, and even more diabolical means for detonating these devices."

We'd expect a retired American general to speak in such categorical terms - referring to "the enemy" and declaring in a matter-of-fact tone that attacks on U.S. troops became even more "diabolical." But what about an American journalist?

Well, if the American journalist is careful to function with independence instead of deference to the Pentagon, then the journalist's assumptions will sound different than the outlooks of a high-ranking U.S. military officer.

In this case, an independent reporter might even be willing to ask a pointed question along these lines: You just used the word "diabolical" to describe attacks on the U.S. military by Iraqis, but would that ever be an appropriate adjective to use to describe attacks on Iraqis by the U.S. military?

In sharp contrast, what happened during the "All Things Considered" discussion on March 24 was a conversation of shared sensibilities. The retired U.S. Army general discussed the war effort in terms notably similar to



those of the ostensibly independent journalist—who, along the way, made the phrase "the enemy" his own in a followup question.

It wouldn't be fair to judge an entire news program on the basis of a couple of segments. But I'm a frequent listener to "All Things Considered" and "Morning Edition." Such cozy proximity of world views, blanketing the war maker and the war reporter, is symptomatic of what ails NPR's war coverage—especially from Washington.

Of course there are exceptions. Occasional news reports stray from the narrow baseline. But the essence of the propaganda function is repetition, and the exceptional does not undermine that function.

To add insult to injury, NPR calls itself public radio. It's supposed to be willing to go where commercial networks fear to tread. But overall, when it comes to politics and war, the range of perspectives on National Public Radio isn't any wider than what we encounter on the avowedly commercial networks.

The documentary film "War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death," based on Norman Solomon's book of the same name, went into home-video release this week. For more information, go to: [www.WarMadeEasyTheMovie.org](http://www.WarMadeEasyTheMovie.org).

**Overall, when it comes to politics and war, the range of perspectives on National Public Radio isn't any wider than what we encounter on the avowedly commercial networks.**

# Cost of Iraq occupation: \$3 trillion too low

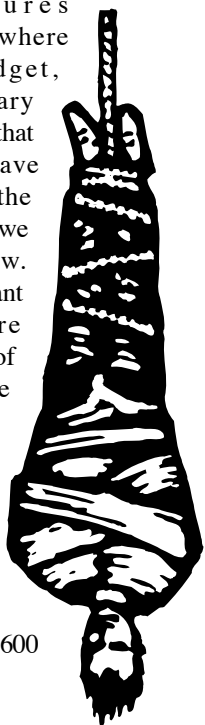
*Joseph Stiglitz and Linda Bilmes*

Notwithstanding Bush's response, our original estimate of the cost of the Iraq war was too conservative: in reality, it will be much higher. President Bush has tried to give the impression that the \$3 trillion dollar estimate of the total cost of the war that we provide in our new book may be exaggerated.

We believe that it is, in fact, conservative. Even the president would have to admit that the \$50 to \$60 billion estimate given by the administration before the war was wildly off the mark; there is little reason to have confidence in their arithmetic. They admit to a cost so far of \$600 billion.

Our numbers differ from theirs for three reasons: first, we are estimating the total cost of the war, under alternative conservative scenarios, derived from the defense department and congressional budget office. We are not looking at McCain's 100-year scenario—we assume that we are there, in diminished strength, only through 2017. But neither are we looking at a scenario that sees our troops pulled out within six months. With operational spending going on at \$12 billion a month, and with every year costing more than the last, it is easy to come to a total operational cost that is double the \$600 billion already spent.

Second, we include war expenditures hidden elsewhere in the budget, and budgetary expenditures that we would have to incur in the future even if we left tomorrow. Most important of these are future costs of caring for the 40 percent of returning veterans that are likely to suffer from disabilities (in excess of \$600



**Almost every expert we have talked to agrees that the war has had something to do with the rise in the price of oil; it was not just an accident that oil prices began to soar at the same time as the war began.**

billion; second world war veterans' costs didn't peak until 1993), and restoring the military to its prewar strength. If you include interest, and interest on the interest—with all of the war debt financed—the budgetary costs quickly mount.

Finally, our \$3 trillion dollars estimate also includes costs to the economy that go beyond the budget, for instance the cost of caring for the huge number of returning disabled veterans that go beyond the costs borne by the federal government—in one out of five families with a serious disability, someone has to give up a job. The macro-economic costs are even larger. Almost every expert we have talked to agrees that the war has had something to do with the rise in the price of oil; it was not just an accident that oil prices began to soar at the same time as the war began.

We have been criticized, but for being excessively conservative, for including only \$5 to \$10 of the \$75 to \$85 increase in the price of oil since then. Money spent on the war -- on a Nepalese contractor working in Iraq -- does not stimulate the economy as much as money spent on hospitals or research or schools at home. These contractionary effects were temporarily covered up, hidden, by the flood of liquidity and lax regulations that led to a housing bubble and a consumption boom—with household savings plummeting to zero. But this simply postponed paying these costs—and increased them.

With the exception of a few

lonely surviving supply-siders, most economists believe that deficits matter, and the huge deficits to finance the war will have their toll in the long run. Deficits matter in both the short run and the long. They help crowd out private investment that would have stimulated the economy far more than the war expenditures; and the reduced investments reduce long-run productivity. With 40 percent of the funds borrowed from abroad, Americans will be sending interest payments abroad—lowering living standards at home. Finally, even Fed Chair Bernanke (formerly the president's economic adviser) admits that the deficits have reduced the room to manoeuvre—the ability of the government to respond to the looming economic crisis.

Spending so much on the war has economic consequences, even if you don't think there is any connection between the war and the economy's current woes. In adding up the quantifiable costs of the war, it is hard not to come up with a number in excess of \$3 trillion. In putting a \$3 trillion price tag on the war, we believe we have been excessively conservative—a \$4 or \$5 trillion tag would be more reasonable. And remember—this is just the cost for America.

*Joseph Stiglitz, a Nobel laureate, is a professor of economics at Columbia University.*

*Source: Comment Is Free <<http://commentisfree.guardian.co.uk/index.html>>, 4/8/08*

# What if they were your kids?

*NOTE: If you want to understand what's happening in Iraq—not to mention what kind of parallel universe our own media report out of the conflict—be sure to read the on-the-ground reporting by the Gorilla's Guides <<http://gorillasguides.com/>> team every day. It can be jarring for American ears—we're not the target audience—but it's an important perspective that we rarely get to see.*



Spot the difference between these two children:

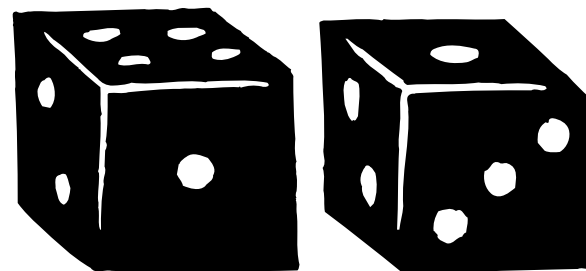
Did you spot the difference? It's not the obvious one that one is a boy and one is a girl. The difference between the two is that the girl was wounded in the roadside bombing attack on a bus south of Baqubah. The boy was wounded in one of several American rocket attacks on Sadr City today.

Can you spot the difference between the child killer who uses a roadside bomb which is a notoriously imprecise weapon without any regard to civilian casualties to achieve his objective and the American child killer who fires a rocket at a densely populated civilian area without any regard to civilian casualties to achieve his objective?

No, neither can I, because there is none. The target of that particular airstrike was a school by the way. There is absolutely no difference whatsoever between the two. None. They are both barbarians. Neither of the two types of barbarian are welcome here. I am a mother; I am Iraqi;

those could be my children. I know plenty of young mothers whose children have been murdered by the barbarism that America brought here and continues to foster here. Do not expect me to feel even the slightest pity for any American who is here as part of the American war against my children. What I feel is exactly the same as what I feel when I hear that a bomber has been killed. Relief. Relief that that is one less child-murdering pig to prey upon my children and satisfaction that a barbarian got what was coming to them.

*Source: Writer Um Thalit, Gorilla's Guides <<http://gorillasguides.com/>>, 12:28 pm, 4/10/08.*



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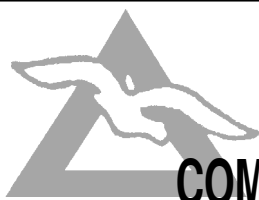
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May 1

# May Day's American history

*Harold Bell*

Back in September I asked a friend from the Philippines if she celebrated Labor Day? A bit surprised she answered no, we have May Day.

On May 1, the International Workers holiday is celebrated in most countries of the world. In many countries, it is a national holiday—a day not to go to work but a day to march in the streets, in solidarity with all workers around the world. For many people, this holiday was thought to be a foreign holiday, a Russian thing not for us Americans. But it started here.

