

connections

PRICELESS

Volume XXVI, Number 9

Published by the Peace & Justice Network since 1986

November 2008

SAVE THE DATES

**NOV 4
ELECTION DAY..... VOTE!**

**NOV 7
HMONG DAY..... 18**

**DEC 5&6
PEACEFUL HOLIDAY FAIR
.....20**

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Vote!! Our time is now!

*Eric Parfrey, Chair
Campaign for Common Ground*

On the eve of this momentous general election, it is important that we all vote for our best candidates and local measures, from the top of the ballot all the way down to the local races.

While its easy to get excited about who our next president will be, many of the decisions that will make a real difference in our lives will depend on which State propositions are passed and who we elect to local offices such as our City Council, Board of Supervisors, or school board.

Take a minute and figure out which State initiatives to support (see articles starting on page 3 in this issue) and who are the best local candidates you should reward with your vote.

If you are voting here in Stockton, consider the excellent reform slate of candidates for mayor and City Council: Ann Johnston, Kathy Miller, and Chris Eley. (Don't be confused about Stockton's weird district-general hybrid form of voting. In this general election, unlike the primary, city voters vote for ALL Council seats, regardless of the district.)

For too long, the Stockton Council has been bought and paid for by Spanos and the other local real estate developers. Now, we have a chance to put that era

behind us and elect three people who are honest, tough, have common sense, and will represent all of us. What an embarrassment of riches!

The good news is that our best candidates will win this time. The bad news is, of course, that we're all broke, and these new Council members will have to make tough decisions that involve cutting back jobs and services.

And don't ignore the more obscure Stockton Unified School District and Delta College Board of Trustees positions on the ballot. SUSD is still recovering from the scandal over illegal football player recruitment at Franklin High and other internal bickering. The Delta College board has been involved in controversies for the last year about how to spend voter approved bond money for new campuses in Lodi and Mountain House (Tracy). County voters cast ballots for all districts of the Delta board. We now have some reform candidates who have stepped forward to bring new blood and accountability to the board, candidates such as Steve Castellanos, Theresa Brown, and Mary Ann Cox.

Unlike Delta, for the Stockton Unified School District, residents cast votes only for candidates running in your district. Please support Coleen Boardman, Dillon Delvo, and Jose Morales,



depending on your district. Finally, if you should live in Tracy (or know someone who does) make sure to vote for Celeste Garamendi for mayor. As with Ann Johnston in Stockton, she will bring a blast of fresh air to a Council long dominated by special interests. The following candidates for non-partisan offices will make decisions consistent with a long-term sustainable vision in community development and educational investment:

Stockton City Council (vote for all)
Mayor: Ann Johnston
City Council (District 2): Kathy Miller
City Council (District 4): Chris Eley
City Council (District 6): Mark Stebbins

S.J. Board of Supervisors (District 1): No recommendation

Delta College Trustees (vote for all)
District 1: Jenette Stebbins
District 2: Mary Ann Cox
District 5: Steve Castellanos
District 6: Teresa Brown

Stockton Unified School Board (vote only for your district)
District 1: Dillon Delvo
District 3: Jose Morales
District 4: Coleen Boardman

San Joaquin Superior Court: James Morris

Stockton Measure U: Yes

Stockton-East Water District: Richard Atkins

Tracy City Council
Mayor: Celeste Garamendi
City Council: Irene Sundberg
City Council: Larry Gamino

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The time has come

Bruce Giudici

The nature of our national disaster is becoming apparent. And, while the picture is not pretty—and the medicine hard to swallow—the majority of us will get through this economic disaster in one piece. Without belaboring the points made by experts through the past few weeks, we are overdrawn at the bank—and we have no



assets against which to borrow. As we all cut back on spending, the usual recessionary things will occur: jobs will be lost, prices will decrease, we will adjust our consumption downward until, in a couple years, businesses will begin hiring at lower wages. In an election year, the fiscal crisis should make us consider doing things differently.

Nationally: creating green jobs, cutting military spending, taxing those who can afford it—for starters. Statewide: rebuilding schools and roads, cutting administrative spending, taxing those who can afford it—to begin with. Locally: investing in downtown, cutting developer subsidies, taxing those who can afford it—initially. We have a society built on credit (read:

trust)—and, for now, trust is gone. Like the sense of community that died earlier, trust will take a long time to rebuild. Unlike community, however, trust is necessary for the financial system to work. Hence the urgency. In an election year, trust begins with those for whom we vote.

