

connections

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Save the planet: conservation tips



Sally Galiste,
Environmental Editor

Concerned about your contribution to global warming? Doing all you can on a personal level to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions? Taking those first steps of energy conservation in your home and on the road, or tightening the energy belt still further—these are essential efforts needed for slowing down the rate of greenhouse gases entering Earth's atmosphere.

On average, approximately 6.6 tons of greenhouse gases are emitted per person every year in the United States. Emissions per person increased 3% during the 1990's but have recently held steady. On the flip side, energy consumption per capita in America since 1974 has jumped 50% per person overall. And, as we're continually reminded, the U.S. emits more greenhouse gases

(GHG) per person than any other country in the world—a total of nearly 6 billion tons of carbon emissions into the atmosphere every year (as much as Russia and China combined).

Californians have done much better than the rest of the country. The Golden State has managed to cut carbon dioxide emissions per capita by 30% since 1974. Our state ranks #1 for the least energy used per capita than any other state—holding energy consumption per person steady over the past 30 years. And while the average American burns 12,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity each year, the average Californian burns less than 7,000—including renewable energy sources.

Yet, as we pat ourselves collectively on the back, no Californian can afford to be complacent. Our state as a whole—

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Shirin Ebadadi in Stockton May 3

Nobel Prize winner fights for justice

"We must not enable anyone to impose his personal view regarding religion on others by force, oppression or pressure.... People have a right to live in a world where the basic needs of all people are addressed."

—Shirin Ebadadi

John Morearty

Nobel Peace Prize winner Shirin Ebadadi is coming to UOP May 3. What an opportunity. She's amazing, this woman. Ria and I read her memoirs, *Iran Awakening: A Story of Revolution and Hope*, out loud to each other this winter, and the chill winter of Iran's "Islamic Republic" came home to us so vividly—the icy crust of pious fundamentalist religious righteousness and repression, with spring flowers of freedom, justice and secular democracy struggling so hard to break through. (Reminds me of another republic I know....)

Shirin's story both confirms and shatters stereotypes about Islam and Iran. Raised in a pious Muslim household where sons and daughters were treated absolutely equally, she graduated at the head of her law school class, and was appointed a judge at the age of twenty-three. She married an



Shirin Ebadadi

engineer husband who shared her values; they had two daughters. She gladly cooked his meals like a good Muslim wife, cared for their children, and at the same time gained great professional respect for her learning and fairness. (The reader wonders, when did she sleep?)

In the 1970s, Shirin spoke out against the corrupt government of the Shah (who had been installed by the CIA) and was delighted when he was overthrown. But the "patriarchal culture" of the Muslim clerics who took power wanted no uppity women

(continued page 8)

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From the editor

Its time to leave

Bruce Giudici

From a speech given at the Stockton Peace Convergence, held at McLeod Lake on March 17, 2007:

It has been four long years and now, its time to stop.

Bush wagered and we lost. Lives, money, respect. What we stood against in the summer of 2002, we still stand against today.

We still stand against sending soldiers to die in a lost cause we never found credible to begin with.

We still stand against squandering our Social Security

funds on a war of choice and the war profiteers who benefit.

And we still stand against the United States-sponsored aggression that every day it makes the world a less secure place.

The unity of 911 has been replaced by the unity against this pointless war. We of the peace movement are not on the fringe any more—we speak for the majority of this country and we will be heard.

So, we don't need to respond to the 30% who think George Bush is doing a heckuva job—even though the mainstream media continues to rely on their sage wisdom for guidance out of our current situation. We don't need

to respond to that 30% because—note this *New York Times*, *Stockton Record* editorial board and Mike Fitzgerald—we have been right to oppose this war all along—in principle and in practice.

We have won the argument on principle.

It is not legal to invade a country that did not or could not attack us.

It is immoral to put soldiers into harm's way with no exit strategy.

And it is criminal for the Bush administration to continue to lead us into war based on the lies of weapons of mass destruction. We have made these points in *Connections* for over four years. We don't need to retract a single word.

But we also won the practical argument. After 12 years of economic sanctions following the first Gulf War, Iraq had no weapons of mass destruction—a fact that Bush and Cheney wouldn't accept in the run-up to war.

This war has always been based on lies -

Sadaam Hussein being behind the 911 attacks;

the smoking gun posing as a mushroom cloud;

the evidence of biological weapons labs being based on "verifiable facts;"

the Mission Accomplished Bush photo op being staged on an aircraft carrier in May 2003;

and always "turning the corner" on democracy in Iraq.

Add in Tillman, McCafferty, Jessica Lynch, torture, and so much more. The list is very long.

In fact, this war has cost thousands of lives of every nationality; and we were not welcomed as liberators.

In fact, this war has cost over \$400 thousand million (that's \$400 billion, spelled out) of borrowed cash and counting; and the financial sacrifice of war has been passed on to our children.

In fact, this war has cost us our international reputation, such as it was; many now wonder if Iran, Korea or the Sudan is next in line for a pre-emptive strike.

Bruce Giudici



In fact, after 4 years, we are in the middle of a civil war of our own making and its time to come home.

In February of 2003, when it was becoming clear that the United Nations inspectors would find no weapons and that the UN would not sanction a United States attack, Bush decided to act—before a final UN report would make invasion impossible. In the face of international protest and facts even *Connections* was able to find and print, George W. Bush invaded a country that posed no verifiable threat. The mainstream media and most politicians cheered. But any more—after 4 years, times have changed.

Congress is now working hard to muster a simple majority to get us out - in a year and a half. It seems they want to give Mr. Bush another chance to "turn the corner" in Iraq. Well, most Americans have turned the corner—and a year and a half isn't near soon enough to declare victory and leave.

It's never enough with these people—yet in that year and a half, how many more will die? How much more money will be squandered? What will happen in Iran, Korea, Darfur, and elsewhere, while we continue on a permanent war footing?

I say Mr. Bush and Mr. Cheney have had their chance—and their time is up. We must bring our troops home by the end of this summer; we must re-direct funding from war to peace; we must turn our country around—one vote at a time.

Representative Dennis Cardoza is beginning to see which way the war winds are blowing. It is up to us to keep him informed on where we all stand. A sign of insanity is to continue doing the same thing, expecting different results. We are not insane. We know the facts. It's time we spread the word—and change the world. Get us out of Iraq now, Mr. Cardoza. Now.

Connections

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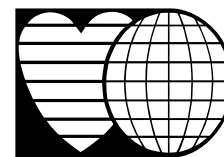
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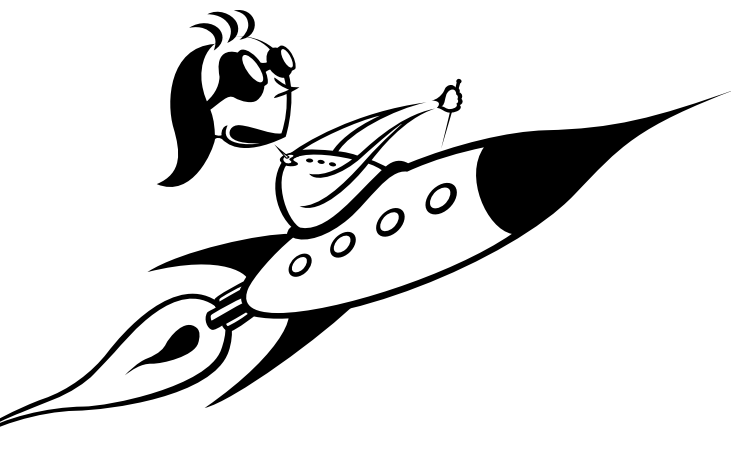
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"The Peace and Justice Network is a nonprofit educational organization committed to the vision of a world in which the equality of all persons is achieved, basic needs are met, conflict is resolved nonviolently, and the earth's resources are shared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



Sacramento Peace Festival on May 20

Fellow peacemakers,

I am in the process of making contacts for speakers, singer/songwriters, peace groups of all kinds to get involved and participate in this festival. It will be May 20th from noon to 6:00pm at the village green in Land Park which is near the corner of Freeport Blvd and Sutterville roads. I know many of you are affiliated with peace organizations and would like to table your organization's literature. Also if you want to have any letters ready to sign and mail, or petitions to sign that would add a feeling of accomplishment for the people attending this event.

The purpose of this event is to raise awareness and to "grow the movement". We want to engage people who are curious. We want

to give people who have been hungry to get involved a chance to find out more and to join organizations that strike a chord with them. We want to spread hope and empower people to get involved. Also we want to have fun and feel comradeship. We want to be entertained and make it a good and inspiring day for all.

Those of you speaking on behalf of your organization will need to address a wide audience. I am going to target the campuses in an attempt to rally more of the young to the movement. Any suggestions you have please contact me. I am hoping to get a website for this event. I am looking forward to hearing from many of you. For more information contact Candy at paulncandy@comcast.net

Eggman, an environmental voice on Stockton Council

Alyssa Schmidt

Sacramento State University social work professor Susan Eggman won a seat on the Stockton City Council last November.

Connections: I noticed you rode your bike here [to the interview], which is great.

Eggman: I did; I try any time I can to walk or bike. I spend enough time in my car. And as the weather gets clearer, I'll be challenging other council members to get to meetings under their own power — although I certainly acknowledge I live close.

Connections: Do you have other ideas about making the city more walkable, more bikable?

Eggman: I'm a big proponent of redevelopment in the downtown area; I think we might have more walk/live/work area. So, [I am for] encouraging development in ways that most encourage people to walk and use public transportation. When we talk about new developments, how green is it going to be? How connected are the streets going to be, so that you don't have to get in your car and drive to go your neighbor's house because you have to go through two developments when they live a stone's throw away from you.

Connections: Now, you're certainly not the only Stocktonian with a commute (Eggman commutes to her job at Sacramento State University) - and that's kind of part of the nature of our city, I think. Is that something you think about: how drivers can mitigate our environmental impact?

Eggman: I think about that for 45 minutes, twice a day.

Connections: What can we do? Do you see anything on the horizon as far as commuter rail, light rail...

Eggman: Yeah, that would be great, because I go to Sacramento. I think the bigger demand is for the Bay Area. I don't see anything [commuter rail] between Sacramento and Stockton, in the next decade, at least. There's

buses, but for someone like me, and for a lot of people who don't do a traditional eight-to-five...

Connections: It's not really practical.

Eggman: They're not practical at all. So I try to drive the most economical car I can.

Connections: The downtown transit center is one of the redevelopment projects in your district, so can you talk about how that's going?

Eggman: I think it's going well. There's a synergy that occurs when people don't ride the buses enough, the buses don't run enough, and they're not dependable enough; but if we could get people on them-- this new push plan is a place to really make it more accessible for anybody to ride. And I'm also a big fan of the downtown trolley. There's been talks lately of tearing down hotels for more parking; I would suggest that we have quite a bit of parking downtown.

Connections: It seems like you have a huge number of parks in your district. Do you have any plans for the future of the parks?

Eggman: I do. I think I'm going to have two student interns work with me, Fall 2007/Spring 2008, twenty-four hours a week, and one of the first things I want to have them do is go out and canvass all around every park in my district, and see what the people want to do.

[The parks are] a huge issue. Victory Park is packed every single weekend. And people come from all over to use it. They're not just people who live in my neighborhood. So it would be great if every park could be like that.

I was out at Gleason Park watching drug deals go by, and I was like, why are you guys doing this? Get out of my park! After that, I talked with the police department; they've gone in and done a couple sweeps. And you can't take your eyes off the ball.



You want people to use the parks. They've got to be safe, and drug dealing and prostitution do not make a safe park. It's not a good mix with soccer.

Connections: Is your job on the City Council all that you expected?

Eggman: It is exactly what I expected, plus some. You know, every layer that you get through, there's another layer underneath. So just trying to figure out the system and how everything works, and how to best get things done, how to make the best use of your time.

Connections: How would you characterize your working relationship with your fellow council members and the mayor? I understand the mayor supported your opponent...

Eggman: I think it's been fairly positive. You know, certainly we're not going to agree on everything, but I think they recognize and appreciate that I bring a hard work ethic and a strong desire to serve, and so they know that they may not agree with me, but they know that I'm going to come prepared, with questions, and ready to engage in dialogue.

I think the strong grassroots campaign that got me to office garnered people's respect, and I think folks think they have to take me somewhat seriously, because I really feel my being elected was part of the national swell of "we want something different." So I think that translates the people's power into people having to take me a little bit more seriously. And I take that very seriously.



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

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

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

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

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

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

Froomkin's White House Briefing <http://washingtonpost.com>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We're on the web too!

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

<http://www.pjnsjc.org>



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3rd annual water privatization report card

Diane Park

In February, the Concerned Citizens Coalition of Stockton released the 3rd Annual Compliance Report Card analyzing the performance of the Stockton Municipal Utility Department, under OMI operations. More than 50 people attended a gathering at the Brewery, including a reporter from the Record. This is the third year in a row that our local newspaper has chosen not to reveal the contents of the report.