May Day began with the fight for the eight-hour day, starting in 1886 Chicago. At this time, the fight for the 8-hour day was sweeping the nation; Chicago was the epicenter of this struggle. The powerful Central Labor Union, backed by the International Working Peoples Association (IWPA), was organizing strikes for the 8-hour day. The Commercial Club represented powerful forces on the other side of this battle. This was the elite Club with members like Marshall Field, Cyrus McCormick Jr., Philip Armour, George Pullman and other members of the corporate big business. They were dedicated to stopping this movement that would wreak havoc with maximizing their profits.

At the McCormick Reaper Works in 1886, there was a bitter strike going on for the 8-hour day. Owner Cyrus McCormick Jr. was always looking for automation that would allow him to cut his work force, determined to keep his factory running even through a strike. McCormick would use scabs and thugs like the Pinkerton Detective Agency and the Chicago police to break the union. During this strike, McCormick had hired scabs and strike breakers. At the shift change on May 3 1886, the strikers and their supporters were harassing the scabs. There was yelling, pushing, and shoving that led to fighting. The police were called to protect the scabs and the McCormick property; in this action the police drew their revolvers. A number of workers

were killed and injured.

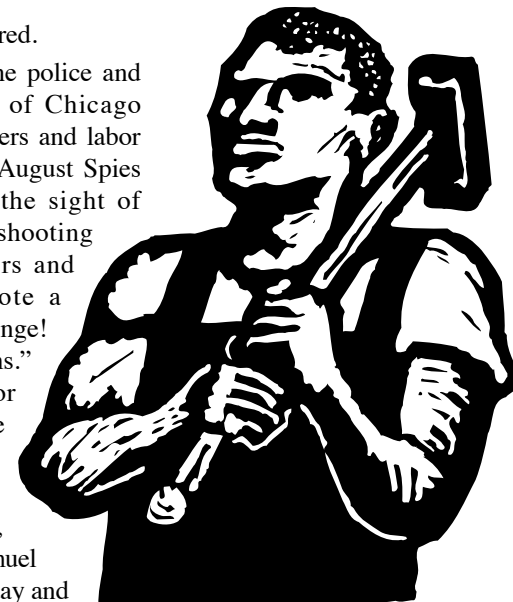
This action by the police and industrial leaders of Chicago infuriated the workers and labor leaders. Organizer August Spies was sickened by the sight of the clubbing and shooting of unarmed strikers and consequently wrote a leaflet titled, "Revenge! Workingmen to Arms." A call went out for a mass rally at the Haymarket Square on May 4.

August Spies, Albert Parson & Samuel Fielden spoke that day and by all accounts (including Chicago Mayor Carter H. Harrison), their speeches were not inflammatory. As Fielden was ending his speech (talking about how the rule of law was written for the rich to keep the workers in bondage, that workers have no use for the law), police started moving in on the dwindling crowd.

As the police were charging toward the crowd to disperse them, a powerful bomb was thrown, killing 7 policemen and wounding many more. In the aftermath of the explosion, confused and disoriented police started firing their pistols in every direction, hitting civilians and also other police officers.

Eight labor organizers (Albert Parsons, August Spies, Adolph Fischer, George Engel, Louis Lingg, Samuel Fielden, Michael Schwab and Oscar Neebe) were arrested and tried for the murder of the police in the Haymarket bombing. On November 11 1887, Parsons, Spies, Engel and Fischer were executed by hanging and Lingg committed suicide the day before the scheduled execution. Fielden, Schwab and Neebe each received long prison terms. However, they were pardoned in 1893 by the Illinois Governor.

Before their executions, the movement to save the condemned men spread around the world. From Boston to San Francisco, mass meetings were held to mourn the loss of the defendants. The same actions were taking place in Europe and Latin America. As this



became an international working class movement, it became more than a struggle for the 8-hour day. It became a day of solidarity for social justice and equality for all workers. The 1889 International Socialist Congress held in Paris founded the new Socialist International, formally adopting the principles of the International Workingmen's Association. May Day was declared as an international working-class holiday.

May Day today is the day to demonstrate international solidarity with worker's struggles in every country. May Day is the time for the working class to demonstrate its awesome power. May Day is the day to fight against racism, whether it is in Baghdad and against the war in Iraq or it is in Jena, Louisiana against another attempted lynching of the black students daring to demand equality. Recently, in Stockton and other cities, the May Day marches by hundreds of thousands of immigrants and their supporters have kept the spirit of working class solidarity moving toward an egalitarian future.

*NOTES: The material for this article comes from The Haymarket Tragedy by Paul Avrich; Death at the Haymarket by James Green; <http://www.marxists.org/history/international/social-democracy/index.htm>; <http://cpl.lib.uic.edu/004chicago/disasters/haymarket.html>*

# Longshoremen to protest war

Nearly one hundred Longshore Caucus delegates voted on February 8 to support a resolution calling for an eight-hour "stop-work" meeting during the day-shift on Thursday, May 1 at ports in CA, OR and WA to protest the war by calling for the immediate, safe return of U.S. troops from Iraq.

Caucus delegates, including several military veterans, spoke passionately about the importance of supporting the troops by bringing

them home safely and ending the War in Iraq. Concerns were also raised about the growing cost of the war that has threatened funding for domestic needs, including education and healthcare. Nobel prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz and Harvard economist Linda J. Bilmes recently estimated that the true cost of the War in Iraq to American taxpayers will exceed 3 trillion dollars—a figure they describe as "conservative."

The union's International Executive Board recently endorsed Barack Obama, citing his opposition to the War in Iraq as one of the key factors in the union's decision-making process. Caucus delegates are democratically elected representatives from every longshore local who set policy for the Longshore Division. ILWU International President Robert McEllrath has written letters to President John Sweeney of the AFL-CIO and President Andy Stern of the Change-to-Win Coalition, and to the presidents of the International Transport Workers Federation and the International Dockworkers Council to inform them of the ILWU's plans for May 1. Anyone interested in supporting the Stockton ILWU local, please call Jim at 981-0544.



# Judge Judy, mediate this

*Christian Jutt*

As a small claims advisor at the Mediation Center I receive phone calls from potential litigants seeking justice or maybe just to settle a score. The cases have a low dollar value and usually someone has informed them that it's not likely that anyone will represent them. After years of Judge Judy, the choice seems clear: the People's Court!

Unbeknownst to them, the prospective litigants often face months and months of completing legal documents, difficult service of the summons to wary defendants, court appearances, and more challenges later in trying to collect the judgment. To those who are inclined to listen, I present to them another option — mediation.

The mediations, which are held at the Mediation Center of San Joaquin, are low-cost affairs with a sliding scale for those who are economically disadvantaged. At the mediation, the participants exchange their perspectives with one another and the mediators encourage them to see the other's point of view. After working through all of the issues and finding the ground that unites them, the majority of cases result in an agreement which avoids the courtroom altogether. In the event of an unsuccessful mediation, the

parties may still seek a litigated solution.

Some detractors accuse mediations of presenting less likelihood of securing compensation from those promising to pay a settlement than if they had gone to court. Although it is true that while in some cases, parties that have promised to make payments later default on their agreements, in most cases agreements are honored. Even more to the point, at least when parties agree to make payments at that point in time, they are making a conscious and deliberate choice to pay and settle the conflict.

Litigants in search of compensation from a defendant should not labor under the illusion that a judge's decision will compel the party to pay. Often the plaintiff has to go a step further after obtaining a decision in his favor, to see any of the money awarded in the case. The strategies for collection include bank levies, wage garnishment, property liens and sometimes, a "till tap" or a "keeper" (don't ask). If, on the other hand, the party promises to pay in the mediated agreement, this is a risk definitely worth the investment.

Not all cases may be mediated, such as when one of the parties has a restraining order, agreements

between the two have been broken in the past or one of the parties appears to be hiding from the other. However, certain cases seem to cry out for mediation and the prospect of going to court conjures up a Sisyphean task for all those involved. These conflicts hopefully will end up at the door of the Mediation Center.

Litigators should keep this solution in mind when clients come asking for representation in certain types of cases. The following checklist comes to mind:

- the conflict seems to be negotiable
- parties are well known to each other
- there is no special reason to doubt the other's integrity
- the parties hope for a quick solution
- there is low dollar value to the case
- the potential defendant would like to protect his credit rating.

Pessimists may not be persuaded that the idea of settling issues peacefully by simply talking with one's adversaries is enough to make them try mediation. Still, this is not an idea that is going away. As anyone can see, there is no shortage of conflicts going around for us to worry about a lack of demand for mediation.