So, questions to consider when casting our ballots for candidates this time around should focus on the long term: how will we fix systems long neglected. The environment (local urban sprawl, paving farmland, clearcutting forests, slowing carbon emissions), the economy (creating jobs that invest in the future, not rewarding waste and corruption), and our connection to each other (building communities through local political and economic

Bruce Giudici, editor



empowerment) make up the foundation of a sustainable society. We have to rebuild so much; we deserve strong leadership. With winds of projected progressive change blowing through the Stockton City Council, a status quo at the County level whoever wins and a national wave of discontent threatening to overturn the normal state of affairs, we may just get it. Stay engaged, focus and vote. The time has come.

Feedback

Equality is for everyone

Editor,

Equality is for everyone. It is difficult for me to comprehend why anyone would actively advocate eliminating the rights of thousands of other Californians. What type of person does that to another person? The supporter of Proposition 8 would have you believe that this legislation will not change anything for committed same-sex couples. That is incorrect. Many committed couples and their families will be

hurt by Proposition 8. Changing the California Constitution to eliminate rights of citizens is not right.

Separate is inherently unequal. If domestic partnerships offer the same access to legal rights, why call it something else? Why make it separate? Again, what type of person would go out of their way to cause this type of harm to the human spirit? Why try to minimize another relationship in order to maintain the validity of your own?

I have been in a committed relationship for three years. I finally have the privilege to

marrying the person that I love. Saying "I do" was the most amazing experience in my life. I would not want to take that away from anyone, would you? Equality is for everyone. If you agree, please register to vote and vote NO on Prop 8.

Martina Virrey, Stockton, CA

Eight years is enough

Editor,

In Biloxi, Mississippi, a 13 year old girl sits laughing with her friends. Little does she know that in three short years, she'll be beaten and raped. Will she be afforded the opportunity to cleanse herself of the horrible burden so violently thrust upon her? Or will a hand full of black-robed, pseudo-deities, divulged personally of any responsibility for the girl's welfare and her unwanted progeny, be allowed to make the decision for her?

Far north on the Alaskan frontier, a mother polar bear hunts for food. Her natural habitat is shrinking rapidly and forcing her and her cubs into new, dangerous and ultimately life-ending situations. Will the United States take the lead initiative in combating global warming, which threatens not only bears but millions of humans? Or will we simply ignore the problem in favor of large corporations

determined to make their CEO's obscenely wealthy? Which do you prefer? Fat cats or fed bears?

And in a hospital in Mosul, Iraq, a young American G.I. looks down at two stumps where his legs used to be. The year is 2011, eight years after a war—that was supposed to be over in six months—started. Will this hypothetical scene really happen? Will this country continue to promote its own brand of "don't do as I do, do as I say" democracy at the point of a gun?

These and many other issues are riding on the upcoming Presidential election. I would say that we should all pray to God for an Obama victory, except we all know that God is an exclusive property of the G.O.P. Of course, I don't believe that and neither should you. Isn't eight years of madness enough? The tortured politics of John McCain and fundamentalist poster girl, Sarah Palin, must not be allowed a foothold in Washington. Disaster, surely, will follow.

Please join me in a return to sanity and vote for Barack Obama for President. And by the way, who do you think Jesus would vote for?

Dave Waldon, Stockton, CA

In Memoriam, Reid Cerney

A memorial service will be held for Reid Cerney on Wednesday, October 22, 11 am, at St. Anne's Catholic Church in Lodi, 215 W Walnut St (one block north of Lodi Avenue, two blocks east of Hutchins St.) For more info call the church, (209) 369-1907.



Reid was a board member of the Peace and Justice Network, and a columnist for this paper. He and his wife Ann have been leaders for peace and social justice in Lodi since they moved there in 1965. (See interview in last month's *Connections*.) The family has requested that donations (tax-deductible) be made to the Peace and Justice Network in his name. P.O. Box 4123, Stockton CA 95204.

Connections

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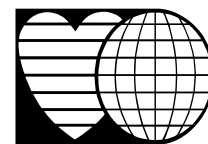
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Community Calendar: vacant

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

Circulation: 8,000

CONNECTIONS is a monthly publication of the Peace & Justice Network of San Joaquin County. The views expressed in CONNECTIONS are those of the authors and are not necessarily endorsed by the Network. News, articles, letters and calendar items should be sent to the Peace & Justice Network, P.O. Box 4123, Stockton, CA 95204. The editor reserves the right of final decision on copy. Call (209) 467-4455 for more information. PJN is on the internet: <http://www.pjnsjc.org>



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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."