For those new to the community: in 2003, two weeks prior to our Coalition's initiative to let people vote on privatizing public water, the City signed a 20-year contract with OMI-Thames, a multinational water purveyor. The initiative passed by more than 60% of the vote.

The contract has twice been ruled illegal and the City of Stockton required to return the water to public operation and maintenance. To gain time, in February of this year the City once again appealed the court ruling.

In the meantime, residents must continue pay higher rates to accommodate this contract and must endure health and safety risks due to poor OMI management and lack of adequate City oversight. The full Report is posted on www.cccos.org

Would rates go up even if a municipal company were operating the plant? No doubt; but these rates would not include a margin of profit for shareholders and CEO bonuses. You might ask, why should rates go up under municipal management? The answer is because aging

water conveyance infrastructure is prevalent across the United States. Further, for health reasons the state periodically orders plant upgrade modifications to make sure that water is clean and meets government guidelines.

A margin is built into water rates to pay for repairs. But in Stockton, that cushion is gone. Former Mayor Podesto and his city council took that margin to pay for the new downtown arena and ball park. Unlike Sacramento's sports arena, Stockton residents did not get a chance to vote for theirs. The Stockton Record editors, unlike the Sacramento Bee's, did not even encourage a vote.

Concerned Citizens will highlight the key points of our Report Card in the next issue of *Connections*.

Local forests becoming moonscapes: stop SPI

Brad Barker

Quick, name the largest private landowner in California.

Need some clues? The company owns more than 1.5 million acres, mainly in the Sierra Nevada. Each year it clear-cuts thousands of acres of forest. Its logging techniques damage watersheds throughout the Sierra. And most Californians have never heard of it.

Meet Sierra Pacific Industries, a privately owned company led by billionaire timber baron Red Emmerson. SPI could eventually clear-cut a million acres in one of the most beautiful mountain ranges on earth. Perhaps we should take notice.

Clear-cutting is, to say the least, controversial. It's the method of timber extraction where every tree on a given plot is cut, the land is scraped into a barren moonscape, the site is sprayed with toxic chemicals, and a sterile tree plantation is installed. The rich ecological values of a diverse forest are stripped away.

A Sierra forest is worth much

more than the value of its timber. No one knows the true costs of a clear-cut landscape: the loss of wildlife, scenic beauty, eroded topsoil, polluted streams, changing climate, increased fire risk, decreased recreation and tourism.

Check the pictures for yourself at Google Maps on the Internet. Search "Arnold, California"—a town about 80 miles from Modesto—and click the tab for the satellite view. The dark green area to the east is Calaveras Big Trees State Park, where two groves of giant sequoias are protected.

But look at the bare patches north, south and east of the park. Those aren't sand traps at the country club. They're some of the hundreds of clear-cuts just in Calaveras County, and nearly all belong to SPI. Scroll to the east. Zoom in on the devastation. That isn't war-torn Iraq; it's the Sierra Nevada.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection enforces state laws regarding timber harvests on private lands. Its job is to encourage sound

forestry management, to ensure that watersheds and wildlife habitats are protected, but they're not stepping up. One theory is the CDF is conflicted by a revolving door with the timber industry—officials and lobbyists rotating between public and private positions.

Our elected officials could pressure the CDF, but they're conflicted, too. In just the 2003-2004 election cycle, the Emmerson family and other SPI affiliates contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Some of our local representatives received donations: Reps. Dennis Cardoza and George Radanovich, Assemblyman Dave Cogdill (now a state senator), State Sen. Mike Machado and others. Gov. Schwarzenegger received more than \$30,000.

That means it's up to us, the consumers of wood products, to do something. There are timber companies who do the right things. They practice selective, sustainable logging that protects endangered forests. Their lumber is certified by the independent

(continued next page)

Save the planet (continued from page 1)

large, populous and filled with bustling highways—ranks second in the nation for its total energy consumption from all sources, behind #1 glutton Texas (2003 ranking). "Every human being on this globe should think about how much carbon dioxide he or she emits and try to do something about that" (Geir Braathen, senior scientist at World Meteorological Organization).

The good news is 9 out of 10 Americans are willing to take measures to reduce GHG emissions and 60% believe individual efforts can make a difference in global warming. Here are ten important areas where people can reduce their energy consumption. Every effort helps, if we all pitch in:

Transportation

Drive less, carpool, combine outings and errands. Set mileage reduction goals on your vehicles to reduce annual miles driven. Take the bus whenever possible. In good weather, bicycle or walk to closer destinations.

Vehicle performance

Keep tires properly inflated, change air filters regularly and don't be a leadfoot. Gradual acceleration, not zooming into stops and driving at posted speed limits increases vehicle fuel economy to the maximum rated mpg for your vehicle. Limit air conditioner use; park in the shade when possible. Get heavy junk out of your trunk—extra weight reduces fuel efficiency. Choose the most fuel efficient model that fits your needs when replacing current vehicles and consider switching to hybrids or electric vehicles (new, used or converted).

SPI (continued from previous page)

Forest Stewardship Council. We consumers need to insist that home builders and others use FSC wood. (The timber industry's misleading "certification," the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, condones business-as-usual destructive logging. Don't be fooled.)

SPI says it's replanting trees, but monoculture tree plantations are not forests. A forest has trees of

Reduce, reuse, recycle and buy recycled

Avoid overpackaged/individually packaged products, buy in bulk when possible and bring your own bags (plastic or canvas) when shopping. Toss everything allowable into curbside recycle and green waste containers, and choose products made from recycled materials.

Heat at home

Use less hot water whenever possible, in washing and showering (install a low-flow showerhead). Turn water heater to 120 degrees or lower and insulate the tank. Adjust your home thermostat to 66 degrees or below in winter and dress warmly inside. Open drapes on cold sunny days and let the sun shine in, warming the house. Close up at night to reduce heat loss. Double paned windows are best for insulating. Update fireplace with pellet stove, fireplace insert, or replace with natural gas. Replace/replenish home insulation in attic or walls with high R-value insulation.

Keeping cool inside

Ceiling fans combined with standing fans circulate air, making it cooler inside. Adjust thermostat to 78 or higher in summer and dress in cool, breathable clothes. Replace air filters regularly. Install attic fan with automatic thermostat to draw out hot air in the attic. Close drapes on hot sunny days, or install blinds or shutters to keep out the heat. Restrict use of oven on extra-hot days; consider serving cool or cold meals rather than hot dishes; cook outside in gas bar-b-que or a solar oven.

different sizes and species, snags and fallen logs, mosses, ferns and fungi. There are brambles and brush. Wildflowers bloom in season. Wildlife thrives in forest niches. The streams run clear.

SPI's vision is a checkerboard of moonscapes and plantations. Its corporate values are destroying Sierra forests. What are your values?



Shade

Plant shade-providing, CO2-absorbing trees, vines, and shrubbery in yard. Install patio cover, open-shade umbrellas, create shade near house wherever possible.

Lightbulbs

Turn on lights sparingly and only when needed—turn off lights when not in use. Install light sensors where practical. Replace incandescent bulbs with energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs. It's o.k. to switch lights on and off; it doesn't shorten the lifespan of the bulb. On cool days, open drapes, blinds or shutters and utilize the sun's natural light in your home. If possible, install skylights in dark rooms.

Appliances

Any appliance over 10-12 years old is not efficient and draws much more energy than it should. Upgrade appliances to Energy Star-rated newer ones. They will save money over the long run and reduce your electric and/or gas usage.

Washing and drying

Dial up cold or cool water settings on washing machine. Restrict use of your clothes dryer by hanging up wet clothes and items on clothes rack inside, near an open window or outside on clothesline. "Fluff" dry for 10 minutes or less to get out stiffness in clean clothes. Turn on automatic dishwasher only when completely full of dishes, pots and pans and avoid drying cycle by simply opening dishwasher door and air drying.

Global Warming Day of Awareness & Action



Saturday, May 5, 10 pm–3 pm
Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford, Stockton

Featured Speakers:

Dr. Robin Lyons, Prof. of Geography, San Joaquin Delta College
Erin Rogers, Calif. Outreach Coord. - Union of Concerned Scientists
Dr. Eric Karlstrom, Prof. of Geography, CA State University, Stanislaus

Featured Videos:

Tom Brokaw's Global Warming News Special (2006)
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Find out how climate change is expected to impact our area, and what can be done about it. For more information, contact (209) 467-4455 pjsjc@sbcglobal.net.

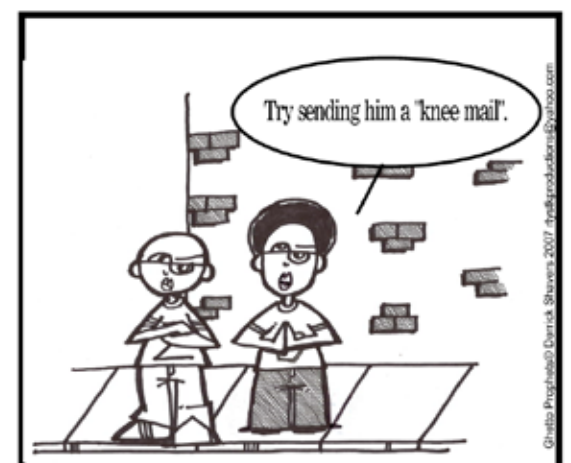
Solar Panels

Take advantage of new state legislation, The Million Solar Roofs bill, which has established a large, long-term solar power program to fund up to a million solar roofs on homes and businesses in California over the next 10 years, and offers one-time rebates to homeowners who have them installed.

And how about you

Got energy-saving suggestions? Let's hear from you on sensible and practical ways not mentioned above, to help reduce energy consumption by individuals and families. E-mail me at: sgaliste@sbcglobal.net

Sources: www.californiaearth911.org; www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/states; www.BBCnews/science_nature; Audubon Magazine; NWF Magazine; Washington Post; AP; Stockton Record



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Who won Iraq? a top ten list

Mickey McGuire

The cover of the March/April edition of *Foreign Policy* magazine asks, "Who won in Iraq?" Scholars and foreign policy experts will disagree about the answers to this question for a generation. The answers are certain to vary over time as the "law of unintended consequences" comes into play. The *Foreign Policy* article names 10 winners.

The biggest winner turns out to be Iran. Vali Nasr, a professor at the Naval Postgraduate School, authors the article about Iran. The goal in Iraq was to establish a democracy that would act as a model for the monarchies, dictatorships and theocracies of the Middle East to follow. The mullahs that run Iran's theocratic regime have little to fear. Few nations will aspire to follow Iraq's example.

Nasr says that the war in Iraq has been a strategic windfall for the neighboring Iranians. This judgment is not unique to him. Last year, I attended a talk by Richard Clarke, the White House terrorism adviser to the last three administrations. He pointed out that Iran had five objectives during the Iran-Iraq war of the early 1980s. First, it wanted to remove Saddam Hussein from power. Second, it wanted to neutralize the influence of the Baathist Party in the region. Third, Iran wanted to eliminate the Iraqi Army as a regional threat. Fourth, it wanted to install a Shiite regime that would be friendly or subservient to Iran. Finally, the Iranians wanted access to Shiite holy places on Iraqi soil.

Clarke observed that Iran did not accomplish any of these objectives at the end of the Iran-Iraq war. Since our invasion of Iraq, however, Iran has achieved all five at no cost.

Nasr says that growing anti-Americanism in the region, combined with the fact that our military is over-committed, has led the Iranian leadership to conclude that it doesn't have to regard us seriously as a military threat. In turn, the Bush administration has ceased talking about the "axis of evil" and "regime change" in Iran. Nasr concludes: "In short, Iraq has strengthened Iran and

The biggest winner turns out
to be Iran...The second winner
in Iraq is radical Shiite cleric
Moqtada al-Sadr...The third
winner listed by *Foreign Policy*
is al-Qaida...Sadly, the United
States did not make the *Foreign*
Policy winners' list.

weakened the United States." New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristoff says: "We fought Iraq, and Iran won."

The second winner in Iraq is radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr. His name was chanted at the execution of Saddam Hussein, and his picture appears all over Iraq. His party controls a large block of legislators in the government, the Mahdi Army militia, and runs much of Iraq's security services. He is violently anti-American and has been accused of commanding Shiite death squads. He is probably the most popular and influential leader in Iraq. As our popularity has waned, his has risen.

The third winner listed by *Foreign Policy* is al-Qaida. After Sept. 11, 2001, and our defeat of the Taliban in Afghanistan, al-Qaida was on the ropes. No states would welcome them to organize and train in their territory. Also, many jihadist organizations were critical of Osama bin Laden for provoking the West instead of challenging secular and nonreligious regimes in the Middle East and considered him responsible for the loss of the Taliban regime.

Our invasion of Iraq changed all that. Just as we began diverting manpower, money and resources from Afghanistan to Iraq, al-Qaida began attracting the same resources as never before. Our invasion of Iraq has inflamed anti-Americanism and provided a limitless supply of al-Qaida recruits.

Another Iraq war winner is China. We have frequently lectured other states about civil liberties, the rule of law and the virtues of a republic. The stories of Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo, torture, sending prisoners to police states for interrogation, illegal surveillance and others have reduced our international stature. Opinion polls show that U.S. prestige has declined while China's has risen. The Chinese are also doubtlessly pleased to see our future military budget priorities reoriented away from conventional warfare and toward combating Third World insurgencies.