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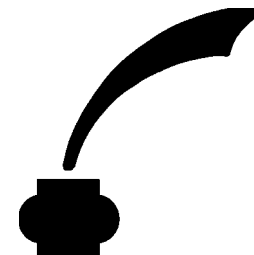
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## Clear-cutting clearly harmful

Alan R. Willard

"May we live in interesting times." Housing and property markets are grabbing headlines and more people end up homeless. The U.S. dollar is losing its global dominance. Energy costs skyrocket, a seemingly endless war proceeds, credit card debt has reached critical mass and we don't seem to have leadership with answers to these issues. With this taking place, how could anyone think of the environment? Except that global warming and climate change is part of the mix. Everyone needs to do what they can to slow it. Those of us who live in or near the forest have a responsibility to recognize that deforestation is a primary contributor to global warming. Local forest practices and principles can bring clear-cut

logging to a stop. Notice I didn't say stop logging. Take a look at satellite images of the Sierra and you will see all forests are under siege. Sierra Pacific Industries is the largest timber landholder in California. The timber industry has claimed that clear-cutting our forests doesn't cause global warming impacts. What else would one expect such self-interested "forest experts" to say? Respected forest experts not working for the timber industry have pointed out (in a Jan. 28 conference titled "Clear-cutting the climate" and on climate and forest Web sites) that clear-cut logging and systematic deforestation of western forests is contributing to global warming. The unvarnished truth is: it's time to change our attitude towards our forests.

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# Lobbyists buy Congress: price...\$2.8 billion

Corporations, industries, labor unions, governments and other interests spent a record \$2.79 billion in 2007 to lobby for favorable policies in Washington, the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics has calculated. This represents an increase of 7.7 percent, or \$200 million, over spending in 2006. And for every day Congress was in session, industries and interests spent an average of \$17 million to lobby lawmakers and the federal government at large.

"At a time when our economy is contracting, Washington's lobbying industry has been expanding," said Sheila Krumholz, executive director of the 25-year-old watchdog group. "Lobbying seems to be a recession-proof industry. In some respects, interests seek even more from our government when the economy slows."

CRP, which tracks lobbying spending on its award-winning Web site, found that, for the second straight year, health interests spent more on federal lobbying than any other economic sector—\$444.7 million. The finance, insurance and real estate sector was second, spending about \$418.7 million.

Looking more specifically within the larger sectors the Center tracks, the pharmaceuticals/health products industry outspent all industries by shelling out \$227 million for lobbying services, or an average of \$1.4 million for the 164 days that the 110th Congress met in 2007. The drug industry has spent \$1.3 billion on federal lobbying over the last 10 years, more than any other industry. Its reported lobbying increased 25 percent in 2007.

The second-biggest spender among industries in 2007 was

insurance, which spent \$138 million on lobbying, followed by electric utilities, which spent \$112.7 million, the computers/Internet industry, which spent \$110.6 million, and hospitals and nursing homes, which paid lobbyists at least \$90.5 million. The securities and investment industry, which ranked sixth, spent \$87.3 million, increasing its lobbying 40 percent over 2006.

Drilling even further to look at particular corporations, trade associations, unions and other organizations, the biggest spender in 2007 was again the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Although the business booster's reported lobbying decreased about 27 percent last year, following a record year in 2006, the Chamber and its affiliates still managed to spend nearly \$52.8 million on in-house lobbyists and with K Street firms.

General Electric was the number-two spender (\$23.6 million), followed by three interests in the health sector: the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (\$22.7 million), American Medical Association (\$22.1 million) and the American Hospital Association (\$19.7 million). Other big spenders on the Top 20 list included AARP, Exxon Mobil, AT&T, General Motors, the National Association of Realtors, Verizon Communications and several defense contractors, Northrop Grumman, Boeing and Lockheed Martin.

The amount of money spent on federal lobbying has increased about 8 percent annually since the late 1990s, making last year's growth typical. But some interests vastly increased their lobbying in 2007. Blackstone Group, the private equity firm lobbying to prevent higher taxes on its profits, ramped up 477 percent to spend \$5.4 million. The National Education Association, the nation's largest teacher's union, spent \$9.2 million last year—up 464 percent—and presumably focused its lobbying on the reauthorization of the No



Child Left Behind act.

Among Washington's lobbying firms, Patton Boggs reported the highest revenue from registered lobbying for the fifth year in a row, \$41.9 million, an increase over 2006 of more than 20 percent. The firm's most lucrative clients included the private equity firm Cerberus Capital Management, the candy and pet food company Mars Inc., telecom giant Verizon, the pharmaceutical manufacturers Bristol-Myers Squibb and Roche, and the American Association for Justice (formerly the Association of Trial Lawyers of America).

Source: The Center for Responsive Politics release, 4/10/08 <http://www.opensecrets.org/lobbyists>

## Tax score: military spending 40%, education 4%

As taxes come due on April 15th, taxpayers can take stock of how the federal government spent their 2007 income tax dollars: over 40 percent went towards military spending, while education received just over 4 percent, according to a new analysis released by the National Priorities Project (NPP), a non-profit research organization that examines the local impact of federal spending policies.

In *Where Do Your Tax Dollars Go?*, NPP offers a breakdown of how the federal government spent the median income family's 2007 tax payment in each state and almost 200 cities.

In 2007, according to the National Priorities Project, the federal government spent 42.2 percent of every income tax dollar on military spending. This figure includes 28.7 percent for current military and war spending, 10 percent for interest on military debt and 3.5 percent for veterans' benefits. At the same time, 8.7 percent went towards anti-poverty programs, 4.4 percent towards education, training and social

services, and 2.6 percent towards the environment, energy and science programs.

"The current Administration made a priority of funding a half a trillion dollar war in Iraq and a yearly military budget of the same amount at the expense of virtually everything else," said Greg Speeter, spokesperson for the National Priorities Project. "Every elected official owes their taxpaying constituents an accounting for spending their tax dollars on war and excessive weapon systems while people struggle to hold onto their jobs and their homes."

The National Priorities Project is also the leading source for the cost of the Iraq War, offering breakdowns of the cost by state, city and congressional district.

NPP's latest tax day publication also looks ahead at the Bush Administration's proposed federal spending and tax cuts for Fiscal Year 2009. Under the President's proposal, the Iraq War would receive another \$139 billion in Iraq War spending, bringing the

total allocated to the war to \$745 billion. Also under the President's proposal, tax cuts for the richest 10 per cent would cost \$116.6 billion in Fiscal Year 2009. At the same time, spending on renewable energy and conservation would receive \$1.3 billion.

"Voters have made clear in the latest polls that they are not happy with the country's current direction," noted Speeter. "With a quick look at how the government spent last year's income tax dollars, it's easy to see why."

The National Priorities Project (NPP) is a 501(c)(3) research organization that analyzes and clarifies federal data so that people can understand and influence how their tax dollars are spent. Located in Northampton, MA, since 1983, NPP focuses on the impact of federal spending and other policies at the national, state, congressional district and local levels.

Source: *National Priorities Project release, 4/7/08. NPP, 17 New South St, Northampton, MA, 01060. <http://nationalpriorities.org>.*

## Funeral plans—better now than later

Marj Fries

Preplanning your own funeral or memorial service allows for a simple business transaction when the time comes. Young and older, it's the best end-of life gift you can give family and loved friends. What makes mortuary service different from other purchases is the speed with which it must be done, the emotion involved, and the lack of knowledge of possibilities.

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U.S., affords no-hassle access to contracted services with a local mortuary. This is not prepaying. Your PrePlanning is caring for those who love you!

Call 209-465-2741 or go to web site: [www.funerals.org/affiliates/SanJoaquin](http://www.funerals.org/affiliates/SanJoaquin). Right now is a good time—or do for your birthday!



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## Recycling 101

Recycling is one of the most feel-good and useful environmental practices around. The benefits go way beyond reducing piles of garbage -- recycling protects habitat and biodiversity, and saves energy, water, and resources such as trees and metal ores. Recycling also cuts global warming pollution from manufacturing, landfilling and incinerating.

But recycling means a lot more than bringing your newspapers and cans to the curb. Truly successful recycling involves minimizing waste along the entire life cycle of a product, from acquiring raw materials to manufacturing, using and disposing of a product. Most environmental impacts associated with the products we buy occur before we open the package, so buying products made from recycled materials is just as important as sorting waste into the right bins.

And when we reduce the amount of stuff we buy in the first place, and reuse what we can, we reduce the environmental harm associated with acquiring raw materials and manufacturing. Here are some tips that will help you cut down on waste and boost your recycling skills:

### Shop smart

Purchase paper and other products for your home and office that are made with post-consumer recycled content and packaged in recyclable materials. Buy in bulk when you can to reduce the amount of packaging that gets thrown away.

### Convenience is key

Put collection bins in various places around your home and office to make recycling convenient. Use different bins that follow

your city's recycling policies, so you don't have to separate it out later. If you tend to forget what's recyclable and what's not, make a sign and post it near your bins.

### Don't forget to reuse

Paper, plastic, glass and cans aren't the only items that should be diverted from incinerators and landfills. Reduce the environmental impacts of organic waste by composting food scraps, and by leaving short grass clippings on lawns to decompose. Donate old clothing to homeless shelters, thrift stores, animal shelters and other community organizations. Take advantage of manufacturer take-back programs for your unwanted electronics.