Propositions: varying views

Proposition:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Organization and recommendation:

Calatics (<http://calitics.com/showDiary.do?diaryId=7111>)

Y Y Y N Y N N N N N N Y

CA Dem Party (<http://www.cadem.org/site/c.jrLZK2PyHmF/b.4213689/>)

Y Y Y N Y N N N N X N Y

Calif Labor Fed (<http://bayneweb.com/blog/?p=1230>)

Y X X N Y N N N N N N Y

CA Rep Party (http://www.cagop.org/index.cfm/november_ballot_propositions.htm)

N N N Y N Y N Y Y N X Y

Gay&LsbianTimes (<http://www.gaylesbiantimes.com/?id=13244>)

Y Y Y N N Y Y N Y Y Y Y

LA Times (<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/editorials/>)

Y N Y N N N N N N N Y Y

Pacific Sun (http://www.pacificsun.com/story.php?story_id=2485)

Y Y N N Y N N N N N Y Y

Sacramento Bee (<http://www.sacbee.com/editorials/story/1299709.html>)

N N N N N N N N N N Y N

S F Bay Guardian (http://www.sfbg.com/entry.php?entry_id=7262)

Y Y N N Y N N N N N N Y

S F Chron

Y N Y N N N N N N N Y Y

ConsumerFedCA (<http://www.consumercal.org/article.php?id=636>)

Y X Y X Y X N X X N X Y

LeagueWomen (<http://ca.lww.org/action/prop0811/flyer.html>)

Y X Y N Y N N N N N Y X

Key:

1 High Speed Rail; 2 Farm Animal Treatment; 3 Childrens Hospital Bonds; 4 Parental Notification; 5 Drug Treatment; 6 Increase in Criminal Penalties; 7 Renewable Energy Generation; 8 Limit on Marriage; 9 Criminal Justice System Changes; 10 Alternative Fuel Vehicles; 11 Redistricting; 12 Veterans Bond Act

Source: <http://www.ruthgroup.org/2008/10/13/california-proposition-endorsements/>

Prop 4 notification

Parents rightfully want to be involved in their teenagers' lives, and the good news is that most teens do go to their parents when faced with an unintended pregnancy. But in the real world, parental notification

laws don't work. No law can mandate family communication. Who opposes Prop 4? California Nurses Association, California Medical Association, California Association of School Counselors, California Teachers Association and Planned Parenthood.

Prop 4 creates dangerous barriers for a vulnerable teen going to a trusted adult such as a grandma or aunt for support. Don't be fooled by Prop 4's inclusion of an "alternative family member notification" in this initiative. Prop 4 is not about "family involvement." Family notification is no more than a state-scripted form letter sent to another relative who may not live in the same town or state. Prop 4 contains no requirement for counseling and no requirement that the notified adult help her when she is in crisis. To put it more bluntly, forced family notification is a lie. Right now, a scared pregnant teen can already go to a trusted aunt or an older sister. This law would close that option to her because, under Prop 4, if the teen chooses to go to another adult, her parents would be automatically reported to authorities and an investigation would ensue.

The "judicial bypass" plan proposed in this law would mean that teens who don't want to talk to their parents have the chance to go to court. However, judicial bypass is absurd. A scared pregnant teen who can't tell her parents isn't going to navigate a crowded court system and reveal intimate details about her life to an unfamiliar judge. In states with judicial bypass exceptions the obstacles facing the teen are nearly insurmountable and force them to take matters into their own hands. She doesn't need a judge; she needs a caring counselor and safe, quality medical care, without delay.

Source: Campaign for Teen Safety, www.noonprop4.org



Seven fictions about Prop 8

Fiction #1: Teaching children about same-sex marriage will happen here unless we pass Prop 8.

Fact: Not one word in Prop 8 mentions education, and no child can be forced, against the will of their parents, to be taught anything about health and family issues at school. California law prohibits it, and the Yes on 8 campaign knows they are lying. Sacramento Superior Court Judge Timothy Frawley has already ruled that this claim by Prop 8 proponents is "false and misleading."

Fiction #2: Churches could lose their tax-exemption status.

Fact: Nothing in Prop 8 would force churches to do anything. In fact, the court decision regarding marriage specifically says "no religion will be required to change its religious policies or practices with regard to same-sex couples, and no religious officiant will be required to solemnize a marriage in contravention of his or her religious beliefs."

Fiction #3: A Massachusetts case about a parent's objection to the school curriculum will happen here.

Fact: Unlike Massachusetts, California gives parents an absolute right to remove their kids

and opt-out of teaching on health and family instruction they don't agree with. The opponents know that California law already covers this and Prop 8 won't affect it, so they bring up an irrelevant case in Massachusetts.