Arab dictators win. Our foreign policy will shift from democratic idealism to one where we say of dictators, "He may be an SOB, but he's our SOB!"

The United Nations and old Europe are winners. Unilateralism and "coalitions of the willing" are out, and multilateralism is in.

Other winners include Samuel P. Huntington, a scholar that predicted a "clash of civilizations" in a 1995 *Foreign Affairs* article; the price of oil (rising); and Israel.

Sadly, the United States did not make the *Foreign Policy* winners' list.

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

Record of Iraq War lies televised four years late

David Swanson

Bill Moyers has put together an amazing 90-minute video documenting the lies that the Bush administration told to sell the Iraq war to the American public, with a special focus on how the media led the charge. I've watched an advance copy and read a transcript, and the most important thing I can say about it is: Watch PBS from 9:00 to 10:30 PM on Wednesday, April 25. Spending that 90 minutes will actually save you time because you'll never watch television news again—not even on PBS, which comes in for its own share of criticism.

While a great many pundits, not to mention presidents, look remarkably stupid or dishonest in the four-year-old clips included in "Buying the War," it's hard to take any spiteful pleasure in holding them to account, and not just because the killing and dying they facilitated is ongoing, but also because of what this video reveals about the mindset of members of the DC media. Moyers interviews media personalities, including Dan Rather, who clearly both understand what the media did wrong and are unable to really see it as having been wrong or avoidable.

It's great to see an American media outlet tell this story so well, but it leads one to ask: When will Congress tell it? While the Democrats were in the minority, they clamored for hearings and investigations, they pushed Resolutions of Inquiry into the

White House Iraq Group and the Downing Street Minutes. Now in the majority, they've gone largely silent. The chief exception is the House Judiciary Committee's effort to question Condoleezza Rice about the forged Niger documents.

But what comes out of watching this show is a powerful realization that no investigation is needed by Congress, just as no hidden information was needed for the media to get the story right in the first place. The claims that the White House made were not honest mistakes. But neither were they deceptions. They were transparent and laughably absurd falsehoods. And they were high crimes and misdemeanors.

The program opens with video of President Bush saying "Iraq is part of a war on terror. It's a country that trains terrorists. It's a country that can arm terrorists. Saddam Hussein and his weapons are a direct threat to this country."

Believable or plausible?

Was that believable or did the media play along? The next shot is of a press conference at which Bush announces that he has a script telling him which reporters to call on and in what order. Yet the reporters play along, raising their hands after each comment, pretending that they might be called on despite the script.

Video shows Richard Perle claiming that Saddam Hussein worked with al Qaeda and that Iraqis would greet American occupiers as liberators. Here are the Weekly Standard, The Wall Street Journal, William Safire from *The New York Times*, Charles Krauthammer and Jim Hoagland from *The Washington Post*, all demanding an overthrow of Iraq's government. George Will is seen saying that Hussein "has anthrax, he loves biological weapons, he has terrorist training camps, including 747s to practice on."

But was that even plausible? Bob Simon of "60 Minutes" tells Moyers he wasn't buying it. He says he saw the idea of a connection between Hussein and al Qaeda as an absurdity:

"Saddam, as most tyrants, was a total control freak. He wanted total control of his regime. Total control of the country. And to introduce a wild card like al Qaeda in any sense was just something he would not do. So I just didn't believe it for an instant."

Some didn't buy it

Knight Ridder Bureau Chief John Walcott didn't buy it either. He assigned Warren Strobel and Jonathan Landay to do the reporting and they found the Bush claims to be quite apparently false. For example, when the Iraqi National Congress (INC) fed *The New York Times*'s Judith Miller a story through an Iraqi defector claiming that Hussein had chemical and biological weapons labs under his house, Landay noticed that the source was a Kurd, making it very unlikely he would have learned such secrets. But Landay also noticed that it was absurd to imagine someone putting a biological weapons lab under his house...

Simon from "60 Minutes" tells Moyers that when the White House claimed a 9/11 hijacker had met with a representative of the Iraqi government in Prague, "60 Minutes" was easily able to make a few calls and find out that there was no evidence for the claim. "If we had combed Prague," he says, "and found out that there was absolutely no evidence for a meeting between Mohammad Atta and the Iraqi intelligence figure. If we knew that, you had to figure the administration knew it. And yet they were selling the connection between al Qaeda and Saddam."

Dissent unheard

Landay at Knight Ridder did report the facts when it counted, but not enough people paid attention. He tells Moyers that all he had to do was read the UN weapons inspectors' reports online to know that the White House was lying to us. When Cheney said that Hussein was close to acquiring nuclear weapons, Landay knew he was lying: "You need tens of thousands of machines called 'centrifuges' to produce highly

enriched uranium for a nuclear weapon. You've got to house those in a fairly big place, and you've got to provide a huge amount of power to this facility."

Moyers also hits Tim Russert with a couple of tough questions. Russert expressed regret for not having included any skeptical voices by saying he wished his phone had rung. So Moyers begins the next segment by saying, "Bob Simon didn't wait for the phone to ring," and describing Simon's reporting. Simon says he knew the claims about aluminum tubes were false because "60 Minutes" called up some scientists and researchers and asked them. Howard Kurtz of *The Washington Post* says that skeptical stories did not get placed on the front page because they were not "definitive."

Moyers shows brief segments of an "Oprah" show in which she has on only pro-war guests and silences a caller who questions some of the White House claims. Just in time for the eternal election season, Moyers includes clips of Hillary Clinton and John Kerry backing the war on the basis of Bush and Cheney's lies. But we also see clips of Robert Byrd and Ted Kennedy getting it right.

The *Washington Post* editorialized in favor of the war 27 times, and published in 2002 about 1,000 articles and columns on the war. But the Post gave a huge anti-war march a total of 36 words. "What got even less ink," Moyers says, "was the release of the National Intelligence Estimate." Even the misleading partial version that the media received failed to fool a careful eye. Landay recalls: "It said that the majority of analysts believed that those tubes were for the nuclear weapons program. It turns out though, that the majority of intelligence

analysts had no background in nuclear weapons." Was Landay the only one capable of noticing this detail?

Colin Powell's UN presentation comes in for similar quick

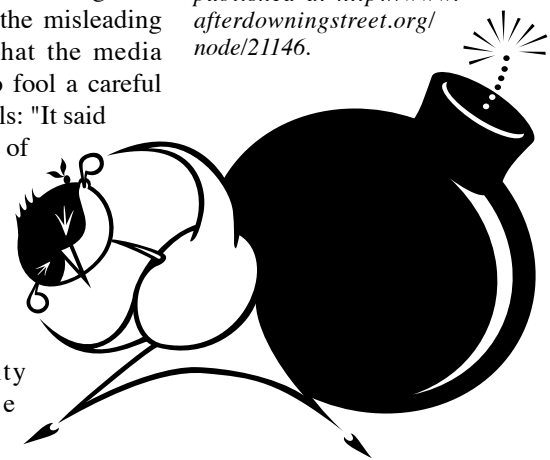
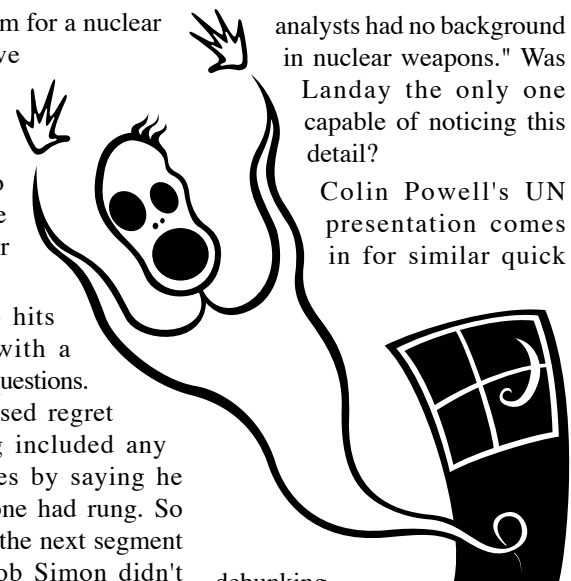
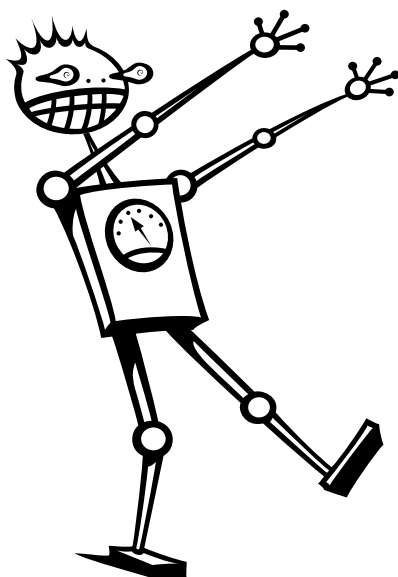
debunking.

We watch a video clip of Powell complaining that Iraq has covered a test-stand with a roof. But AP reporter Charles Hanley comments, "What he neglected to mention was that the inspectors were underneath watching what was going on." Powell cited a UK paper, but it very quickly came out that the paper had been plagiarized from a college student's work found online. The British press pointed that out. The US let it slide. But anyone looking for the facts found it quickly.

Moyers's wonderful movie is marred by a single line—the next to the last sentence—in which he says, "The number of Iraqis killed, over 35,000 last year alone, is hard to pin down." A far more accurate figure could have been found very easily.

David Swanson is creator of *MeetWithCindy.org*, co-founder of the *AfterDowningStreet.org* coalition, a writer and activist.

Source: truthout.org 4/12/07 http://www.truthout.org/docs_2006/. This article by David Swanson was first published at <http://www.afterdowningstreet.org/node/21146>.





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Peace convergence marks year four of war

Jim Walsh

The Peace and Justice Network of San Joaquin County was the hosting sponsor of the first annual Peace Convergence held on March 17th at McLeod Lake Park on the Martin Luther King International Amphitheater stage in Stockton. Two hundred and twenty-five peace activists attended the rally featuring speakers from many local organizations, with Lela Nelson moving the program along as Master of Ceremonies.

Folk songs, spoken word, song and dance were also part of the two hour program. Following this was a march to Rep. Dennis Cardoza's office to deliver a petition with 900 signatures gathered over the preceding month at both major shopping malls and other various locations throughout the Greater Stockton area.

The evening brought the most heart-felt expression of our community's desire for peace

with a Living Peace Sign formed at D'Carli Plaza between the Plaza Cinema and Weber Point event center. One hundred peace lovers formed a peace sign holding flash lights and glow sticks at dusk at the location that is covered by the City of Stockton webcam and broadcast to the world. On this weekend to commemorate the 4th anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, these Stockton events

were held in conjunction with national actions in Washington D.C. and an estimated 1,000 other communities around the U.S. and many more around the world.

This event was also endorsed by Pax Christi San Joaquin, Teach Peace, San Joaquin Green Party, Black Women Organized for Political Action, Cannery Workers Union Local 601 and California Alliance for Retired Americans.



Shirin Ebadadi (continued from page 1)

judges. "How disgusting, women deciding the fate of men...." To her shock, she was booted from her job. She tried commercial law, but discovered that bribery and political connections ruled the roost.

Shirin made a life choice: "My husband makes enough money to support our family; I will become a pro bono lawyer defending the equality of women and children. Furthermore, I will use my knowledge of Islamic law to show that women are indeed equal under the law, and the human rights of children must be respected."

She took on notorious cases of abuse, won some and lost some, but gained enormous respect from her fellow citizens. She was flung into prison for a while, but they could not hold her. She was targeted for death by fanatics within the government, and somehow escaped. She prosecuted those very fanatics but they wiggled off, and all the

while her fame grew.

Her friends said, This regime is crazy. We are leaving for Germany or Canada, we're out of here. And she said, yes, the government is crazy, and it is not truly Islamic-but this is my country, these are my people. I will stay and fight.

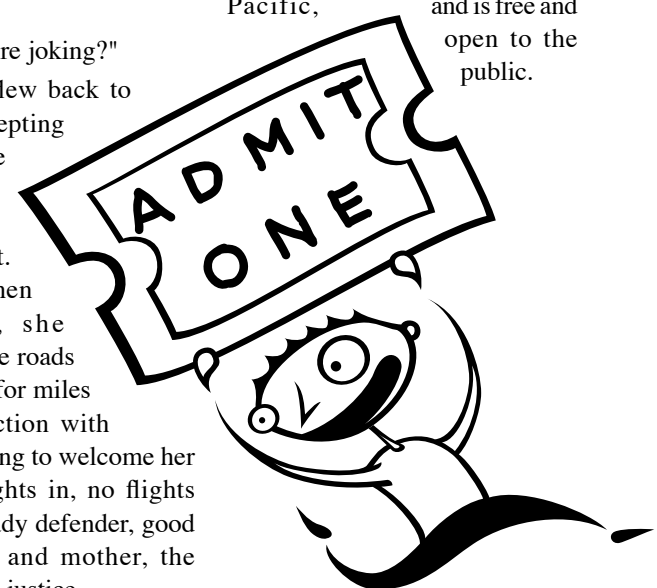
In 2003, traveling and lecturing in Europe, she got a phone call. "You've won the Nobel Peace Prize."