### Make waste an endangered species

Bring your own reusable bags to local stores. Keep a ceramic mug for water or coffee at work rather than using disposable paper or plastic foam cups. Most cities in the United States have clean, drinkable water, so use tap water (you can filter it if you'd like) and refillable water bottles instead of buying bottled water.

### Talk to your local government and businesses

Encourage local officials to consider incentives and more ambitious recycling initiatives. Give positive feedback to store managers and manufacturers who are making good environmental choices.

### Take your good habits on the road

Recycling policies can vary from city to city and from state to state.

## Recycling facts

The U.S. currently recycles 32.5 percent of its waste, compared with about five percent in 1970.

According to the EPA, recycling cuts global warming pollution by the equivalent of removing 39.6 million passenger cars from the road.

Before 1973, no curbside recycling programs existed in the United States. By 2006, about 8,660 curbside programs had sprouted up across the nation.

31 percent of plastic soft drink bottles, 45 percent of aluminum cans and 67 percent of all major appliances are now recycled.

Less than half of all post-consumer paper discarded in the United States is recovered for recycling.

Only 13 percent of water bottles are recycled. In 2005, Americans purchased 30 billion water bottles, and 26 billion of them wound up in landfills.

Airports and airlines recycle less than 20 percent of the 425,000 tons of passenger-related waste they produce each year.

A plastic container you recycle at home might be garbage-bound in another community. Or something you can't recycle at home might be recyclable in your school or workplace. When traveling away from home, learn the local rules (from the city's website or by reading signs) and follow them.

Source: NRDC: *Green Enterprise* 3/28/08 <http://www.nrdc.org/cities/recycling/gsteps.asp>



# Solving climate change saves billions, creates jobs

Amidst increasingly dire news about the economy and climate change, Architecture 2030 released a seminal study at the Eileen Rockefeller Growald Symposium on Collaborative Philanthropy early April, showing how a small investment of only \$21.6 billion in the Building Sector would produce 216,000 permanent jobs and save 86.7 Million Metric Tons (MMT) of CO2 in a single year. This same amount invested each year for five years would net over one million permanent jobs and save 433.5 MMT.

According to Edward Mazria, founder of Architecture 2030, "Although difficult, the economic and global warming crises are the motivation we need as a nation to retool our thinking. If we're smart enough to jump on this opportunity, we will not only solve global warming, we will set the US up for unprecedented economic success."

The study is a comparative analysis of three approaches to addressing climate change: building energy efficiency, "clean" coal (coal with carbon capture and sequestration) and nuclear power. According to the study, "The economic feasibility of any proposed actions regarding climate change is a particularly important consideration in this time of looming recession. Therefore, the study is an investigation not only of the most effective actions that can be taken in addressing climate change, but also of the implications of these actions on the US economy."

The study concludes that, of the energy and climate change solutions proposed today, the one that costs the least and offers the greatest benefits to both the planet and the economy, is energy efficiency in buildings.

Buildings are responsible for almost half (48%) of all energy consumption and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the US annually. With an investment of just \$21.6 billion, building energy efficiency would replace 22.3 conventional coal-fired power plants, reduce CO2 emissions by 86.7 MMT, save 204 billion cu. ft. of natural gas and 10.7 million

barrels of oil, save consumers \$8.46 billion in energy bills and create 216,000 new jobs. As Mazria explained, because building is a local activity (construction jobs cannot be outsourced), the money invested in the Building Sector cycles through local economies several times, bolstering the entire US economy.

Neither "clean" coal plants (with carbon capture and sequestration) nor nuclear plants can compete with the clean energy, cheap price, widespread economic benefits and job creation of building energy efficiency. Investing the same money in either "clean" coal plants or nuclear plants costs significantly more (rather than saving consumers money), replaces far fewer conventional coal plants, reduces CO2 by far less and would create no new jobs, since the jobs at these new plants would be replacing existing conventional coal plant jobs.

To bring the energy use of the Building Sector under control, Architecture 2030 issued the 2030 Challenge in January 2006. The 2030 Challenge calls for all new buildings and major renovations to reduce their fossil-fuel GHG-emitting energy consumption by 50% by 2010, and incrementally increasing the reductions every five years so that all new buildings are "carbon neutral" by 2030. According to the study, by addressing several key factors, the 2030 Challenge offers a comprehensive, effective approach to the Building Sector's role in the climate change crisis. The Challenge calls for the necessary reductions required to avert dangerous climate change, is achievable within the timeline set by scientists, centers on building energy efficiency and renewable energy as the preferred means to achieve the reductions called for, and is already widely adopted.

Based on this information, and the momentum of the 2030 Challenge, Architecture 2030 has developed the "2030 Blueprint," a roadmap for turning the global warming and economic crises into an historic opportunity. The 2030 Blueprint calls for the US to i) implement an immediate moratorium on the construction of

any new conventional coal plants, and the gradual phasing out of all existing conventional coal plants by 2030 to place an immediate cap on coal plant emissions while allowing time to retrain coal workers for new jobs, ii) require that all developments using federal funds meet the 2030 Challenge targets to create additional models of building energy efficiency for the marketplace, iii) upgrade the National Energy Conservation Code Standard to the 2030 Challenge targets for residential and commercial buildings to immediately stabilize and begin reducing energy demand in the Building Sector and iv) invest \$21.6 billion each year for five years in building energy efficiency measures through existing federal programs (i.e. New Markets Tax Credits; Low Income Housing Tax Credits; a five-year extension and increased funding for efficiency in the Energy Policy Act) and new energy efficiency incentives, tax credits and programs to stimulate building construction, reduce annual Building Sector energy consumption by 5 QBtu, reduce annual U.S. CO2 emissions by 433.5 MMT, save consumers \$128 billion (which more than covers the cost of this solution) and create more than one million permanent new jobs and v) fund and implement a joint labor-management job training program for displaced coal industry jobs based on successful models developed over the past two decades in the tire/rubber, steel, automobile and communications industries.

The study concludes that there is a clear, simple, realistic and achievable solution to addressing climate change with significant economic benefits: building energy efficiency.

*About Architecture 2030: Architecture 2030 is a non-profit organization working to achieve a dramatic reduction in the global-warming-causing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of buildings by changing the way they are designed and constructed.*

*Source: Architecture 2030 release 4/10/08, <http://www.architecture2030.org>*



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

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

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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>

# Socialism for the rich bails out bankers & builders

Dean Baker

Conservatives used to complain liberals always wanted to throw money at problems. While there may have been some truth at times to this charge, Congress decided to literally take this path in its approach to the housing bubble last week.

There are many villains in the story of the housing bubble, but the homebuilders and the mortgage industry would go on almost everyone's list. The homebuilders rushed ahead with new developments under the delusion the bubble would last forever. The result is an unprecedented glut in housing.

The mortgage industry aggressively promoted adjustable rate mortgages to the most vulnerable segments of the population, giving us the subprime crisis. They didn't care mortgages couldn't be paid because they could dump them into the secondary market almost immediately after they were issued.

During their spring recess, members of Congress heard from angry constituents who feared the loss of their home or the loss of much of their home equity due to plunging house prices. This

prompted Congress to rush into action when it came back into session last week.

The centerpiece of the "Foreclosure Prevention Act" approved by the Senate is a tax break for the homebuilders and the mortgage bankers -- in effect throwing taxpayer dollars at two of the industries most responsible for the housing bubble. That should satisfy troubled homeowners.

But this may not be the end of it. There are plans for a large-scale buyout of bad mortgage debt. There are several different proposals being circulated, but the basic story is the same. The government would guarantee new mortgages that would be used to buy up existing mortgages of homes facing foreclosure.

While the new mortgages would be issued at prices that are less than the value of the original mortgage, they will almost certainly give the banks far more money than if the market was left alone.

For example, a bank may have issued a mortgage for \$220,000 on a home that is now worth \$200,000. Under the various proposals, the government-guaranteed mortgage would give the bank a check for between

\$170,000 and \$200,000. This means a loss for the bank, but, almost certainly, a much smaller loss than if it carried through the foreclosure.

The handout to the banks is justified as an effort to keep homeowners in their houses. This may be reasonable in depressed markets like Detroit or Cleveland, but simple arithmetic shows this plan provides no benefit to homeowners in bubble-inflated markets like Los Angeles and Boston.