Fiction #4: Four Activist Judges in San Francisco...

Fact: Prop 8 is not about courts and judges, it's about eliminating a fundamental right. Judges didn't grant the right, the constitution guarantees the right. Proponents of Prop 8 use an outdated and stale argument that judges aren't supposed to protect rights and freedoms. This campaign is about

whether Californians, right now, in 2008 are willing to amend the constitution for the sole purpose of eliminating a fundamental right for one group of citizens.

Fiction #5: People can be sued over personal beliefs.

Fact: California's laws already prohibit discrimination against anyone based on race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. This has nothing to do with marriage.

Fiction #6: Pepperdine University supports the Yes on 8 campaign.

Fact: The university has publicly disassociated itself from Professor

Richard Peterson of Pepperdine University, who is featured in the ad, and has asked to not be identified in the Yes on 8 advertisements.

Fiction #7: Unless Prop 8 passes, CA parents won't have the right to object to what their children are taught in school.

Fact: California law clearly gives parents and guardians broad authority to remove their children from any health instruction if it conflicts with their religious beliefs or moral convictions.

Source: 2008 No On 8, Equality for All www.noonprop8.com

Charming downtown vision

Frank Neas

Sixty people came to hear Mel Corren, a retired businessman and Joy Neas of Save Old Stockton present, "Connecting the Dots in Downtown Stockton" at the Cesar Chavez Library on September 6. An art exhibit accompanied the presentation and is currently in the Stewart-Hazelton Room of the library.

Mr. Corren, whose family established M. Corren and Sons Furniture Store in Stockton in 1906, believes that for those who were not here to experience it, the glow of the past should be preserved in the buildings and sights that make up the history of a city. Save Old Stockton's ultimate goal is that the city will preserve and reuse distinctive pieces of architecture and community history for all its needs.

Mel has a vision for downtown. He talked about reusing historic buildings for lofts, closing Main Street to vehicular traffic and creating a fountain by the Bob Hope (Fox) Theatre, locating businesses behind the Canlis Building and opening the walkway to pedestrians. At the channel head would be berthed the Delta Queen, connected with walkways and people movers to the waterfront banks and Weber Point. The Ironworks would be rebuilt as Stockton's Tin Pan Alley, connected to the Waterfront Warehouse with a bridge or water taxi.

Joy stressed the importance of authenticity in bringing people downtown, the need for ongoing preservation, reuse and the listing of landmarks and the necessity of beginning a heritage tourism

program, with duck excursion boats paid for and operated by the Port of Stockton.

Discussion included project financing, stopping wasteful spending and encouraging more positive press to change negative opinions about downtown Stockton. The new Stockton courthouse location was of concern for many who hoped to preserve Hunter Square.

The people of Stockton want to improve the city. Hopefully the city will offer more public forums welcoming public input about decisions affecting our city's future. If you are interested in scheduling a "Connecting The Dots" presentation for your community group, please contact Joy Neas at (209) 464-6868.

Membership includes a subscription to *Audubon Magazine & Hoot Owl*.

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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

Prop 5: treatment saves \$\$

Peter L. Stahl

Remember the War on Drugs? Well, it's over, and drugs won. It turns out that the military solution to drug addiction, including herbicide spraying in Bolivia and Coast Guard interdictions, is as futile as it is expensive. And the criminal solution, throwing drug users into prison by the thousand, does nothing to reduce addiction.

Prop 5 will reduce the pointless incarceration of nonviolent drug offenders, and instead offer them rehabilitation and a meaningful chance to break the cycle of addiction and arrest. And it will make a significant dent in our prison overcrowding problem.

Prop 5 has four main components. First, it will expand the adult treatment programs in lieu of prison that have been in place since we approved Prop 36 in 2000. Prop 5 creates three levels of care and supervision for nonviolent drug offenders, based on their criminal history and drug problem severity. A mix of incentives and consequences, including hard jail time, will encourage completion of treatment. Prop 36 has been a great success, with over 80,000 people completing treatment programs in its first seven years. It makes good sense to build on this.

Second, Prop 5 will mandate local sanctions instead of prison to punish minor parole violations by nonviolent offenders. This will further reduce strain on the prison system. Also, parolees and former parolees will continue to receive rehabilitation services to help them stay clean as they return to society.

Third, possession of less than one ounce of marijuana will change from a misdemeanor to an infraction, with a maximum fine of \$100 for adults, and mandatory drug education classes for minors. This low level of punishment for small amounts is appropriate for the severity of the crime. And it is a concrete first step away from the military/criminal solution that has proven so ineffective.