"Surely you're joking?"

When she flew back to Iran after accepting the prize, the skies were empty around Tehran airport. How odd. When she landed, she understood: the roads were clogged for miles in every direction with people thronging to welcome her home. No flights in, no flights out; just our lady defender, good Muslim wife and mother, the woman of true justice.

To cap it off, when she tried to publish her memoirs in the U.S., the Bush government said she could not. She sued them and won.

Shirin Ebadi will speak Thursday May 3 at 7 PM in the Faye Spanos Concert Hall (the old Conservatory Auditorium). The event is sponsored by the School of International Studies at Pacific, and is free and open to the public.



Youth and the war: a survey

Sammy Nunez and the Youth Matter program team

As we acknowledge the four-year anniversary of the war, we realized that when the war started, the class of 2007 were freshmen and are now seniors in high school. Incidentally, these are the first ones being recruited and enlisting in the war in Iraq.

We at Youth Matter felt compelled, with all the varying opinion regarding the war, to hear what the youth of our community thought about it. Approximately 35 youth participated in the survey and the following illustrates some of their responses.

Youth Matter: *Do you know anyone who has gone to the war in Iraq? How are you connected with them?*

Kevin (age 15): My cousin has enlisted, but I don't think he's been shipped out.

Junette (age 16): My uncle's friend went to war and I'm connected with him because he's a friend of the family.

Marco (age 18): I know one person in Iraq; he is my friend's boyfriend and he tells me about his experience and a lot of scary things that happen there.

Youth Matter: *Has the war changed your life or your thinking?*

Marco (age 18): No, my life hasn't changed but my thinking has changed because I'm 18 and I don't know when I'll be called on. To be honest, I don't know if I'll be brave enough to go.

Ulysses (age 18): Yes because everyday we think about him getting injured or dying or if I have to go next.

Anthony (age 15): I think Bush is racist and he thinks he can control the whole world. They should hand him a rifle and drop him off and see if he likes it.

Deirdra (age 19): It really hasn't changed my life, but my view is that it is pointless for us to be fighting over there losing our troops when we have the same similar problems here in the U.S.

Dominique (age 16): Well, not really, but people are protecting us.



Youth Matter (from left to right): Sara, Sonny, Ola, Sokha, Sammy, Ruben and Katie Ann.

I give them a lot of credit for doing that.

Sanoautyh (age 18): Yes, because we should just bring the troops back; we already captured the main leaders.

Stephen (age 19): I think to myself, why did the gas go up?

Rosey (age 18): Yes, because of all the killing that's going on just makes you realize life is more precious.

Youth Matter: *Why do you feel or think we are there?*

Marihna (age 17): I feel we are there to help our country. I feel scared in a way because I wonder what will happen to you, or [if] your family will never see you again.

Sarim (age 17): Because Bush is fighting for some things he wants.

Nanna (age 16): I don't even know what the war is about. I just know that Bush's father had a feud with Sadaam during his term of presidency.

Deirdra (age 19): I think we are there because the people over there are being mistreated.

Anthony (age 15): Bush wants to control the whole world. He should only be worrying about his country."

Ulysses (age 18): To help people in Iraq manage and not damage.

Nomie (age 16): I think they are there because of 9/11 attacks; that's why I think we are there but I am somewhat not sure"

Stephen (age 19) I think people are still there in Iraq, because Bush wants more money.

Youth Matter: *Would you sign up to go to Iraq? Why or why not?*

Sarim (age 17): No I wouldn't, because I don't like to see people die in front of my face.

Junette (age 16): No, because I wanna stay with my family.

Marihna (age 17): I would not, no, because I want the world to have peace.

Marco (age 18): No, because I'm scared on how it (Iraq) might look now. Will everything be destroyed? I'm scared to see things like that. But for my family, I would go.

Rosanne (age 15): No. Don't get me wrong, I love my country. But I wouldn't go because life is too short to just throw it all away.

Sithum (age 15): No, because I am too young to die.

William (age 16): Yes, but only in the Coast Guard or the Navy.

Stephen (age 19): Yes, because I would want to be a leader for our country.

Rosey (age 18): I love my country and all, but I wouldn't go.

Sanoauth (age 18): No, because there is no use in going there when there is no leader.

Dominique (age 16): No, because when you go to Iraq you are risking your life.

Youth Matter: *What power do we as ordinary people have to work for peace and justice in the world?*

Junette (age 16): Respect others and be kind.

Marihna (age 17): Treat people the way you want to be treated.

Ola (age 16): The power we have is to vote."

Zach (age 16): Stay away from each other and stay out of other people's business.

Ulysses (age 18): A lot, because we structure the world.

Stephen (age 19): I think for us to get peace and justice in our world we need to bring people home from Iraq.

Rosey (age 18): Just get along, and keep peace everywhere we go.

Local youth are just as opinionated about the war as adults, and as confused regarding the reasons we're there. Ultimately, the youth are also extremely patriotic, but are divided on whether they would enlist to fight in Iraq. To find out more on Youth Matter, call (209) 644-8617.

S.O.S.

Stockton, like the painting of Dorian Gray -
We get uglier while city leaders proclaim our beauty.
We've traded pitchforks for Play Stations,
Wild flowers for Wal-Mart,
Fields for French fries and cash for chaos.
We're equal parts diverse and perverse,
Combining heartfelt generosity with mind-numbing ferocity.
We live in the city of the benevolent developer
Where sprawl will morph to crawl
And neatly placed rows of terracotta cubicles
Punctuated by strip malls litter the landscape,
Their nauseating conformity confirming Orwellian predictions.
Mom and Pop are clearing out
To be replaced by gas guzzling, Starbucks-addicted
Neanderthals
Scurrying like meth-driven mice through snarled traffic
And whose only acquaintance with a book
Is the one thrown at their kids by the cops.
Where once was calm, we now find concrete.
Where once were acres, we now find asphalt.
The flowers of urban pollution fertilized with payola
Spew out the decaying stench of mass humanity.
We're empty lots and straight shots,
Wannabe's and have-nots.
The roar of the Speedway now but a memory,
The only tracks in sight belong to the railroad and the junkie.
Our fish are tainted, our walls spray painted
Our homes are gated, our kids berated.
We're the town gone "hyphy"—thirty cops short of a load,
Dancing to the soulless tune of "Bling," "Cha-ching," demolition
and developing.
We're the struggling poor, the greedy rich,
The home of the player, the land of the bitch.
We're Neil Diamond on taxpayer's money, crooning to the big
shots.
We're late night side-shows getting killed, trying to dodge the
gun shots.
We're the beast of the county, devouring land with bureaucratic
fangs.
We're the womb of the state, incubating every kind of gang.
The Arena's fantastic, likewise the Ports -
But do they offset our case-loaded courts?
>From the walls of the County Hospital where money is
bleeding
To the mean streets of our city where people are needing.
We're fat around the heart, we've done too much breeding
Avaricious cancer due to short-sighted seeding.
We're schools and parks, homes and trees,
Businesses, churches, yet we're down on our knees.
Stop this insanity! It's no mystery-
Will San Jose South be our destiny?
>From the beautiful brickwork of the Hotel St. Leo
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We're the voice of Stockton's long-time survivors
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Dave Waldon

19th Annual Earth Day Festival

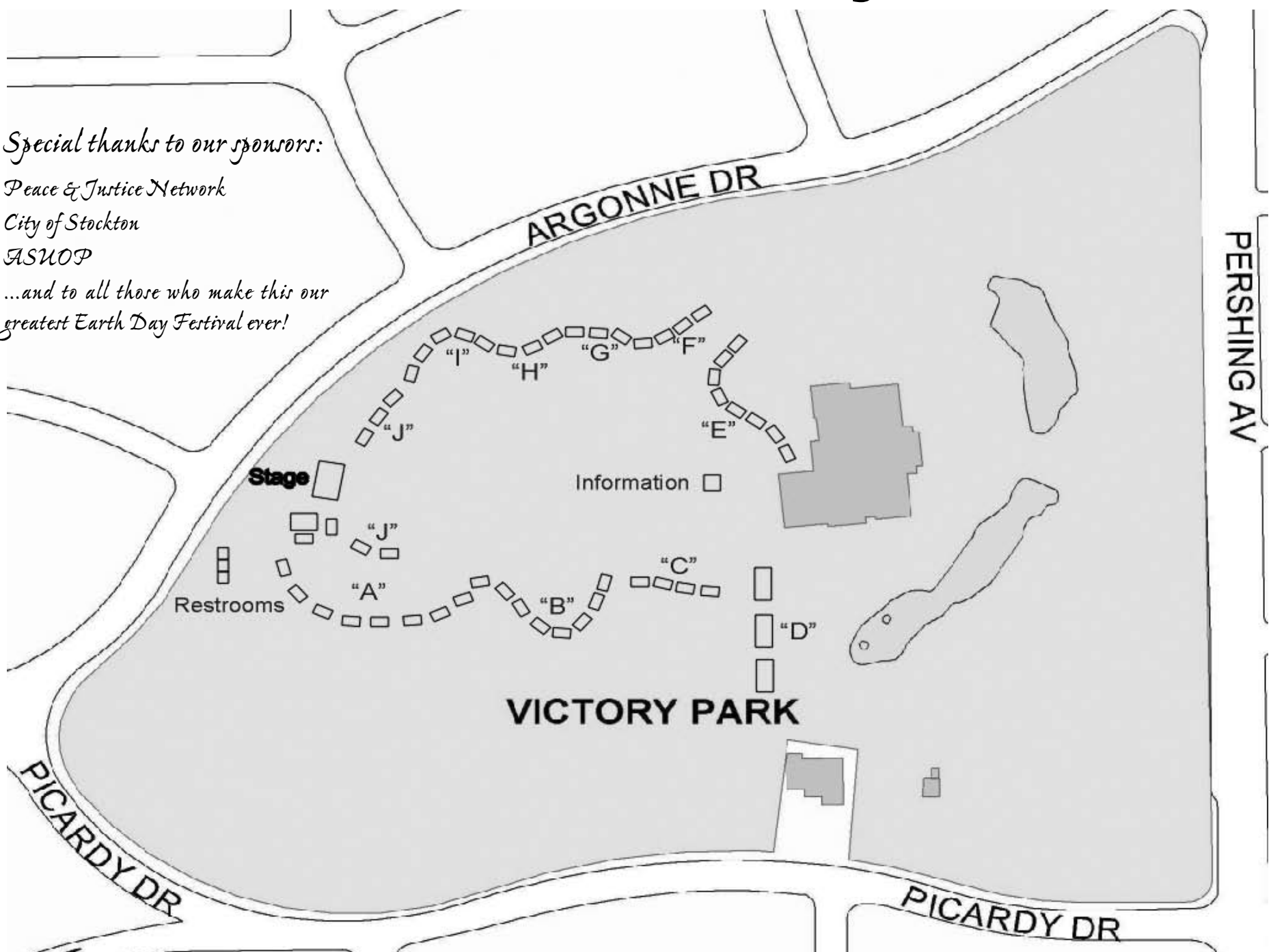
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Endangered Species
Girls Scouts of Tierra del Oro
Taiko Drum Corps
TOPPS - Targeted Opportunities to Prevent Pollution in SJ Co
World of Wonders Science Museum
Van Buren Reading Club

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CA Transplant Donor Network
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Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
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City of Stockton - Stormwater Mgmt. Program
Onsite Electronic Recycling
Stockton East Water District
US Census Bureau
Waste Management

Section D—Environmental Groups

Calaveras River Watershed Stewardship Group

Campaign for Common Ground
Defenders of Wildlife
Delta Flyfishers
Delta Sierra Group of Sierra Club
Fishery Foundation of California
Heifer International
San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District
San Joaquin Audubon Society
Students for Environmental Action (UOP)

Section E/F—Community Organizations

League of Women Voters
Peace & Justice Network of San Joaquin County
San Joaquin Co. Chapater
American Civil Liberties Union
Stockton DOGS (Democrats of

Greater Stockton
Delta Sunset Dancers
First Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton
Marrigage Equality USA San Joaquin Chapter
Port City Roller Girls
San Joaquin Co. Foster Care Licensing
Stockton Animal Shelter Friends
Stockton Assembly #9 - International Order of Rainbow Girls
United Cerebral Palsy of San Joaquin, Calaveras and Amador Counties

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Finish Healthy

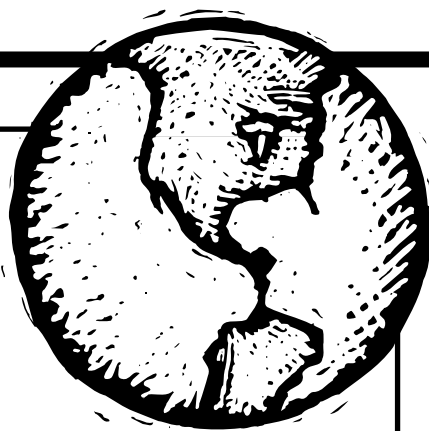
Sonora Sierra Heritage Foundation

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San Joaquin Farm Bureau
UC Extension San Joaquin Co. Master Gardener Program

Section J—Food Vendors

Capitol Concessions
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DePersia's
Indian Fry Bread
Java Jz
Seniors First
Wowie Maui



Sawznhammers

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

Secret Bikeways

John Morearty

Entertainment

- 11 - 11:20 Taiko drum corps
- 11:30 - 12:15 Loki Rhythm
- 12:15 - 12:30 Sunset Belly Dancers
- 12:30 - 1:15 Tropical Nights
- 1:15 - 1:30 Na Hoku Mai Kanoelani
- 1:45 - 3:00 Bucho
- 3 - 3:15 Endangered species parade
- 3:15 - 4:30 Latin All-Stars
- 4:30 - 5 Drum Circle

EARTH DAY FESTIVAL
Sunday, April 22, 2007
Victory Park 11 am to 5 pm

Food! Music! Free Admission!
Come and Learn!