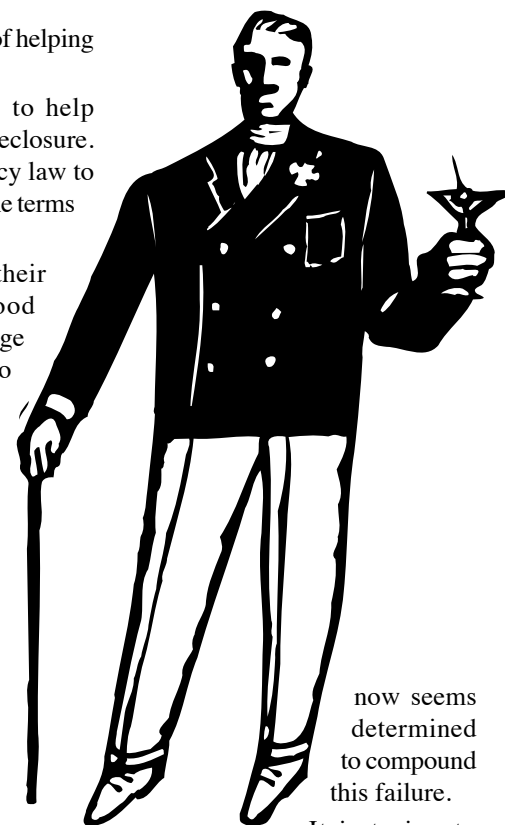
In these markets, houses now sell for more than 20 times the annual rent on a comparable unit. This means, even with a low 6 percent mortgage, after adding in taxes, insurance and maintenance, homeowners will likely pay 60 percent to 80 percent more in housing costs than if they rented. The additional housing costs will come at the expense of health care, quality childcare, and other necessary expenses. Furthermore, since house prices are falling in these bubble markets, it is extremely unlikely these families will accumulate any equity. In short, just like the tax breaks approved last week, these bailout proposals are yet another way to put money in the pockets of

bankers under the guise of helping homeowners.

There are real ways to help homeowners facing foreclosure. Amending the bankruptcy law to allow judges to rewrite the terms of home mortgages, so families can keep their home, would be a good start. We can also change the rules on foreclosure to allow homeowners the option to remain in their home as renters paying the fair market rent.

This would provide security to homeowners, since they could not just be thrown out on the street. More importantly, it would provide lenders with a real incentive to negotiate terms that allow homeowners to stay in their homes as owners, since banks do not want to become landlords.

The Fed and Congress were incredibly negligent in allowing the housing bubble to grow to such enormous proportions. Acting on the advice of economists who couldn't see the bubble, Congress



now seems determined to compound this failure.

It is trying to hand as many taxpayer dollars as possible to the banks in a futile attempt to prop up the bubble and keep homes unaffordable for young people. Thankfully, it is an election year.

Source: TruthOut.org 4/10/08 <http://www.truthout.org>

## Why not drink local water?

Jim Hightower

In a triumph of marketing over reasoning, the bottled water industry has turned us into conspicuously silly consumers.

Controlled by a handful of global conglomerates (such as Coca Cola and Nestle), the water industry has created the fantasy that if it's in a bottle, it's purer than what comes out of the tap. But wait—the EPA stringently regulates the public water systems, requiring tests several times a day for bacteria and other contaminants, and these test results are public information. The corporate bottlers, on the other hand, are overseen by the more lackadaisical FDA, which requires them to test their water sources only once a week—and

the results are kept secret by the corporations.

One group that is beginning to rebel is one you might not expect: upscale restaurants. Such places profit handsomely from offering Perrier, San Pellegrino, Fiji, or other designer waters, paying a dollar or two for each bottle and selling them for eight or ten bucks. Yet, Chez Panisse in Berkeley, California, and Del Posto in New York City are among the pioneers who are foregoing this profit center, substituting free filtered tap water or house-made sparkling water that's also drawn from the tap.

Why would they do this? Because they are part of a growing sustainable food movement that prides itself in using local, seasonal ingredients for their

menu items. Think about it: In terms of energy, environment, and sustainability, it makes no sense to load cargo ships with millions of bottles of water, haul them thousands of miles to our shores, truck them hundreds of miles to our restaurants, then chuck the bottles into our overloaded landfills—when the local, public water system supplies perfectly good water available at the turn of a faucet.

Just as it makes economic and environmental sense to "eat local," it also makes sense to "drink local."

Source: Hightower Lowdown 4/10/08 <http://www.hightowerlowdown.org>, with help from "Fighting The Tide, A Few Restaurants Tilt To Tap Water," *The New York Times*, May 30, 2007.

### Lawn signs, mugs, T-shirts

"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.



# Enough already

Robin Mittenhal

One classic definition of insanity involves doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. A twice-divorced friend of mine who recently married again seems insane in this way.

So, unfortunately, do most economists, policy-makers and pundits, who think the economy can — must! — grow forever. Whenever recession looms, as it does now, these folks seem to think the answer is for us all to make, buy and sell each other more stuff.

What's the problem with growth? There are several, not the least of which is the gradual transformation of our country into a coast-to-coast strip mall. In the long run, though, the biggest problem is simply that we've already bought, sold and buried in landfills an awful lot of the material goodies Earth has to offer.

The closer one looks at where we're getting the resources to grow with, the more the idea of perpetual economic growth starts to smell like yesterday's diapers. To get gold, copper and even common metals like iron and aluminum, we're mining ores today that companies 50 years ago ignored as inferior. In many cases we're so desperate for metal that we're actually mining the waste

from ores previously mined.

Similarly, in Alberta, Canada, petrochemical companies have built giant facilities to produce oil from thick, tarry gunk that's bound to sand under much of the province. Short of liquefying coal, there's no less efficient source of oil. But oil is now valuable enough to justify the enormous expense.

Metals and oil are nonrenewable resources, but the picture is pretty much the same for resources that theoretically replace themselves. Between timber harvesting and agriculture combined, some scientists estimate that we now consume more than 40 percent of the earth's "net primary productivity," the total amount of energy accumulated by all plants everywhere. You might think that's OK — 100 minus 40 leaves 60, after all. But the natural systems on which we depend for clean water and air and other useful perks seem to need just about all of that 60 percent to keep going. That's especially true as those systems are stressed by climate change, pollution and just plain abuse.

Economists have long answered this sort of argument by pointing to "resource substitution" — the idea that scarce metals, for example, can be replaced in many situations with high-tech plastics. They also argue that we're good at

figuring out how to use resources more efficiently, making cars and electronics and other doodads with less metal and plastic and whatnot than a generation ago. In general, they seem sure that our big brains will keep coming up with solutions when we need them.

Those things are all true at some level - we're clever enough that many manufactured goods have been getting cheaper for years - but sky-high oil and gas prices now make these claims seem increasingly hollow. There are no substitutes at all for products like nitrogen fertilizer, which can't be made on a large scale without natural gas and is now 30 percent more expensive than it was in 2000. Plastics, themselves the "cheap" substitute, now cost more for the same reason.

So what might our economy look like if it weren't based on more, more, more? It's hard to say, but a cornerstone of it would necessarily be the concept of "enough," as in "I have enough possessions" or "I have a large enough house."

This would be a profound shift for most of us. Some of us would have to be pushed there, perhaps by a Scandinavian-style system where the tax rate for the wealthiest was closer to 70 percent than 35 percent. But others of us might be attracted to this, maybe by the more-or-less guaranteed access to food, shelter, medical care, child care and education that the same Scandinavian system provides.

Would such an economy provide enough jobs for everyone? It doesn't seem that far-fetched. For starters, providing quality health care, child care and education to everyone would keep a lot of us busy. So would generating clean power, designing and manufacturing products that were really intended to be reused and recycled, and then actually reusing or recycling them as if our lives depended on it.

After all, eventually they will.

*Robin Mittenhal has worked on farms, taught high school biology and now pursues a doctorate in entomology at the University of Wisconsin. He wrote this comment for the Land Institute's Prairie Writers Circle <<http://www.landinstitute.org>, Salina, Kan.*

—John Morearty, Ph.D.

## Book Note

### Gems of Wisdom


*The Little Bird Who Found Herself* by Ed McMahon. Illustrated by Prabhjot Uppal; Lifevest Publishing, 2008

This little book is at once a jewelbox, a healing fable and a guidebook for children (and adults) who don't feel comfortable because they are different. The little bird loves to chirp, loudly. But her cousins sniff, "Birds don't chirp like that!" She feels confused, lonely and sad. Then a gentle old owl advises, "Go deep inside and listen...." The

process is "bio-spiritual focusing," developed and taught worldwide since 1985 by the author, a Ph.D. psychotherapist and priest; lately he's been teaching children and parents. Glorious illustrations shimmer like stained glass, quicken the eye and illumine the heart. Give it to children you love.



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# Immediate withdrawal: the only sensible option

*General William Odom*

*Below is the testimony of General William Odom, a retired U.S. Army 3-star general and former Director of the NSA under President Ronald Reagan, before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Iraq.*

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. It is an honor to appear before you again. The last occasion was in January 2007, when the topic was the troop surge. Today you are asking if it has worked. Last year I rejected the claim that it was a new strategy. Rather, I said, it is a new tactic used to achieve the same old strategic aim, political stability. And I foresaw no serious prospects for success.

I see no reason to change my judgment now. The surge is prolonging instability, not creating the conditions for unity as the president claims.