Finally, Prop 5 creates drug treatment and other support programs for at-risk youth. No such services exist now for people under 18. Prop 5 will set up network of drug treatment programs for young people, who could be referred to treatment by family members, school counselors or physicians. Services would also be available for youth on probation or involved with the juvenile justice system. Obviously a lot of drug users begin before they turn 18. Prop 5

recognizes this, and may help nip many addictions in the bud.

California's prison population has been growing rapidly. It was 100,000 as recently as 1990, but now tops 170,000. The prisons, which were designed to hold about 83,000, are bursting at the seams. To handle demands that exceed 200% of intended capacity, inmates are stacked three-high everywhere, including areas never intended to house people. It's cruel and inhumane.

Prop 5 will reduce the severity of this awful overcrowding. Roughly 30,000 inmates are in prison for nonviolent drug offenses. It is estimated that Prop 5 will allow this number to be reduced by about 18,000, or 10% of the total prison population. It's not nearly enough, but it's progress. And those 18,000 nonviolent offenders will be much better served by rehab than incarceration; we'll all be better off because of that. And, even though it expands expensive drug treatment and starts up a new youth program, Prop 5 is expected to produce a net savings in the billions due to the reduction in the prison population.

Source: California Progress Report 9/23/08 www.californiaprogressreport.com <<http://www.peterates.com/index.shtml>>

Governor says no to important health care reforms

Senator Sheila Kuehl

On September 30, the Governor finished wielding his veto pen and, in one sweeping move, eliminated virtually every health reform measure that would have regulated the health insurance company monopoly. Health reform was not alone: bill after bill that would have benefited consumers, drivers, people who breathe, people who drink water, and just people who rely on their state government to protect them, had its throat cut.... It's important to understand that vetoes of health reform legislation have very serious consequences..... because of these vetoes, there will continue to be very little regulation of the runaway health insurance market and no protections for consumers.

Universal health care

Of course, everyone expected Arnold to veto SB 840, the Universal Health Care Act. His own plan, which failed to make it through the State Senate Health Committee (which I chair), would have provided a major give-away to the health insurance companies by requiring every Californian to buy health insurance or face a penalty, with no caps on premiums, except for those who make less than \$25,000 a year. He has been consistently hostile to the Medicare-like plan in SB 840 and vetoed it (for the second time) on September 30, citing a study that did not even relate to the bill.

Vetoes of bills his staff worked on with members

In addition, however, the Governor stunned most of the reform advocates by also vetoing bills his staff had been working on with authors, and which reflected portions of his own bill. There are several examples. Let me begin with one of my own bills, SB 1440. In 2006, I brought a bill requiring health insurers to spend at least 85% of their premiums on care for their enrollees, which garnered a firestorm of opposition from the insurance industry, and failed in the Assembly. Late in 2007, the Governor included this provision in his own bill, and, when that failed, his staff and mine worked together on a stand-alone bill. We

took several amendments at his behest, all favorable to the industry, but he vetoed it anyway, as a part of his bloodbath of health reform bills. Then he had the audacity to write a nasty veto message saying the bill was a "one-sided, piecemeal approach to healthcare reform" and add that his bill would have been a total solution. Well, it would have been a total disaster, but he's still smarting from not getting it.

Veto of rescission bill

In another stunning defeat for consumers, Arnold vetoed an important bill by Assemblymember Hector de la Torre, AB 1945, that would have banned rescissions by insurance companies of policies when misrepresentations by applicants were not intentional and the companies had completed their (very thorough) investigations of the application. Instead of signing a bill that would have actually done something, Arnold had the temerity to tout his administration's "agreements" in which companies promised that they wouldn't do that any more.....but his standards are much weaker. As a result of this veto, insurance companies can continue to rescind your policies whenever they take a backward look and "discover" a misstatement on your application. Poof....you never had a policy and must pay for all services rendered, yourself.

Veto of balance billing bill

He vetoed a bill by Senate President pro Tempore Don Perata that would have actually affected the practice of "balance billing" under which health care providers now routinely bill patients when they do not receive full amounts from insurance companies with whom they have not contracted. The bill would have required a partial payment to the provider while working it out between the doctor and the insurance company. The patient would not have been billed. As a consequence of the veto, balance billing is allowed to continue. See below for what Arnold claims he did about balance billing, a complete sham.

Other vetoes

He vetoed an important bill

by Assembly Health Chair Mervyn Dymally that would have improved access to the Major Risk Medical Insurance Program, the last chance option for those unable to get insurance because of serious medical disorders.