Family Bike Parade
10:30 am registration

**THINK GREEN. PLAN GREEN.
LIVE GREEN SAN JOAQUIN**

Biking in the city is scary. Drivers don't see you, the road belongs to them-after all, they paid \$3.29 a gallon to fuel up their guzzlers. So bicyclist beware, stay off main streets. You may have the right of way, but as my dad the taxi driver used to say, you can be dead right.

Here are some pretty safe bike routes in Stockton, starting from Yosemite Street:

Downtown/southeast. Ride the side streets to the Civic Auditorium, then the broad sidewalk past Weber Point. Cross the channel, turn right on Weber, go two blocks to Madison, turn left and go under the freeway, where Madison curves left and becomes Hazelton, a wide street with light traffic. Take Hazelton all the way east past Wilson Way and Stribley Park into a beautiful neighborhood of tidy old houses, to the end of Hazelton. Wiggle your way south and east to Anderson Street, go east to Golden Gate. Turn right, follow Golden Gate south across Charter at the stop light and over 99, out into pleasant working-class neighborhoods.

East Stockton. Go north through the neighborhoods to the UOP campus, and ride the walkway past the ghosts of eucalyptus trees and the School of International Studies to the footbridge across the Calaveras (the best gateway to North Stockton). Turn right immediately on the bike path, underneath Pacific, El Dorado and West Lane. Enjoy the kids playing down by the water, watch out for broken glass. Take the footbridge back to the south side of the Calaveras, turn left and follow the bike path along the Diverting Canal all the way to Cherokee Road. I usually turn around and come back the same way; there are charming neighborhoods nearby toward town, but it's not easy to cross central Stockton to the west again.

Northeast Stockton. Get off that same bike path just east of El Dorado Street, down onto

the sidewalk. Cross Bianchi-carefully-go a block north, then east to the park, then north past the stoplight at March Lane, through the Food4Less parking lot, and out onto Woodstock. Turn right, then left immediately onto Lancaster, follow as it turns east to Ridgeway, then go left/north to Robinhood. It's not busy here; turn right and then immediately left onto Kermit, follow it around the little park and north to Swain. Swain is a racetrack, so cross at the light and ride on the sidewalk east across the tracks and past the fire-station to the light at Tam O'Shanter. Turn left, carefully. There's a lot of traffic, but it's a big broad street with plenty of room for bicycles. Follow Tam O'Shanter all the way across Hammer Lane to Knickerbocker, and turn right. Cross West Lane at the light, go a block, and angle left onto Bordeaux. You're out into easy quiet neighborhoods, east and north.

Delta College. Cross on the Wood Bridge, wiggle left and then right onto Manchester, go north to Rosemarie. DANGER. Cross to the north sidewalk, turn right and go on the sidewalk one long block to Precissi. DANGER. Turn left at the light, ride north to Delta. Beware zooming cars on the drive that circles the campus.

Lincoln Village and north. Cross the Calaveras, take the bike path left/west, under Pershing, and get down by Stagg High School (there are a couple of ramps). Take Brookside to the end of Stagg, turn right on McGaw, go north across March Lane to where McGaw deadends at Quail Lakes. Turn left and then immediately right on Alexandria, go to the end. Walk your bike across the little footbridge, which is a magical gate to northwest Stockton. Continue north on Alexandria, forever if you like; or turn right at Polk, right immediately on Williamsburg, left immediately on Douglas. Follow Douglas east, cross Pershing at the light, and on to Lincoln Village and Trader Joe's.

Out to the Big River. Cross the Calaveras and turn left on the bikepath. Go under Pershing and past Stagg, enjoying the birds and fisherfolk. Go under I-5 and up on the path again. When it leaves the river follow down to the right (don't run into the steel posts) and onto the nine foot wide sidewalk of Brookside. There's hardly any foot traffic, except when school lets out-but then Beware. Kids own the walk. Be careful at the east entrance to Gated Brookside, I almost got run down by a clueless driver. North to March Lane, turn left still on the sidewalk, and continue west. Another caution spot is the stoplight at the main entrance to Brookside, lots of turning traffic. Continue on up the slope, and suddenly there you are at Buckley Cove Marina. Cars have to pay, you ride free. There are birds, picnic tables, a kid's playground, usually clean restrooms, boats on the San Joaquin and even an occasional huge freighter, and faraway Mount Diablo. You can hear train whistles across the Delta. The other day I saw a full grown seal in the river, cruising for fish.

A variant on this ride: Just as March rises toward the Marina, cross to the north side and take the side road up across the bridge. Suddenly you are out of Manicuredlandia, rolling past a slough and out onto the bumpy pavement along the ship channel. You're in The Valley. The road goes a couple miles and stops; you get to eat an orange and some nuts, and come home.

PS: To improve your chances of bike survival, wear a helmet and protect your most valuable asset. I love my new rear view mirror: it mounts into the end of the left handlebar, and works really well. Beware teenagers with ipods, they're in some other universe, and watch out for kids on bikes, they wander and wobble. But then, don't we all?



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Star crossed lovers: our witness to suicide

Carolyn Gage

Shakespeare knew how to end a tragedy. He knew you don't just send the audience home without some closure, without some lesson learned, without some sense that "this must never happen again."

At the end of his play *Romeo and Juliet*, where the two lovers commit double suicide as a result of their families' disapproval, Shakespeare brings on the Prince of Verona as well as Juliet's parents and Romeo's father. In front of the citizens of Verona, in the early morning light, the Prince publicly unravels the details of the entire tragedy. He does not blame the friar who hatched the dangerous plot, the druggist who sold the poison, or the messenger who came too late. Notably, he does not blame the lovers.

No, Shakespeare's figure of civic and moral authority lays the blame squarely on the shoulders of the feuding families: "Capulet, Montague, / See what a scourge is laid upon your hate, / That heaven finds means to kill your joys with love!"

And then, we have the catharsis: Juliet's father offers his hand to Romeo's father. Romeo's father declares that he will erect a statue of Juliet in pure gold. Juliet's father is quick to add that Romeo's body will be buried with that of Juliet. And the Prince sums up poetically: "A glooming peace this morning with it brings."

There is no "glooming peace" in Washington today. The two teenaged lovers who took their lives will have no statues erected in their honor. And even though one of them wrote a last request in her diary to be buried next to her "true love," it is doubtful whether that request will be honored.

There is no Prince of Georgetown who will step forward and demand a full and public accounting from all parties of what they know. In fact, the authorities have declared their intention to suppress the details of the two deaths, consistent with their "policy" surrounding suicides.

And the families? They are requesting respect for their privacy. There are no gestures of

I want a pledge from the media and from the police that there will never again be a conspiracy of silence, of downplaying the evidence of sexual orientation in the name of "respect for the families."

reconciliation. The blame is being laid on the victims: One of the girls was, according to her father, depressed.

I daresay that *Romeo and Juliet* were depressed also. Romeo was facing exile and Juliet was looking at an arranged marriage with its attendant marital rape. But the wise Prince of Verona knew that his people deserved better than a facile blaming of the children. He knew the root of the tragedy lay in the families' refusal to accept the love between these two young people, their determination to place obstacles in their path and to accuse them of betraying their families' values, of dishonoring the family, with their passionate liaison. He knew that the only possible closure to the story would be the healing of this bigotry.

In the tragedy this week, there were two warring factions. One family was Catholic and the other Jewish. Traditionally Catholicism and Judaism are not religions that accept intermarriage between members. More than that, these are religions that have traditionally rejected homosexuality as morally wrong—a perversion or a sin.

No doubt the girls were depressed. They may have even felt they were carrying the weight of the world, because they were. These children were shouldering the disapproval and censure of two major world religions, backed by centuries of history and culture. These children were defying the moral precepts of millennia. Possibly, they were also dealing with the disapproval of their families. These burdens would be crushing to an adult with a fully-developed support system. For an 18-year-old and a 16-year-old, it

was more than they could bear.

As a witness to the playing out of this tragedy in the media, I am restless. I lack the kind of closure that Shakespeare offered to the citizens of his imagined world and the audiences of his real one. I am missing the respect for my investment in the story, in the culture that produced the tragedy. I need for the families to come together with mutual acknowledgement of the prejudices that drove their daughters to desperation. I want them to clasp hands publicly, to own and repudiate the historic "feud" between their faiths as well as the traditional homophobia of both religions.

I want them to bury these girls together, as the girls had wished, and I want them to establish a living memorial to honor their courage and their pain, a memorial that will bear witness to the fact that the homophobia taught and practiced by the major religions of the world is criminal, that the victims of this homophobia die every day in every country, and that young people are among those who suffer the most.

I want a pledge from the media and from the police that there will never again be a conspiracy of silence, of suppressing suicide notes and details of deaths, of disappearing or downplaying the evidence of sexual orientation in the name of "respect for the families." I want every death counted, noted, commemorated, remembered annually, until we all live in a world where homophobia is no longer tolerated or protected as a religious, ethnic, cultural, or personal prerogative.

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Equal rights for gays

Christian voices may make the difference in 2007 and 2008 in deciding whether California achieves or denies equal civil rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people. That's why California Council of Churches' sister ministry for public policy advocacy, California Church IMPACT, is asking you to lend your name to our efforts to support civil marriage equality.

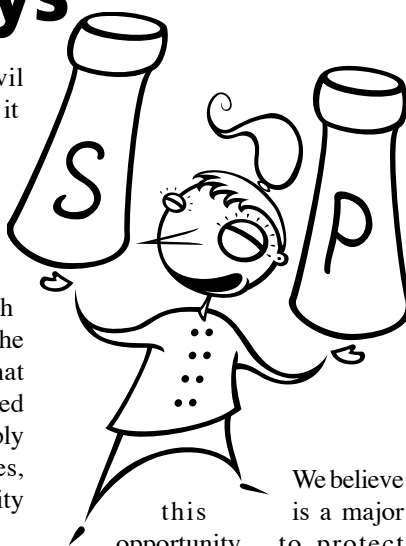
Many people think of marriage as primarily a religious matter. For that reason, people of faith, especially Christian clergy and lay leaders, have a multiplied effect when they speak out for civil marriage equality.

There are two kinds of marriage—religious and civil. Every faith institution and every clergy person ought to be free to decide for themselves whether or not to bless same-gender unions. The state should neither require it nor prohibit them from following their beliefs.

But civil marriage is a civil right. The state ought to grant it equally to all.

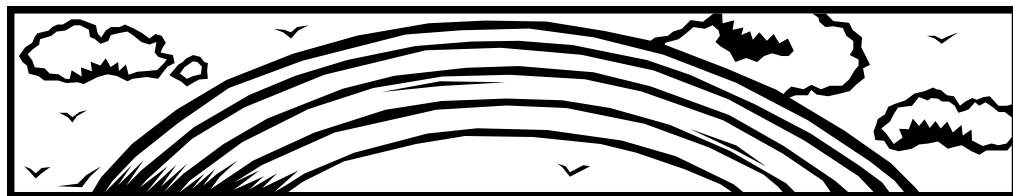
In 2005, about 50 Christian congregations publicly supported Assemblyman Mark Leno's civil marriage equality bill, while Church IMPACT advocated for it in the Capitol. Together, we did what no one else could do—convinced two previously opposed Assembly members to switch their votes, giving the bill the bare majority it needed to pass.

Assemblyman Leno has re-introduced the bill this year. It's AB 43, the Religions Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act. Almost double the number of congregations have endorsed it this year. We are asking the support of still more congregations and other Christian groups and many more Christian clergy and lay leaders. We hope to pass the bill again—and this time convince the Governor to sign it into law.



We believe this is a major opportunity to protect religious freedom and equal civil rights—and to let the public know that most Christians aren't what they might have come to think.

ACTION: Visit <http://www.calchurches.org/>, download and sign the Civil Marriage Equality Statement ([civilmarriageequality.doc](http://www.civilmarriageequality.doc)). Urge your Assemblymember to support the bill when it comes up for a vote.