Last year, General Petraeus wisely declined to promise a military solution to this political problem, saying that he could lower the level of violence, allowing a limited time for the Iraqi leaders to strike a political deal. Violence has been temporarily reduced but today there is credible evidence that the political situation is far more fragmented. And currently we see violence surge in Baghdad and Basra. In fact, it has also remained sporadic and significant in several other parts of Iraq over the past year, notwithstanding the notable drop in Baghdad and Anbar Province.

More disturbing, Prime Minister Maliki has initiated military action and then dragged in US forces to help his own troops destroy his Shiite competitors. This is a political setback, not a political solution. Such is the result of the surge tactic.

No less disturbing has been the steady violence in the Mosul area, and the tensions in Kirkuk between Kurds, Arabs, and Turkomen. A showdown over control of the oil fields there surely awaits us. And the idea that some kind of a federal solution can cut this Gordian knot strikes me as a wild fantasy, wholly out of touch with Kurdish realities.

Also disturbing is Turkey's

military incursion to destroy Kurdish PKK groups in the border region. That confronted the US government with a choice: either to support its NATO ally, or to make good on its commitment to Kurdish leaders to insure their security. It chose the former, and that makes it clear to the Kurds that the United States will sacrifice their security to its larger interests in Turkey.

Turning to the apparent success in Anbar province and a few other Sunni areas, this is not the positive situation it is purported to be. Certainly violence has declined as local Sunni shiiks have begun to cooperate with US forces. But the surge tactic cannot be given full credit. The decline started earlier on Sunni initiative. What are their motives? First, anger at al Qaeda operatives and second, their financial plight.

Their break with al Qaeda should give us little comfort. The Sunnis welcomed anyone who would help them kill Americans, including al Qaeda. The concern we hear the president and his aides express about a residual base left for al Qaeda if we withdraw is utter nonsense. The Sunnis will soon destroy al Qaeda if we leave Iraq. The Kurds do not allow them in their region, and the Shiites, like the Iranians, detest al Qaeda. To understand why, one need only take note of the al Qaeda public diplomacy campaign over the past year or so on internet blogs. They implore the United States to bomb and invade Iran and destroy this apostate Shiite regime. As an aside, it gives me pause to learn that our vice president and some members of the Senate are aligned with al Qaeda on spreading the war to Iran.

Let me emphasize that our new Sunni friends insist on being paid for their loyalty. I have heard, for example, a rough estimate that the cost in one area of about 100 square kilometers is \$250,000 per day. And periodically they threaten to defect unless their fees are increased. You might want to find out the total costs for these deals forecasted for the next several years, because they are not small and they do not promise to end. Remember, we do not own these people. We merely rent them. And

they can break the lease at any moment. At the same time, this deal protects them to some degree from the government's troops and police, hardly a sign of political reconciliation.

Now let us consider the implications of the proliferating deals with the Sunni strongmen. They are far from unified among themselves. Some remain with al Qaeda. Many who break and join our forces are beholden to no one. Thus the decline in violence reflects a dispersion of power to dozens of local strong men who distrust the government and occasionally fight among themselves. Thus the basic military situation is far worse because of the proliferation of armed groups under local military chiefs who follow a proliferating number of political bosses.

This can hardly be called greater military stability, much less progress toward political consolidation, and to call it fragility that needs more time to become success is to ignore its implications. At the same time, Prime Minister Maliki's military actions in Basra and Baghdad, indicate even wider political and military fragmentation. What we are witnessing is more accurately described as the road to the Balkanization of Iraq, that is, political fragmentation. We are being asked by the president to believe that this shift of so much power and finance to so many local chieftains is the road to political centralization. He describes the process as building the state from the bottom up.

I challenge you to press the administration's witnesses this week to explain this absurdity. Ask them to name a single historical case where power has been aggregated successfully from local strong men to a central government except through bloody violence leading to a single winner, most often a dictator. That is the history of feudal Europe's transformation to the age of absolute monarchy. It is the story of the American colonization of the west and our Civil War. It took England 800 years to subdue clan rule on what is now the English-Scottish border. And it is the source of violence in Bosnia and Kosovo.

How can our leaders celebrate this diffusion of power as effective state building? More accurately described, it has placed the United States astride several civil wars. And it allows all sides to consolidate, rearm, and refill their financial coffers at the US expense.

To sum up, we face a deteriorating political situation with an over extended army. When the administration's witnesses appear before you, you should make them clarify how long the army and marines can sustain this band-aid strategy.

## Time to go

The only sensible strategy is to withdraw rapidly but in good order. Only that step can break the paralysis now gripping US strategy in the region. The next step is to choose a new aim, regional stability, not a meaningless victory in Iraq. And progress toward that goal requires revising our policy toward Iran. If the president merely renounced his threat of regime change by force, that could prompt Iran to lessen its support to Taliban groups in Afghanistan. Iran detests the Taliban and supports them only because they will kill more Americans in Afghanistan as retaliation in event of a US attack on Iran. Iran's policy toward Iraq would also have to change radically as we withdraw. It cannot want instability there. Iraqi Shiites are Arabs, and they know that Persians look down on them. Cooperation between them has its limits.

No quick reconciliation between the US and Iran is likely, but US steps to make Iran feel more secure make it far more conceivable than a policy calculated to increase its insecurity. The president's policy has reinforced Iran's determination to acquire nuclear weapons, the very thing he purports to be trying to prevent.

Withdrawal from Iraq does not mean withdrawal from the region. It must include a realignment and reassertion of US forces and diplomacy that give us a better chance to achieve our aim.

## Reasons to stay refuted

A number of reasons are given for not withdrawing soon and

completely. I have refuted them repeatedly before but they have more lives than a cat.

Let try again me explain why they don't make sense.

First, it is insisted that we must leave behind military training element with no combat forces to secure them. This makes no sense at all. The idea that US military trainers left alone in Iraq can be safe and effective is flatly rejected by several NCOs and junior officers I have heard describe their personal experiences. Moreover, training foreign forces before they have a consolidated political authority to command their loyalty is a windmill tilt. Finally, Iraq is not short on military skills.

Second, it is insisted that chaos will follow our withdrawal. We heard that argument as the "domino theory" in Vietnam. Even so, the path to political stability will be bloody regardless of whether we withdraw or not. The idea that the United States has a moral responsibility to prevent this ignores that reality. We are certainly to blame for it, but we do not have the physical means to prevent it. American leaders who insist that it is in our power to do so are misleading both the public and themselves if they believe it. The real moral question is whether to risk the lives of more Americans. Unlike preventing chaos, we have the physical means to stop sending more troops where many will be killed or wounded. That is the moral responsibility to our country which no American leaders seems willing to assume.

Third, nay sayers insist that our withdrawal will create regional instability. This confuses cause with effect. Our forces in Iraq and our threat to change Iran's regime are making the region unstable. Those who link instability with a US withdrawal have it exactly backwards. Our ostrich strategy of keeping our heads buried in the sands of Iraq has done nothing but advance our enemies' interest.

I implore you to reject these fallacious excuses for prolonging the commitment of US forces to war in Iraq. Thanks for this opportunity to testify today.

*Source: AlterNet <<http://www.alternet.org>>, 4/7/08.*



## Sawznhammers

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

# Nuclear weapons are wasted resources

*Testimony by John Morearty, Ph.D., at "Bombplex" hearings held by the U.S. Dept. of Energy. Tracy California, March 18, 2008 (DOE calls the hearings "Complex transformation")*

On this beautiful spring evening, I wish you peace. And that very much includes you, Mr. Wyka. [presenter from DOE]

Let me offer you an image, from James Carroll's magnificent recent book *House of War: The Pentagon and the Disastrous Rise of Pentagon Power*. The image is, we are all on a lovely pleasure boat, drifting with the current down a broad river. It's a sunny afternoon, people are chatting, drinking their coffee and their wine, enjoying the day. We're drifting on a quiet day-or almost quiet. Except that from somewhere ahead, down river, there seems to be a soft noise. One can barely hear it. A sort of gentle roar.

The name of the river is Niagara.

I'm John Morearty, I'm sixty-nine and a half, I live in Stockton. Between us, my wife and I have ten grandchildren, ages three to fourteen. They are the first of three reasons I'm here this evening. I'd like them to have the same opportunities which God and our beautiful country have given me-to live in joy, and contribute to building the earth community. But I'm afraid they won't get that chance; as the Chinese proverb says, if you keep on going the way you're going, you're likely to wind up where you're headed.

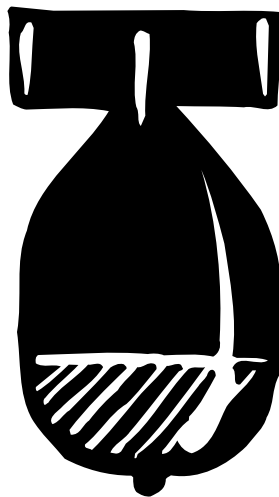
The second reason I'm here is, I'm a Ph.D. in Social Thought from the University of Chicago, trained as a cultural historian. As a young guy I helped found a small liberal arts college at University of the Pacific in Stockton, dedicated to global understanding. I left academia in 1975, became a carpenter, a licensed general contractor-and a peace activist.