He vetoed a bill that would have required healthcare providers to tell patients how long they would retain their records before destroying them, which, we were surprised to discover, they do routinely.

He vetoed every bill that would have added mandated coverage in California policies (and which the insurance companies said were Just Too Expensive).....maternity services, mental health services, hearing aids, inborn errors of metabolism, HPV vaccinations, you know, the sort of things you generally assume you might be covered for.

He vetoed a bill that would have required parity in deductibles for durable medical equipment. Currently, if you need a wheelchair or crutches, you have to pay much more than for other services by your insurance company.

Few bills signed but no reform

The Governor did sign a few incremental bills, ones that would not shake up the industry too much, and then, of course, ballyhooed them as if he had signed real health reform legislation.

He signed a bill, which, most amazingly, he claims ends the practice of "balance billing" under which healthcare providers, receiving only a pittance from an insurance company for their services when they don't even have a contract with such a company, sends a bill to the patient for the "balance" of the cost. Although there were several stronger bills before him, all of which he vetoed, he signed one that disallows such a practice only for the Healthy Families and Access for Infants and Mothers programs, both of which are paid by the state! So you can be "balance billed"—he doesn't care about that—so long as the state can't be. His Administration just issued new regulations about balance billing; he just doesn't want them in statute.

He also signed bills requiring a hospital giving you treatment to tell your insurance company, prohibiting an insurance company from revoking your coverage just because someone else in your

family lied on their application, and had already signed a bill in July saying that insurance companies may not reward their employees based on how many policies they rescind.

Yes on Prop 2—a question of cruelty

Prevents cruelty to animals.

It's simply wrong to confine veal calves, breeding pigs, and egg-laying hens in tiny cages barely larger than their bodies. Calves are tethered by the neck and can barely move, pigs in severe confinement bite the metal bars of their crates, and hens get trapped and even impaled in their wire cages. We wouldn't force our pets to live in filthy, cramped cages for their whole lives, and we shouldn't force farm animals to endure such misery. All animals, including those raised for food, deserve humane treatment.

Improves our health and food safety.

We all witnessed the cruel treatment of sick and crippled cows exposed by a Southern California slaughter plant investigation this year, prompting authorities to pull meat off school menus and initiate a nationwide recall. Factory farms put our health at risk—cramming tens of thousands of animals into tiny cages, fostering the spread of diseases that may affect people. YES! on Prop 2 is better for animals—and for us.

Supports family farmers.

California family farmers support YES! on Prop 2 because they know that better farming practices enhance food quality and safety. Increasingly, they're supplying major retailers like Safeway and Burger King. Factory farms cut corners and drive family farmers out of business when they put profits ahead of animal welfare and our health.

Protects air and water and safeguards the environment.

The American Public Health Association has called for a moratorium on new factory farms because of the devastating effects these operations can have on surrounding communities, spreading untreated waste on the ground and contaminating our waterways, lakes, groundwater, soil, and air. Prop 2 helps stop some of the worst abuses and protects our precious natural resources. That's why California Clean Water Action and Sierra Club-California support YES! on Prop 2.

Is a reasonable and common-sense reform.

Prop 2 provides ample time—until 2015—for factory farms using these severe confinement methods to shift to more humane practices. Arizona, Colorado, Florida, and Oregon have passed similar laws. The Humane Society of the United States, the ASPCA, hundreds of California veterinarians, including the California Veterinary Medical Association; California family farmers; the Center for Food Safety, the Consumer Federation of America, the Center for Science in the Public Interest, the United Farm Workers, and the Cesar Chavez Foundation; Republican and Democratic elected officials; California religious leaders; and many others.

Source: *Yes on Prop 2*, P.O. Box 418202 Sacramento, CA, 95841-8202 (323) 896-1126 <http://www.yesonprop2.com/>



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The cost of boots on the ground in Iraq

John Basil Utley

It takes half a million dollars per year to maintain each sergeant in combat in Iraq. Thanks to a Senate committee inquiry, an authoritative government study finally details the costs of keeping boots on the ground. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO), in its report *Contractors' Support of U.S. Operations in Iraq*, compared the costs of maintaining a Blackwater professional armed guard versus the U.S. military providing such services itself. Both came in at about \$500,000 per person per year.

News reports of the study have largely focused on the total cost of U.S. contractors. The 190,000 contractors in Iraq and neighboring countries, from cooks to truck drivers, have cost U.S. taxpayers \$100 billion from the start of the war through the end of 2008. Overlooked in this media coverage has been the sheer cost per soldier of keeping the army in Iraq. This per-soldier cost is more comprehensible and alarming than the rather abstract aggregate figure. Whether in maintaining U.S. soldiers or private-sector contractors, the costs of occupation are enormous. With no end in sight, unending foreign wars do have one clear consequence: the eventual bankruptcy of the United States.