Public impeachment events

Over 25 national groups have endorsed a Spring 2007 impeach Bush and Cheney drive that includes the following:

National Corporate Shopping Boycott April 15 (Tax Day) to April 22 (Earth Day). Supporters will forgo major purchases in corporate chain stores, and instead find locally-owned community markets, coffee shops and second hand shops. For downloadable posters and flyers to support this effort see: <http://www.wearenotbuyingit.org/>

The Show It Off! Campaign Launched! April 23-27, 2007 Wear impeachment T-shirts, armbands, buttons, etc, and become one of the millions all over this country saying no to Bush's war and yes to impeachment. <http://showitoffnow.blogspot.com/>

April 28, National Impeachment Protest Day: Spell out Impeach everywhere with human bodies. Send a message to Nancy Pelosi to put impeachment back on the table and help Dennis Kucinich bring impeachment back to Congress. <http://www.a28.org/>

Peter Phillips, co-editor of *Impeach the President: The Case Against Bush and Cheney*, says, "The American people voted against the war in November. Opinion polls show two-thirds oppose the war, and over half support impeachment. We have the individual choice of being 'Good Germans' and hiding our heads in the sand, or taking united action to dethrone the imperial powers through the people's option of impeachment."

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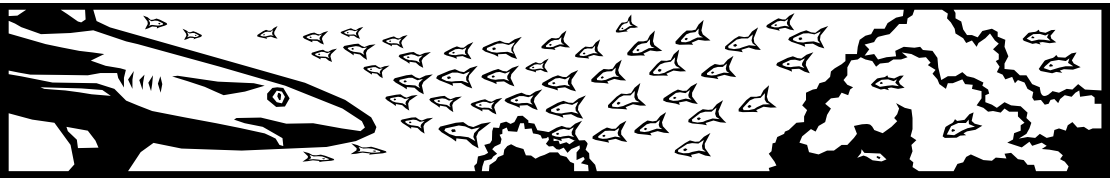
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Bambi vs. Godzilla



Dianne Runion

Bambi vs. Godzilla: On the Nature, Purpose, and Practice of the Movie Business by David Mamet, Pantheon Books, 2007, 250 pp., \$22.00.

David Mamet’s nonfiction book “Bambi vs. Godzilla: On the Nature, Purpose, and Practice of the Movie Business” underscores many prejudices about those shallow, rapacious Hollywood people we love to sneer at. Trouble is, I can’t always sort out how much of Mamet’s compelling screed is sound reasoning and how much is verbal razzle-dazzle.

Mamet enjoys a solid reputation for directing films and for brilliant stage and screen script writing.

I laughed, pondered, nodded sagely and raced through this book, mostly agreeing with Mamet’s precepts. Here are a

few of his observations. “We have fewer and fewer films, and these are of diminishing worth and ever-inflated production costs.” Why so? Because, says Mamet, “they are made not to attract the audience, but to buttress or advance the position of the executive.” Read greed here. Even stars’ clothes are auctioned off to line the producers’ purse.

Mamet’s political bias is liberal. He writes, “You (moviemakers) are...part of a system capable of wasting two hundred million dollars on an hour and a half of garbage (i.e., blockbuster movies). You must be somebody.” After making Hollywood junk film comparisons to our country’s defense spending, Mamet adds, “The paradigm in blockbuster entertainment is ‘more will cure it.’” Then he makes one of his inferential leaps that may not hold: “For America to engage in pointless, destructive, irrational

foreign enterprise is, essentially, for the electorate to endorse a bad, empty, addictive entertainment.” Do the two necessarily follow? Has Mamet proved his point?

Mamet does better when he leaves politics to the experts and talks about making films—which he knows—or when he decries Hollywood ethnocentrism. World history is re-made in Hollywood’s image. Foreexample, Kevin Costner teaches the Lakota Sioux to hunt buffalo in “Dances With Wolves” or Rae Dawn Chong brings the benefits of the missionary position to the Neanderthals in “Quest For Fire.”

Comic Steve Martin is quoted on “Bambi vs. Godzilla’s” book jacket: “David Mamet...is a gifted writer and observer of society and its characters. I’m sure he will be able to find work somewhere, somehow, just no longer in the movie business.” Martin fears for Mamet’s future

in Hollywood because Mamet gnaws on the hands that feed him: “These ersatz producers have no dramatic sense...They observe that which has been successful and attempt to duplicate it. They want, in effect, to find the script for the hit of last year.” This pattern unfortunately replicates itself ad nauseum.

Mamet observes film’s popularity “among the lower classes” of subject matter dramatizing the victimization of women through abuse, rape, harassment and, among “the more elevated, as victims of marriage.” He calls this “Mariolatry in its ultimate debasement: Women are good, women are pure, how good are we to acknowledge their suffering.” He says that true depiction of women takes into account the ways women are similar to men—and the ways they are different. He adds that women’s movie parts tend to go to the nubile. Here Mamet’s puckish humor peeks through, for he allows that casting nubile nymphs may be good—or bad.

Whole chapters explain how so much junk makes it to the screen. One group of culprits includes entry-level-position script readers, who “would rather die than deviate from received wisdom.” Lock-step assessments ensure more of the status quo. In one of many superb metaphors, Mamet describes script readers sitting at their high Victorian desks pawing “through the incoming screenplays, nuzzling the earth for truffles for their masters.” As a result, “script coverage is brutal and dismissive.” At this point a little demon whispers in my ear, “Whatsamatter, Mamet? Did you fail to get one too many good scripts green-lighted?”

When the status quo is maintained, the movie industry produces an excess of comedies Mamet calls “the five-gag film” as opposed to worthy drama. He compares five-gaggers to porno films in that both are thinly plotted and hemstitched together. He asserts that great dramatic experience is “the enjoyment of the postponement of enjoyment” where we anticipate

delights to come. How often have we graybeards deplored contemporary unwillingness to delay gratification? This may even be symptomatic of a larger cultural problem where fast grabs for life’s brass rings pervade, often resulting in bankruptcies and home foreclosures.

Mamet says contemporary violent entertainment is “an opiate of which increasingly larger doses must be taken for increasingly smaller effect. Its effect is anesthetic.” In great dramatic literature—such as the works of Homer or Shakespeare—the exploration of murder is a warning against murder, not an advertisement for it.

Mamet is often funny, no more so than when he skewers icons or religious films. He says the latter have about as much chance of increasing humane behavior as “Porgy and Bess” has of ending segregation. He slots religious films into two categories: sappy and exploitative. About Sir Laurence Olivier’s acting, which Mamet hates, he says: “I’m hungry for lunch, and all he’s serving is an illustrated menu.”

The book title refers to the 1960’s animated short-short “Bambi Meets Godzilla.” In it Bambi frolics over the hillside until Godzilla crosses the screen and stomps Bambi “into preserves.”

Mamet must have been stomped more than once himself, for he loathes critics: “The critic’s job in America is to sell newspapers.” Gossip sells newspapers; critics write gossip.” They invite the reader to find fault, “licensing a vicarious superciliousness.”

Mamet’s book boasts a 31-page appendix of films he refers to and briefly describes, followed by an 11-page index. These help a reader who has gorged on Mamet’s over-rich verbiage to find out more about those films as well as to re-find other gems he has mined in the 206 pages of text. I’d buy this book just for the list of great films that survived Hollywood’s execrable processes. I’ll keep it and re-read it because it is such stimulating, irreverent fun.

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Palooka's seven steps to a better Stockton

Hello, friends. Joe Palooka here to take you on a trip around our city, our country and our world —so secure yourselves to your barstools and let the journey begin.

President Bush has denounced Democrats as "irresponsible" in response to the statements over the budget involving the over four years old war in Iraq. It is Joe's opinion—and the opinion of ever-increasing numbers of Americans—that it was irresponsible to get us involved in that war in the first place.

Isn't it irresponsible to continue a failed policy that leads to death and destruction for thousands of people? They call it the Iraq War. Hell, we can't even secure Baghdad. What's to stop "insurgents" from moving to other cities? What if, miracles upon miracles, we do secure our objective? Who determines when the "coast is clear?" After all that's happened, how could those of us

back home believe them? Do we pack up and go home? What if sectarian violence continues? How bad would it have to get before we returned? Would we return? Or is it as Joe and many others have concluded: we are never going to leave. This is an occupation conceived by neo-con imperialists determined to control the vast oil wealth of the Middle East. The United States of America has not "invested" over \$400 billion in Iraq just to hand the ball over to a people for whom we've shown nothing but contempt. Pentagon estimates claim the U.S. will still have 40,000 troops in Iraq by 2010. Four huge installations and a U.S. embassy the size of a small city offer eye-popping reality as to the duration of our visit.

Closer to home, the Stockton Record asked readers for comments and opinions as to what could be done to make San Joaquin County a better place to live. Joe, never hesitant to offer an opinion, has a few suggestions.

1. Follow the old General Plan and the will of the voters (Measure Q) and keep Stockton's boundaries in check. Farmland is a precious commodity. Joe has not eaten asphalt or concrete, but has been told by his nutritionist (not to mention his dentist), that it might not be good for his health.

2. Find developers to do in-fill home construction at prices San Joaquin County residents can afford. Apply price controls on rental properties according to size and location. Build more duplexes and triplexes.

3. Get first- and second-time drug offenders into treatment plans instead of jail, but draw the line at habitual foul-ups who clog the system with money and time-consuming behavior that deters the ability to help those who really want to change course.

4. County leaders need to speak with a loud and unified voice to get improvements done on the I-205 corridor and Highway 12. On 205, you're chilled waiting in mind-numbing traffic jams and on 12, you're killed - hit head-on by thousands of pounds of hurtling metal. And how about getting some mass-transit systems to the County. Light rail, anyone?

5. Join the ever-increasing chorus of dissenters and bail out of the "No Child Left Behind" fiasco. Joe says let's get back to the three "R's" - readin', writin' and 'rithmetic. Memorizing a test doesn't cut it. Elimination of music and art is a mistake. Remember, "All work and no play makes Joe a dull boy." Also, how about getting middle schools and high schools back into legitimate P.E. programs? A healthy body leads to a healthy mind. Couch Potato University already has too many alumni. Finally, make community service a required course for graduation from high school and for obtaining a driver's license.

6. Place convicted graffiti artists' photographs on billboards around the country. Let everyone know the artist responsible for defacing the community. Let's give these guys the (negative) recognition they so richly deserve.

7. Open up some more brew pubs. Joe and others of his unquenchable breed are tantalized

by the thought of new and exciting beer dispensaries. Can everyone say, "Sudsational!"

Next, it's time for Joe's shorts. Well, not really his shorts. How about Joe's briefs? Why do they call underwear briefs? Anyway, here goes ...

Mitt Romney, Republican Presidential candidate, raises \$23 million. Romney has flip-flopped on both women's reproductive rights and gay marriage. No doubt, he and James Dobson, leader of the hard-right group, Focus on the Family, have come to terms. These guys make Joe sick.

Iran, replete with ever-increasing nuclear technology and 15 captured British Sailors and Marines won't back down to U.S. or British pressure. They may be part of the "axis of evil" but they're not stupid. Nuclear armed countries don't get attacked —period!

Hillary Clinton is still at the head of the pack in the Democratic quest for the job only an ant farmer, a bee keeper or a madman would want; Joe would vote for Hillary in a heartbeat. Likewise for Obama. There's just one probelm. Is the country ready to elect a woman or a black man? Joe's guess is that folks across the "Bible Belt" will be praying and waiting for someone else. John Edwards is the "way to go" guy.

Now it's the Joe Quiz for all you brainiacs, under the category of "US Presidents."

1. Which President said, "We must be the great arsenal of Democracy?"

- a) LBJ
- b) FDR
- c) George W. Bush
- d) James K. Polk

2. What President issued this stern warning: "Chronic wrongdoing ... may force the United States ... to the exercise of international police power."

- a) JFK
- b) Theodore Roosevelt
- c) James Monroe
- d) George W. Bush

3. These words of wisdom, badly needed in Washington today, were voiced by this President: "Regimes planted by bayonets do not take root."

- a) Ronald Reagan
- b) Dwight D. Eisenhower
- c) Jimmy Carter
- d) Bill Clinton

4. Who occupied the Oval Office when he said this: "We Americans have no commission from God to police the world."

- a) Richard Nixon
- b) Benjamin Harrison
- c) Woodrow Wilson
- d) Harry Truman

5. What President made this confession: "My choice early in life was either to be a piano-player in a whorehouse or a politician. And to tell the truth, there's hardly any difference."

- a) Bill Clinton
- b) Calvin Coolidge
- c) Harry Truman
- d) James Buchanan

(Answers: 1B; 2B; 3A; 4B; 5C)

Well, all you little Palookaites, wherever you may be, this is the end of the show. Joe is tickled pink that the Dems in D.C. are finally standing up to the self-anointed "Decider." A politically neutered President Bush will be a clear victory for all who stand in this madman's path. We must use all diplomatic tools available to convince the governments of countries in the Middle East that it is in the best interest of all concerned to come to peaceful and equitable solutions to our differences. Islamo-fascists or Christian fascists—take your pick. They're both enough to make Joe plenty nervous. Let's all pray it somehow ends soon. Until next time, remember to pop open a cold one on Joe's behalf and say a prayer for all the little palookas everywhere who only want a chance to survive. Take care, my friends. This is Joe Palooka (aka Dave Waldon) signing off.