I got arrested blocking the road to Livermore Lab in 1982, and went to jail, with thousands of others. Did it again in 1983, and then crossed the line onto the Nevada Test Site a few times. I've worked for peace candidates for Congress, created and hosted a public affairs cable TV show every week for fourteen years as a volunteer, and I still help produce a free monthly community newspaper, *Connections*, published by the Peace and Justice Network of San Joaquin County. [www.pjnsjc.org.]

What happened to me at the age of forty was, it dawned on me that the very existence of thousands of nuclear weapons threatened the lives of my beautiful twin sons, who were then fourteen years old-and I could not tuck them under my arms and run away to hide. No place to hide. Have you read *On the Beach*, by Nevil Shute, or seen the movie? You really should. It's about people in Australia, when there is a nuclear war in the northern hemisphere.

Nuclear explosives are not even properly "weapons." A weapon is something like a knife or a gun; you use it, and you may survive. But the intrinsic dynamic of these clever and horrendous devices, in a world full of them, is that once some fool uses one, global catastrophe threatens. And we all know that. These nuclear-things are the absurd culmination and linchpin of the imperial war system which has dominated and bedeviled humankind for about five thousand years. But Martin Luther King was right. He called our country "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today," and he said: "Our choice is no longer between violence and nonviolence. It is between nonviolence and nonexistence."

The third and final reason I'm here is that the whole nuclear enterprise is so sad: it's a tragic squandering and diversion of capital resources and human ingenuity from the



urgent problems that confront our species and our planet. Economists call it "opportunity cost." There are thousands of brilliant scientists and meticulous engineers in the nuclear system: I honor them, and we need them. Our country needs them, the world needs them, we need them to become green scientists and engineers. My twin sons are successful engineers-but they have never done war work.

Livermore and Los Alamos and the rest must become Green Laboratories, working not on bombs but on clean sustainable energy and transportation systems, medical technology, ways of cleaning up and cooling down the rivers and oceans, saving the forests and the topsoil, so our great-great-grandchildren can live in peace and plenty. The immense dangers of this planetary era summon us to immense opportunities. We human beings are so smart! We are so inventive, so capable. And now we get to decide: Will we be midwives of a new time on earth, or hospice workers?

Again, I wish you all peace!

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both local artists and  
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**For Whom:** Our patients and friends in the community.  
**Where:** 654 W. Harding Way, Stockton, CA 95204  
**When:** Two consecutive **Wednesday** evenings in May  
**5:15 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.**  
**Reservations:** Seating is limited. Please call in advance to indicate which session(s) you plan to attend.

(209) 464-4800

#### SCHEDULE

##### 5/21/08 NUTRITION, WEIGHT, HEALTH MAINTENANCE

- A holistic approach to diabetes mellitus
- Proper nutrition for the metabolic syndrome
- Weight management through natural means
- Digestion, food therapy, and health maintenance in Chinese medicine
- Special Chinese soups used for medical purposes

Yi-Po Anthony Wu, M.D., M.P.H.  
Teresa Chen, Ph.D.  
Dorel Rotar, MTOM, L.Ac.

##### 5/28/08 HOLISTIC APPROACHES TO URINARY TRACT DISORDERS & IMMUNE SYSTEM

- A holistic approach to male & female urological problems
- Prevention of frequent urinary tract infections
- Prostate disorders and treatments
- A Chinese model for the functioning of the immune system
- Strengthening the immune system to prevent infections
- Minimize the likelihood of cancers through lifestyle changes, diet, exercise, acupuncture, and herbal therapy

Yi-Po Anthony Wu, M.D., M.P.H.  
Brian Loh, O.M.D, Ph.D.  
Susan Wang, O.M.D, Ph.D.

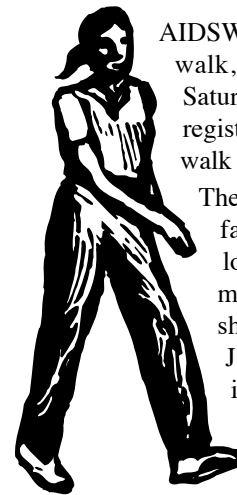
## Postal food drive

2008 marks the 16th Anniversary of the National Association of Letter Carriers Annual Food Drive. On Saturday, May 10, 2008, letter carriers across Stockton will be delivering both mail and hope. The National Association of Letter Carriers, in conjunction with the United States Postal Service, will be collecting non-perishable food items like canned fruits and vegetables, canned meats and fish, canned soup, juice, pasta, cereal, and rice to help families in need in our community.

You can help by placing your food donation at your mailbox on May 10th before your letter carrier arrives. Your letter carrier will take your donation to the Post Office where trucks from the Emergency Food Bank will be waiting. Your donated food will arrive at the food bank Saturday afternoon to be distributed to hungry families in Stockton and San Joaquin County. Last year the letter carriers of Stockton collected over 48,000 pounds of food for the Emergency Food Bank!

For more information, call the Emergency Food Bank at 464-7369.

## AIDSWalk for heart and sole



AIDSWalk of San Joaquin is hosting its 14th annual walk, "The Heart and Sole" event of the year on Saturday, May 10, at Banner Island Ballpark. Early registration is encouraged: check-in is at 9 am and the walk begins at 10 am.

The AIDS Walk is an opportunity for friends and family members to commemorate the lives of loved ones who have died of AIDS. Community members and businesses are also encouraged to show their support for AIDS awareness in San Joaquin County. We are currently recruiting individual walkers, teams and team captains, as well as corporate sponsorship of the event.

In addition to the walk, there will be live entertainment from the James Blonde Band, food, a raffle, and other prizes.

For more information, please contact AIDSWalk at (209) 608-WALK (9255) or go online to [www.aidswalkSJ.org](http://www.aidswalkSJ.org).

## SJ AIDS foundation garden tour

Enjoy a May afternoon touring the beautiful gardens of some of Stockton's finest homes during the San Joaquin AIDS Foundation's 10th annual Garden Tour on Sunday, May 18th from 10 am to 4 pm. All proceeds from this event benefit the San Joaquin AIDS Foundation. Ticket prices are \$20 in advance/\$25 the day of the event. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call 209-476-8533.

## Waterfront wine stroll

Enjoy a May evening tasting some of the finest wines California has to offer. The evening's festivities will include food tasting stations with delectable delights prepared by student chefs from IT School of Culinary. Additionally, dramatic artwork from local artist will be on display. This event will take place Friday, May 9th at the Spanos Park Community Events Center in Stockton from 5-9:30 PM All proceeds from this event benefit the San Joaquin AIDS Foundation. Ticket prices are \$20 in advance/\$25 the day of the event. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call 209-476-8533.

## Celebrate at Oak Grove Nature Center

The Nature Center at Oak Grove Regional Park in Stockton will celebrate its 27th anniversary on Saturday, May 17, with activities from 10 am-4 pm.

It's been 27 years since Oak Grove Nature Center opened its doors where staff and volunteers introduce visitors to one of the last remaining oak woodlands in San Joaquin County.

Our celebration will begin with guided bird and nature walks through the native plant garden and along the Yokuts nature trail.

You'll learn about the plants and animals that inhabit the park as you walk in the shade of century-old oaks. There will be live animal presentations and, inside the Center, new live animal displays and animal artifacts.

Everyone is invited to attend the dedication and blessing of the new trail leading to the the Miwok/Yokuts village. Come and stroll through our native plant garden as you make your way to the grinding rock and tule hut replicas. Learn how the native people used the

plants for food, medicine, and shelter. Make your way back inside the Nature Center to see our new collection of Native American artifacts.

There will be face painting and a craft activities table where you can make animal track casts.

The celebration is free to the public with a park entry fee of \$5 per vehicle. Oak Grove Regional Park is on Eight Mile Road just east of I-5 in Stockton. For more information call (209) 953-8814.

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# May Calendar

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

## Apr 7 - May 3

Lampwork Beads by Susan Winton. M-F 10-5, Sat 11-3 Tidewater Gallery, 223 E. Weber Ave. 463-4033

## May 6 - May 30

Third annual student work exhibit. M-F 10-5, Sat 11-3 Tidewater Gallery, 223 E. Weber Ave. 463-4033

## Mar 29 - Apr 27

Robert T. McKee Student Art Contest and Exhibition. Haggin Museum, 1201 N Pershing Ave, Stockton. Artwork by SJ County students from K-12. 940-6300 [info@hagginmuseum.org](mailto:info@hagginmuseum.org)

## Apr 24 - May 22

Student Exhibition, Tu 11-4, Wed, Thu 11-6:30, Fri 11-1 Delta LH Horton Gallery, 5151 Pacific Ave. Opening 4/24, 5-7 pm. Free. 954-5507

## Apr 23 - May 18

Charley's Aunt, Thu 7:30 pm, Fri-Sat 8 pm, Sun 2:30 pm. Stockton Civic Theatre, 2312 Rose Marie Lane, Stockton \$12 - \$22. 473-2424.