Breaking Down the Costs

The cost of a sergeant is complicated to calculate. His or her actual cash pay is \$51,000-\$69,000 per year, which puts sergeant pay in the middle of the pay grade, according to another CBO report. Non-cash benefits—pensions, medical care, child care, housing, commissaries—likely double this amount, even during peacetime. Pensions are the biggest ticket item. The average retirement benefit for a soldier or sailor who stays in for 20 years equals \$2.6 million, if he or she lives to the age of 77 (though most soldiers don't stay in the service long enough to get this benefit).

A major portion of the \$500,000 figure comes from the "support

staff" and rotation system that allows for recuperation, training, and accumulated vacations after each year in combat. It's allocated on the

basis of one or two sergeants in the United States backing up each one overseas. The CBO report does not, however, factor in bonuses for re-enlistment, which offers tens of thousands of dollars for soldiers with special skills. Nor does the report calculate operating or equipment costs per soldier. The \$500,000 figure applies to personnel costs alone.

"Support staff" refers to headquarters management and specialized skills supervising the enlisted men. To make the comparison the CBO identified a hypothetical Army unit that could deliver roughly the same caliber of men as the Blackwater guards. This "would require about one-third of an Army light infantry battalion—a rifle company plus one-third of the battalion's headquarters company." This support staff would "include not only command elements, but also medics, scouts, snipers, and others who functionally correspond to some of Blackwater's supervisory and specialized personnel."

Contractors, meanwhile, are increasingly filling the roles once played by U.S. Army personnel. In terms of total costs, the CBO points out that there are about an equal number of contractors as soldiers, the highest proportion for any war in American history. However, only 20% are U.S. citizens. And most contractors, for example kitchen personnel, are paid much less than the guards who earn \$1,222 per day. The report also notes that their contracts allow for much more flexibility and shorter assignments than what regular Army soldiers cost the government.

Thousands, not billions

The studies are only for personnel. They don't include the long-term costs of care for disabled and handicapped veterans. They don't include the costs of replacing or maintaining equipment. Nor do they factor in

the costs for allies' supplies and training or the cost of interest on all the borrowed billions used to fight the war. That's how Joseph Stiglitz and Linda Bilmes reached the astronomical cost estimate approaching \$3 trillion for Iraq and Afghanistan. That study estimated actual yearly cost per soldier in the field at \$400,000, a number comparable to the CBO estimate for sergeants.

Perhaps the accountants who did the CBO study were themselves surprised at the costs of fielding an American army. Their objective was only to analyze the costs of hiring guards at \$500,000 a year, compared to fielding soldiers. The study only incidentally shows the individual costs of American occupation forces facing resistance.

Given these costs, which are only part of a military budget and other defense expenditures that approach a trillion dollars, it's easy to see how the wars are bankrupting America. Washington has borrowed the money, and the impact can already be felt in the dollar's declining value and America's deteriorating infrastructure. The national debt, since the war started, has increased from six to nine trillion dollars. Ancient Rome simply taxed its citizens into ruin and clipped the coinage to pay for its armies. Higher taxes, a lower standard of living, and unending wars will drive us to the same end.

John Basil Utley, a Foreign Policy In Focus contributor, is associate publisher of "The American Conservative." He is also a writer and advisor for Antiwar.com <<http://Antiwar.com>> and edits a blog, The Military Industrial Congressional Complex.

Source: *Foreign Policy in Focus*, 9/30/08
<http://www.fpij.org/fpif/5565>



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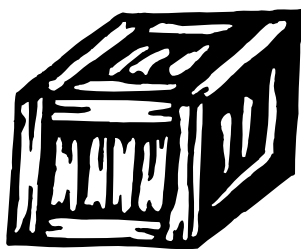
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What passes for success in '08

In the fall of 2008, Congress moved closer to approving a U.S.-India nuclear deal and failed to advance Native American health care funding or provide help for the many workers who have lost their jobs in the recent economic downturn. Yet even in this election year, we at FCNL can mark several significant successes, including the extension of a ban on cluster bomb exports and successfully lobbying to fund a civilian response corps that will increase the ability of the United States to help prevent and resolve conflicts.