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A Bay Area view

Key to world peace: Stockton

Joshua Grossman

The fact of the matter is that Blue California is mostly quite blue and Red California is quite red. But there is a thin strip of politically semi-arid but not yet desert land, like the Sahel region just to the south of the Sahara in Africa, which we can call Purple California. This land could be fertile terrain for political progressives, as long as it receives a modest irrigation flow of money and political expertise. This land is called Stockton.

With a working class population bolstered by some ancestrally Democratic Okies (though not as many as settled in the southern Valley) during the Dust Bowl years of the 1930s, San Joaquin County was traditionally Democratic—though quite conservative. Over the last 2-3 decades Republicans gained greatly in registration numbers and actual votes. This happened because working class Valley residents felt abandoned as the Democratic party, especially under Bill Clinton, moved away from its FDR/Truman tradition of carrying the banner for working class people. This led to Valley residents' innate social conservatism asserting itself and impelling Valley voters, almost by default, to the Republican Party.

But now affordable housing-starved San Francisco Bay Area residents are moving in droves to the parts of the Valley nearest to the Bay Area, especially San Joaquin County. Enough people have moved to change the politics of San Joaquin County and restore a Democratic party registration advantage among San Joaquin County voters, although it's a quite narrow one. The people moving from the Bay Area to San Joaquin County, especially the Democrats, are much more progressive on average than long time residents.

The harsh truth is that the overwhelming majority of San Joaquin County elected officials who are Democrats (still a minority of elected officials in the county) have horrible voting records from the perspective of progressives. But there are progressive opportunities. The finely balanced partisan registration margins in San Joaquin County overall mask dramatic

differences within different parts of the county. The rural areas and the smaller incorporated cities, especially Lodi, are still quite Republican. Stockton is by far and away the largest population center of San Joaquin County. Stockton itself has a fairly strong Democratic voter registration advantage.

But there's not anyone doing partisan electoral work from a progressive perspective on the ground in Stockton. California coastal progressives from places like the Bay Area need to think strategically. We shouldn't be channeling scarce resources to the sparsely populated Gold Country Congressional districts of Doolittle & Lungren, however much their stench offends our nostrils. Those districts are just too Red. Even if we defeat Doolittle because he's indicted (the only way it'll happen), we'd lose the seat back two years later.

On the other hand, Stockton just elected a very progressive Latina lesbian to the city council in a harsh race where she was viciously attacked by the old boy power structure. Of the five supervisorial districts in San Joaquin County, one is strongly Democratic and one strongly Republican with the other three closely balanced (two with a narrow Dem advantage/one with a narrow Republican advantage). The predominantly Democratic supervisorial district is the one that includes most of Stockton. This supervisorial district in turn is at the core of the 17th state Assembly district represented by Cathleen Galgiani and the 18th Congressional district represented by Dennis Cardoza, both of whom are fairly wretchedly reactionary Democrats. Fortunately Galgiani will be pushed elsewhere (one hopes to political oblivion) by term limits. By percolating her up through the political ranks, our progressive member of the Stockton City Council COULD wind up being a progressive member of the U.S. Congress. But it won't happen by accident, and—quite possibly—not without our help.

Bay Area progressives need to scour Stockton and link up with

indigenous activist groups who A) have their act together, B) are progressive & C) are angry with the right wing pro-developer, pro-big-agribusiness, pro-corporate mentality that's resulted in the San Joaquin Valley (including San Joaquin County) having a variety of negative social indices more like those of a third world country than those of the Bay Area. These groups don't have to currently be engaged in electoral work. They do need to be dedicated to community organizing—year round, not just in election season. With the credibility gained by doing the hard, dirty work of organizing poor people around getting a stoplight at an intersection where a kid has been hit by a car, etc., i.e. Saul Alinsky-style organizing, these indigenous organizations are the only ones who are in a position to command the respect of the socially/economically disadvantaged and understandably cynical communities that they work in. We should be funding them to hire people who have great experience in both community organizing AND nakedly electoral work as well.

It would take a tremendous amount of work, some expenditure of resources as well as time to take over the Stockton City Council. But it could be done and it would provide a tremendous beacon of hope for progressive organizing in San Joaquin County which in turn would provide a tremendous beacon of hope for progressive organizing in the entire San Joaquin Valley.

California's coastal progressives ignore the Valley at their peril. It's rapidly growing while the Bay Area's population is essentially stable. Without combating Republicans and conservative Democrats in the Valley so that it doesn't become their 21st century equivalent of what Orange County represented for the right wing in the 1980s and '90s, California will slowly but inexorably slide from being a blue state to being a purple one overall. That's because the other rapidly growing parts of California, the Inland Empire counties of Riverside

(continued next page)

On war tax resistance

"Let them march all they want, as long as they continue to pay their taxes."

—Gen. Alexander Haig, Secretary of State, June 12, 1982

"The two decisive powers of the government with respect to war are the power to conscript and the power to tax."

—A.J. Muste, Fellowship of Reconciliation

Scott Kennedy

I was granted conscientious objector status (1967) during the war against Vietnam. As allowed by law, I performed two years of civilian alternative service instead of military service (1971-1973). I am grateful that our country provides this option for those conscientiously opposed to war.

However, while doing my alternative service, I was closely observing two roughly simultaneous events. Lt. William Calley was being prosecuted for allegedly committing war crimes at My Lai, Vietnam (1968). And Angela Davis was being prosecuted (1972) for allegedly purchasing the weapons used in the fatal shootings during the Marin County Courthouse attempted jail break (1970). The State of California was prosecuting Angela Davis for first degree murder because a weapon that she paid for was used

in commission of a murder. The US taxpayers paid for the weapons used by Lt. Calley and others to commit murders in Vietnam....

I realized that it mattered little if I were a conscientious objector and exempted from military service while paying taxes used to pay and arm others to fight in my place. I also realized that as a California tax payer, based on the Davis/Calley precedents, I could be prosecuted for the murders committed by Calley.

In addition—International Law does not just support people refusing to commit or support actions violating international law. International law requires it. So too does the law of California require me to refuse to pay taxes to commit crimes.

I began in the 1960s by refusing to pay the Federal Excise Tax on the monthly phone bill, a tax initiated by President Johnson to pay for the Vietnam War. In 1972 I began withholding the % of my federal taxes that go to pay for past, present and future wars (including interest on the war debt, the nuclear weapons program that is hidden within the energy budget, etc.).

In the 1990s, I was asked to serve as a plaintiff for a lawsuit based on conscientious objection to paying war taxes. The Northern California War Tax Resistance Network brought an unsuccessful legal challenge in the federal courts that tried to extend the protections afforded by the Religious Freedom Restoration Act to conscientious objectors to war taxes. I was chosen as a person whom the government had recognized as a conscientious objector to war (during Vietnam) who was refusing to pay war taxes in the 1990s. The Federal Court in Oakland denied my claim that CO status should extend to my war tax resistance, but I still think that the argument is a compelling one.

I fill out my taxes completely and accurately and then refuse to pay any balance over 50% owed, or request/demand a refund if I have over paid 50% of what is owed. I enclose a letter to that effect with my tax return and often send letters to congress, the newspaper, etc., as well. At different times the IRS has refused my demand for a refund. Other years they have sent me a

refund, seized my bank account or placed a lien against my salary, collecting penalties and interest as well.

It is important for me not to voluntarily pay the war tax, even if in the end they collect more money from me.

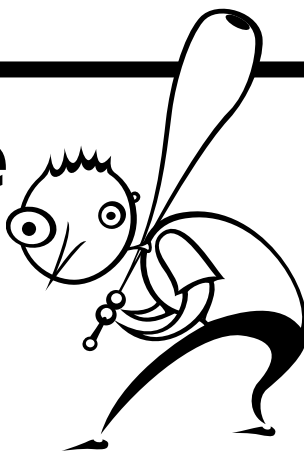
I'm willing to pay the same amount of taxes if the government would assure me the money won't be spent on killing. They refuse to create this option for others and me.

It is really important to distinguish my type of nonviolent civil disobedience against war from: 1) tax evaders— i.e., those who avoid taxes clandestinely or without publicly accepting responsibility for their action; and 2) those who are conscientiously opposed to paying taxes per se— usually the right-wing libertarian types. I'm not against taxes (including municipal taxes), just war taxes! <http://www.nowartax.org/>

ENDNOTE: The Internal Revenue Service issued a "Notice of Levy on Wages, Salary, and other Income" requiring the Resource Center for Nonviolence to turn over staff member Scott Kennedy's salary. Complying with the levy, the Resource Center has paid a total of \$1,548.32 including unpaid federal income taxes, interest and penalties is demanded by the IRS for tax year 2005...In 2004, Kennedy was the plaintiff in an unsuccessful law suit in the US Federal Court seeking to extend conscientious objector from war status to nonpayment of war taxes. Kennedy is a former mayor of the City of Santa Cruz and three term councilmember.

For information on the percentage of the income tax going to pay for war, Check out War Resisters League: http://www.warresisters.org/wtr_guide2003.htm

Source: Resource Center for Nonviolence, Watsonville Peace Coalition release 4/10/07 831-423-1626 X105



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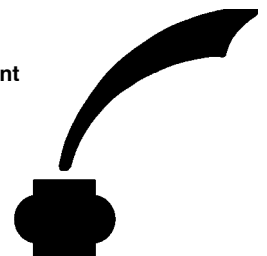
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Contact Your Reps

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Stockton (continued from previous page)

and San Bernardino lean to the Republicans and carry increasing heft in California politics as they mushroom in population and Los Angeles stagnates along with the Bay Area.

Maybe I shouldn't say the secret is Stockton, but rather that the solution is Stockton.

Joshua Grossman is the President and founder of Progressive Punch <http://www.progressivepunch.org/> and Progressive Kick <http://www.progressivekick.org/>.

Source: California Progress Report 4/12/07 <<http://www.californiaprogressreport.com/politics/index.html>>

June 22-24

Relax at Peace Camp

Ken Schroeder

Peace Camp, held at Camp Peaceful Pines from Friday through Sunday, June 22-24, 2007 offers an opportunity for peace-minded families to gather in a relaxed mountain setting away from the routine and rush of daily life.

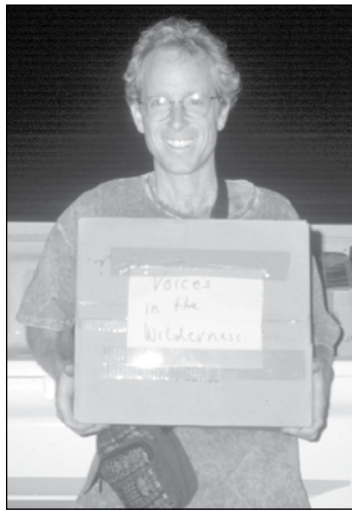
Workshops, hikes, campfire, singing, talent show, nature activities, sharing camp chores and eating delicious meals together shape our time. We leave newly committed to continuing the work for peace and justice.

Peace activist and poet David Smith-Ferri will be our guest

presenter. David was in Iraq just prior to the war and recently visited Iraqi refugees in Amman, Jordan.

"David Smith-Ferri's creative intelligence focuses on insidious forces of war, forces that often cause people to shrink in fear. He appeals to our best instincts, urges us to overcome fear and dares to offer trust and friendship as the basis for creating better social structures. In this sense, his poetry is utterly useful and necessary..." (Kathy Kelly, Nobel Peace Prize nominee).

Smith-Ferri, Poet Laureate of Ukiah, CA, is a winner of the Janice Farrell Poetry Prize. His newly released book is *Battlefield Without*



David Smith-Ferri

Borders, Iraq Poems. His poetry and essays have been published in *Z Magazine*, *Yes! Magazine*, *The Other Side Magazine*, the print edition of *CounterPunch* and numerous online publications. For more information visit <http://www.battlefieldwithoutborders.org/index.html>.

About Camp Peaceful Pines

At 6,200 foot elevation in the Stanislaus National Forest on the Clark Fork of the Stanislaus River, Camp Peaceful Pines is located 25 miles above Pinecrest off Hwy 108. Travel time from Modesto is about 2 1/2 hours. The camp features kitchen and bathing facilities, rustic cabins, platform tents (unheated) and a cabin for those with special needs.

Camp registration includes meals, snacks, sleeping space, insurance and leadership costs. Partial financial aid and day-rates also available. To keep costs low, campers share in meal preparation, general camp cleanup, program administration, and other work. Campers provide their own bedding. A nurse will be on duty.

The camp opens with supper on Friday, June 22 and closes after lunch and cleanup on Sunday, June 24.

Download an application from <http://stanislausconnections.org/2007/PCamp%2007.pdf> or call Richard Harvey, 209-571-3384. Early registration, before June 3rd, entitles registrants to a \$10.00 per person discount.