## Sat, Apr 19

Stockton Peace Fair, Downtown Stockton. Music, food, fun. Free.

## Sun, Apr 20

20th Annual Earth Day Festival, Victory Park, Stockton. Over 100 booths, great local music, veggie food, family bike ride (see p 1). A highlight of every year. 11 am - 5 pm. Free. 937-8389.

Mendelssohn's Elijah by the Stockton Chorale, Hutchins Street Square, Lodi. 3 pm. Adult \$20, under 18 \$10. 951-6494.

## Tue, April 22

Candlelight prayer vigil for peace, Annunciation Cathedral, Lincoln/Rose

in Stockton. All are welcome. 7 pm sharp. Ria deGroot, 462-3340.

## Mon, Apr 28

Delta-Sierra Club meeting, 7 pm, Central United Methodist Church, Fireside Room, 3700 Pacific Ave, Stockton, 7pm program with social time following. All welcome.

## Thu, May 1

Latin musician Mezklah plays Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave. 11 am - 1 pm. Free admission. 954-5151.

Peace and Justice Network meeting. 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. 6 pm Board, 7 pm program - Earth Day 2008. All welcome.

## Fri, May 2

Stockton Symphony Abracadabra Pops & Picnic featuring Jessica Sienna and Magic Mike. Civic Memorial Auditorium, 525 N Center St, Stockton. Picnic 6:30, 8 pm. 951-0196

## Fri, May 9

Waterfront wine stroll benefitting SJ AIDS foundation, Spanos Park Community Events Center, Stockton. 5 - 9:30 pm. \$20/\$25. 476-8533

## Sat, May 10

Food drive sponsored by National Letter Carriers. Food donations at your mailbox will be delivered to the Emergency Food Bank. 464-7369

AIDS Walk Heart and Sole walk-athon, Banner Island Ballpark. 10 am. 608-9255 or [www.aidswalksj.org](http://www.aidswalksj.org)

Valleydance 2008, a free dance festival at Weber Point. Performances begin at 11 am. Party/picnic all day, concert at 6:30 pm. Free admission.

## Sun, May 11

Pixie Woods Mother's Day, Shimzu at Occidental. Moms free admission with children. Kids \$3. 937-7366.

Cello recital by James Jaffe at the Haggin Museum, 1201 N Pershing

Ave. 3-4 pm. \$5 adult, \$2.50 youth. 940-6300 [info@hagginmuseum.org](mailto:info@hagginmuseum.org)

## Sun, May 18

Brass quintet at the Haggin Museum, 1201 N Pershing Ave. 3-4 pm. \$5 adult, \$2.50 youth. 940-6300 [info@hagginmuseum.org](mailto:info@hagginmuseum.org)

Stockton Garden Tour benefitting SJ AIDS foundation, 10-4. Tickets \$20/\$25. 476-8533

## Sat, May 31

First Annual Waldo Music Fest. (see page 4 for details).

## Mondays

Groovenators w/Shad Harris west coast blues, Chivita's Bar & Grill, 445 W Weber Ave. 7 - 11 pm. \$3 cover.

## Thursdays:

Peace demonstrations continue at

NEW TIME: 5 till 6:30 pm rain or shine, grassy edge of Delta campus along Pacific Avenue, north of light and bus stop at Yokuts, across from Sherwood. Free mall parking. Signs provided, or bring your own. Info John Morearty, 464-3326.

Infinite Harmony & Reiki Healing Network. Receive a Reiki mini session to heal Body, Mind and Spirit. Spiritual Truth Center, 4545 Georgetown Pl. 7:30-9 pm. \$10 donation. 983-9633

## Fridays

Downtown farmers market, Hunter Square & E Main, Stockton. 9 am - 2 pm. 464-5246

## First Sundays

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

## First & Third Tuesdays

Stockton Writers Community workshop, Chavez Library, 605 N El Dorado St. 6 pm. Free workshops designed for people writing fiction, non-fiction or poetry. 937-8221

## First Thursdays

Experimental & improv music, 8 pm Blackwater Cafe, 914 N Yosemite, Stockton. \$3. 943-6938.

## Third Thursdays

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

## Fourth Saturdays

Greater Lodi Area Democrats (GLAD) meets 8:30 a.m., Dee Dee's Restaurant, 1170 S. Cherokee Ln, Lodi. All welcome, including recovering Republicans. 339-1599.

## Pacific Theatre University of the Pacific

# Spring 2008

## FILM SCHEDULE PART TWO




**American Gangster** — Fri., Sat., Mar. 21, 22

**Volver** (Spanish) — Thurs., Mar. 27

**Across the Universe** — Fri. & Sat., Mar. 28, 29

**Lady Chatterley** (French) — Thurs., Apr. 3

**Michael Clayton** — Fri. & Sat., Apr. 4, 5

**Big Eden** (Independent) — Thurs., Apr. 10

**Into the Wild** — Fri. & Sat., Apr. 11, 12

**The Lives of Others** (German) — Thurs., Apr. 17

**Dan in Real Life** — Fri. & Sat., Apr. 18, 19

**King Corn** (Documentary) — Thurs., Apr. 24

**No Country for Old Men** — Fri. & Sat., Apr. 25, 26

**Walk Hard** — Thurs., Fri., Sat., May 1, 2, 3

**Show Time: 8:00pm**  
(Doors Open 7:30pm)  
Phone: (209) 946-2025

Pacific Students: FREE  
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General Admission: \$5.00





ASuop Film Series

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

SJTV: Stockton, Lodi and Manteca cable channel 26

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

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

# Earth Day is Happening

## Earth Day Stage

11:00 am - 11:15 am	Welcome - Kick Off
11:15 am - 11:30 am	Taiko Drums
11:35 am - 12:20 pm	Akimbo
12:25 pm - 12:45 pm	Na Hoku Mai Kanoelani
12:50 pm - 1:35 pm	Akimbo
1:35 pm - 1:40 pm	Announcement of Bike Parade Winners
1:40 pm - 2:05 pm	Los Danzantes del Puerto - Ballet Folklorico
2:05 pm - 2:10 pm	Sponsor Announcements and Endangered Species Parade
2:10 pm - 2:30 pm	Endangered Species Parade
2:35 pm - 3:00 pm	Delta Sunset Middle Eastern Dance Troupe
3:00 pm - 3:25 pm	Announcement of Sponsors, Teacher Grant Awards and the Bad Goods
3:25 pm - 4:10 pm	Bad Goods
4:40 pm - 5:00 pm	Drum Circle

## Earth Day 2008 booths

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Information Booth                                  | 55 Bon Appetit (UOP)                            |
| 2 Volunteer Booth                                    | 56 BTA Solar                                    |
| 3 SJ Co. Office of Ed./ Passport Earth               | 57 Java J'z                                     |
| 4 Audubon Society of SJCo                            | 58 Delroy's                                     |
| 5 Barking Lot  | 59 DeParsia                                     |
| 6 Cruelty Free Consumers                             | 60 Sweet Delights - Louis Gubany                |
| 7 Stockton Animal Shelter Friends                    | 61 Snax Shack                                   |
|  | 62 Universal Energy Group                       |
| 8 A+ Materials Recycling                             | 63 All About Looks/Health                       |
| 9 Allied Waste Services                              | 64 Delta Sunset Middle East Dancers             |
| 10 City of Stockton - Solid Waste & Recycling        | 65 Meditating for Health                        |
| 11 Onsite Electronics Recycling                      | 66 New School Aikido                            |
| 12 SJCo Solid Waste                                  | 67 Norlinger Chiropractic                       |
| 13 Waste Management, Inc.                            | 68 Something Else in Mind                       |
| 14 City of Stockton - Police Dept./NHS               | 69 Unity Church of San Joaquin                  |
| 15 City of Stockton - Delta Water Supply Project     |   |
|  | 70 City of Stockton - Fire Dept./First Aid      |
| 16 City of Stockton - Stormwater Mgmt. Program       | 71 City of Stockton - Police Dept./Lost & Found |
| 17 Delta Flyfishers                                  |   |
| 18 Port of Stockton                                  | 72 Bear Creek HS                                |
| 19 Restore the Delta                                 | 73 Bethany Elementary School                    |
| 20 SJCo Stormwater Mgmt. Program                     | 74 Jefferson Middle School                      |
| 21 Stockton Area Water Suppliers                     | 75 Lammersville Elementary School               |
| 22 Stockton Sailing Club                             | 76 Lincoln Elementary School                    |
|  | 77 Middle College HS                            |
| 23 Bev Blum's Solar Cookers                          | 78 Muir Elementary School                       |
| 24 Concerned Citizens of Stockton                    | 79 Van Buren Reading Club                       |
| 25 Delta Sierra Group of Sierra Club                 | 80 Waverly Annex Middle School                  |
| 26 League of Women Voters of SJCo                    |   |
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