Peace Camp is organized by the Modesto Peace/Life Center in collaboration with Tuolumne County Citizens for Peace.

May 3

Ebadi to speak at UOP

Please join us to hear 2003 Nobel Peace Prize Winner Dr. Shirin Ebadi May 3 at 7 pm in the Faye Spanos Concert Hall on the University of the Pacific campus. The first Iranian and Muslim woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize will be presenting the Gerber lecture: "Iran Awakening—A Story of Revolution and Hope." The lecture is free and open to the public, with a reception to follow in Grace Covell Hall. The Gerber lecture is sponsored by the School of International Affairs of the University of the Pacific. For information, call 209 946 2650 (see page 1 for more).

May 12

Join AIDSWalk San Joaquin Heart & Sole

AIDSWalk of San Joaquin is hosting "The Heart and Sole" on Saturday, May 12, at Oak Park in Stockton beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Proceeds from the event are donated to HIV/AIDS agencies in San Joaquin County, used to provide aid to HIV/AIDS clients.

Early registration is encouraged, check-in is at 9:00 a.m. and the walk begins at 10:00 a.m. If you would like to register or get additional information, please contact AIDSWalk at (209) 608-WALK (9255) or go online to www.aidswalkSJ.org.

May 21

Meet THIRST producers

You are invited to meet the award-winning producers of the PBS special THIRST on May 21 at Barnes and Nobel in Weberstown Mall on Pacific Avenue. Alan Snitow, Deborah Kaufman and Michael Fox have expanded on their documentary and written a book, *Thirst: Fighting the Corporate Theft of our Water*.

This chilling expose' features the water privatization fiasco of Stockton, among other cities. In the author's words, "We are at the tipping point in the new, global water wars. The United States is ground zero. What happens in the next few years will determine the fate of water and our basic democratic rights. THIRST is a battlefield account of the conflict." For more information see: www.thirstthemovie.org

There will be a reception with refreshments at 6:00 p.m. with a short program to follow at 6:30. The presentation is co-sponsored by The Concerned Citizens Coalition of Stockton and Food & Water Watch (Washington, DC).

May 20

Take AIDS garden tour

Enjoy a May afternoon touring the beautiful gardens of some of Stockton's finest homes during the San Joaquin AIDS Foundation's 9th annual Garden Tour on Sunday, May 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All proceeds from this event benefit the San Joaquin AIDS Foundation. Ticket prices are \$20 in advance/\$25 at the gate. For information or tickets, call 209/476-8533.



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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 by the 7th of every month.]

Through May 5

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

Apr 2 - 30

Troke Teen Art Show, M,Th 10-8, Tu,Wed 10-6, Fri,Sat 12-5 Troke Library, 502 W Benjamin Holt Dr, Stockton. 937-8221

Apr 19 - May 24

Juried Student Exhibition, M,Th 10-8, Tu,Wed 10-6, Fri,Sat 12-5 Delta LH Horton Gallery, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. 954-5507

Apr 2 - May 5

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

Fri, Apr 20

Drinking Liberally - Promoting Democracy One Pint at a Time. An informal inclusive progressive social group - bring democratic discourse to your local democratic space. Stockton Grand Hotel, 2323 Grand Canal Blvd, Stockton. Free to attend, support event host. 7 pm. 351-3397.

Sat, Apr 21

Project Delta Runway, a drama and art contest celebrating creating and wearing costume. Performance begins 6 pm. Delta College Studio Theater, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Free. To participate or for info, 954-5462.

Sun, Apr 22

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

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

Tue, April 24

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

Wed, Apr 25

Drumming for Joy to a World Beat at the Peace Center. 7 pm. Refreshments served, bring your dancing shoes. 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. 482-5088 Fourth Wednesdays.

Big Band Jazz Concert, featuring the SJDC Wed Night Jazz Band, 3 high school all star bands and Young Sounds of San Joaquin. 7:30 pm. Atherton Auditorium, Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$7.50 adult/\$5 student & senior. 954-5110.

Apr 27 - May 5

Pericles by Shakespeare, 8 pm (Sun 2 pm). DeMarcus Brown Studio Theatre, UOP, 3601 Pacific Ave, Stockton \$12 adult, \$8 student, \$5 senior. 946-2UOP.

Thur, May 3

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

Nobel Peace Prize winner from Iran, Dr. Shirin Ebadi, speaks on "Iran Awakening: A Story of Revolution and Hope." 7 pm. Faye Spanos Concert Hall, UOP. Free and open to the public. 946-2650 (see page 1).

May 4 - May 13

Little Shop of Horrors, 8 pm (Sun 2 pm), Lewis Theatre, Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton \$14 adult, \$12 senior/student. 954-5110.

Sun, May 6

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

Thur, May 10

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

May 12 - 13

Italian street painting festival. 10 am - 7 pm. DeCarli Plaza, downtown Stockton. Donations for Lincoln High Visual Arts Program accepted. 464-5246.

Sat, May 12

Indigenous cultures family festival, 1:30 - 4 pm. Haggin Museum, 1201 N Pershing Ave, Stockton. \$5 adult, \$2.50 youth/senior 940-6315.

Sun, May 13

76th annual Mother's Day Strawberry Breakfast, benefitting the UOP Center for Community Involvement (Anderson Y) tutoring and enrichment programs. 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. UOP Regent Dining Room, 3601 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$10 adult, \$7 student/children 946-2444.

Mother's Day at Pixie Woods, 12 - 5 pm. Mothers free accompanied by child. \$3 under 12, \$3.50 otherwise. Occidental and Shimizu, Louis Park, Stockton. 937-8206.

Tue, May 15

SJDC Percussion Ensemble Recital, 5 pm. Atherton Auditorium, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Free. 954-5110

SJDC String Ensemble Recital, 11 am. Holt 213, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Free. 954-5110

Wed, May 16

SJDC Monday Night Jazz Band, featuring vocalist Claudia Villela, 7:30 pm. Lewis Theatre, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$7.50 adult/\$5 student/senior. 954-5110

May 16 - Jun 10

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

Pacific Theatre University of the Pacific

Spring 2007 Film Schedule

Thurs, Apr 26	Old Joy (Independent)
Fri & Sat, Apr 27 & 28	Casino Royale
Thurs, May 3	The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros (Foreign, Philippines)
Fri & Sat, May 4 & 5	Dreamgirls
Sat, May 5	Employee of the Month (Tiger Nights Late Movie: 10:30pm)

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

Thu, May 17

SJDC Wind Ensemble and Stockton Concert Band celebrate "Back to Broadway." Atherton Auditorium, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$7.50 adult/\$5 student/senior. 954-5110

Fri, May 18

Drinking Liberally - Promoting Democracy One Pint at a Time. An informal inclusive progressive social group - bring democratic discourse to your local democratic space. Stockton Grand Hotel, 2323 Grand Canal Blvd, Stockton. Free to attend, support event host. 7 pm. 351-3397.

Tue, May 22

John Edwards for President—Edwards supporters and the Edwards-curious are encouraged to attend this casual discussion on progressive presidential politics. Wendy's Restaurant, 2439 W.

March Ln., Stockton. Free. 6:30pm. 476-1723.

Fri, May 25

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

Weekly

First Sundays

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

Third Thursdays

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

Talking It Through

Talking It Through is now two half-hour shows.

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

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

SJTV: Stockton, Lodi and Manteca cable channel 26

EDUCATION • ENVIRONMENT • POLITICS • CULTURE

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

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

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

Save the date

Thursday June 7 at 7 pm, Bob Bowman, Ph.D., longtime peace and justice activist, space warfare and 911 truth expert, retired Air Force Lt. Colonel, and 2006 Democratic candidate for Congress in Florida, will be speaking in the West Forum at Delta College. Discussion period and reception to follow. Amazing man, don't miss him. More details in next issue. Info or to help, John Morearty, 464-3326.

WORDS OF WISDOM

In the final analysis, our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future. And we are all mortal.

— John F. Kennedy at American University, June 10, 1963

Courtesy of John Morearty, 464-3326

It's All Happening At the P&J Center

Shocking truth about gluten

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

"I love bread as much as anyone" says Ann Marks, a native Stocktonian, whose parents were both physicians, and yet was unwell for decades. This health issue is what has driven her passion to regain her health...and

discover something so little known and yet so destructive in our daily diets. She has made this documentary because she felt the information was extremely important to people and was not being distributed. This film about gluten and why bread eaters get sick was filmed on location in New Zealand. It features pediatric

gastroenterologist and medical doctor, Dr. Rodney Ford (also known as "the Food Doctor") and his patients ^all of whom were sick in numerous ways. They all got healthy without pills or medication by following a gluten free diet.

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

Bring your curiosity and join us for this wonderful and insightful documentary by Ms. Marks who is passionate to share this doctor's theory of the toxic nature of gluten and the healing benefits of getting it out of our diet. Light refreshments served. RSVP 467-4455. \$2 donation requested.



Tao in the digital age

May 9, 7:00pm
Education, Religion, Politics, Economics and Quality of Life—the relationships in the past and today and where do we need it to go in the future.

Video and Live Presentations

Selected Readings from the great teachers and minds of the past and present
Open Discussions on today's Universe and our relationships to it.

Refreshments served, bring your thinking hat.

Second Wednesday of Each Month 7:00 PM
231 Bedford St. Stockton 95204
482-5088

German Film Festival

Tuesdays 6:30 pm

Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Road, Stockton 467-4455
Admission \$2.00

Our spring film festival will be shown each Tuesday night, 6:30 pm at the P&J Center.

Dan Hettmannsperger III has studied film for more than 20 years. We hope to continue with other choices from Dan's film collection including Italian, Japanese, French, Anti-War, and Film Noir.

Please join us for an exciting, inspirational and thought-provoking event. There will be an introduction and discussion each evening. The \$2.00 entrance fee to support the Center includes popcorn and refreshments. For more information call 467-4455.

April 24 The Testament of Dr. Mabuse (1933) Directed by Fritz Lang. This sequel to "M" ratchets up the suspense when the secrets of Berlin's greatest crime lord are finally uncovered. Fritz Lang would later admit that Dr. Mabuse was, in fact, a metaphor for the then-rising Nazi party. A scathing social commentary. German with subtitles. 121 minutes.

May 1 Titanic (1943) Directed by Herbert Selpin. Few people know that the first film based on the famous sea tragedy was a German film. This film was censored heavily in its day, due to the scenes of panic being deemed inappropriate for audiences that were at the time facing daily bombing raids. A masterpiece directed by a man later killed for daring to speak out against the Nazis. German with subtitles. Black and white. 85 minutes.

May 8 Why does Herr R. run amok? (1970) Directed by Rainer Werner Fassbinder. This is the story of Herr R (Kurt Raab), a middle-class working man who leads a life of boredom and quiet desperation. This grim study of contemporary life seems to borrow equally from Kafka and Neil Simon. German with subtitles. 88 minutes.

May 15 The Bitter Tears of Petra Von Kant (1972) Directed by Rainer Werner Fassbinder. This controversial film about the destructive force of obsessive love will challenge both the casual film-goer and the most committed cinephile. German with subtitles. 124 minutes.

May 22 Nosferatu-Phantom der Nacht (1979) Directed by Werner Herzog. Not to be confused with the 1922 silent film Nosferatu, this astounding remake with Klaus Kinski is filmed with more flair and mood than any dozen modern horror films. Werner Herzog's masterpiece is based on Bram Stoker's Dracula. German with subtitles. 107 minutes.

May 29 Aimee & Jaguar (1988) Directed by Max Farberbock. This is the true story of a married German woman and her secret love affair with a Jewish woman during the darkest days of the second world war. Based on the international best selling book, this true story is not to be missed! German with subtitles. 125 minutes

June 5 Downfall (2005) Directed by Oliver Hirschbiegel. Nominated for best foreign film, this is the frank study of Hitler's final days before the defeat of Germany in 1945. Based on the testimony of the few witnesses who survived (including Hitler's still living secretary), this is a fascinating exploration of the nature of megalomania. German with subtitles. 155 minutes.

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World Beat—the Beat Goes On

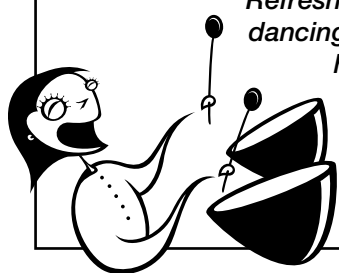
- **April 25** – Celtic Styles of Drums and Music, lots of dancing
- **May 30** – Calypso, Reggae, Salsa, Claves, Congas, How Low Can You Go?, Beats from the Caribbean.
- **Future sessions** – Arab and Israeli drumming, peace trough the beat and belly dancers too, Djembes from Africa, Didgeridoo from Australia and more.

VIDEO AND LIVE WORKSHOPS

Demonstrations of percussion instruments from around the world and discussions of their cultures Lots of drumming, dancing and chanting. Complementary instruments welcome (flutes, strings, etc.).

Refreshments served, bring your dancing shoes. Bring a drum; we will have some extras you may use. Any drum will do.

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