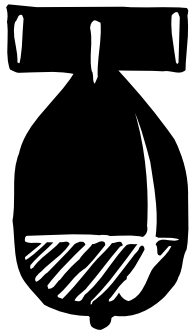


Iran blockade legislation fizzles

In June, House leaders reportedly pledged to "fast track" legislation that urged the president to initiate an international blockade on Iran, prevent Iranian diplomats from traveling, and possibly provoke a war. FCNL spent the next 4 months intensely lobbying against the bill, H.Con. Res. 362, and helped convince 5 representatives to remove their names from the legislation, a rare step. Despite gaining cosponsorship from more than half the House, the bill is now unlikely to pass the House this year.

No permanent U.S. military bases in Iraq

For the third year in a row, Congress approved the FCNL-initiated proposal to ban the U.S. government from establishing permanent U.S. military bases in Iraq. The measure was included in the 2009 military authorization bill, which both the House and Senate have passed and President George W. Bush is expected to sign. While FCNL opposes authorizing and spending more money for war, Congress included specific provisions that we support in the military authorization bill.



Congress bans cluster bomb exports

A one-year moratorium on cluster bomb exports was set to expire on September 30, 2008. In the waning hours of the 110th Congress, members included an extension of the ban on the export of most types of cluster bombs in a bill that will keep the government running through March 2009. While this extension is short term, Congress still needs to approve legislation that would ban U.S. forces from using these weapons in civilian-populated areas.

Congress says no to new nuclear weapons

FCNL lobbying has once again helped block funding for the Bush administration's proposed Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) program. The final nail in the weapon's coffin came in September, when a House-Senate conference committee for the 2009 military authorization bill refused to allow any money to be spent on RRW.

Congress invests in peace

The ability of the United States to help prevent and resolve conflicts was strengthened when Congress included legislation to create a civilian response corps in the 2009 military authorization bill. The corps could be sent to crisis-torn areas to help countries restore basic services to their citizens and support political and economic reconstruction. Earlier in the year, Congress provided \$55 million for the creation of the corps but had not yet passed formal authorization language until late September. While FCNL opposes authorizing

and spending more money for war, Congress included some provisions that we support in the military authorization bill.



Congress renews energy tax credits

Tax credits that encourage production of electricity from renewable sources, such as wind and solar energy, were set to expire on December 31, 2008. As part of the financial bailout bill, Congress extended these tax credits for at least one more year.

Child tax credit to reach millions more

Congress expanded the child tax credit so that families who make as little as \$8,500 a year qualify. This change will make the credit available for the first time to 3 million more children and increase support for 10 million more. The expansion was included in the financial bailout bill that Congress passed in early October.

Congress boosts money for poor, students

As part of a bill to fund the government through March 2009, Congress increased funding for a program providing home heating assistance to the poor, student aid, and supplemental nutrition for poor women, infants, and children.

Source: Friends Committee on National Legislation release 10/7/08 FCNL, 245 Second St, NE, Washington, DC 20002 800-630-1330 <http://action.fcnl.org/>



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Talking Points Memo <http://www.talkingpointsmemo.com>

TPM Muckraker <http://www.tpmuckraker.com/>

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

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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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Int'l women's health depends on who's president

Craig Lasher

Under the Constitution and our system of government as it has evolved over the more than 200 years of the country's history, the president has been vested with a number of powers and authorities by which he can imprint his stamp on the interactions of the United States with the rest of the world, including through development and humanitarian assistance. As a result, who occupies the White House can greatly affect what policies govern international family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH) programs and how much money is spent on these critical health activities. The president matters. The fact that the president matters is nowhere more obvious in the policymaking arena, in two ways—either through promulgation of policy directives himself or in interpreting and enforcing the laws passed by Congress.

In the first instance, it is important to remember that the Mexico City Policy/Global Gag Rule, which prohibits U.S. family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH) assistance from being provided to foreign nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that provide abortion services or counsel, refer, or lobby on abortion with non-U.S. funds, is solely an executive branch policy. The Global Gag Rule has been a ping pong ball that has bounced back and forth depending on who was in the White House. President George W. Bush announced the reinstatement of these restrictions, which were in effect during the Reagan and Bush administrations in the mid-1980s and early 1990s, on his second day in office, merely by issuing a "presidential memorandum" to the Administrator of the Agency for International Development. President Clinton had rescinded the policy on one of his first days of his term in 1993 by issuing a similar memorandum. The next president could choose either course of action—leave in place or rescind.

Whether or not the United States will provide a contribution



to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is dependent upon and an example of the second type of leverage that the president can exert on FP/RH policymaking—the ability to interpret the law. For the last seven years, President Bush has withheld the U.S. contribution to UNFPA by employing an overly broad interpretation of the so-called Kemp-Kasten amendment (first attached to annual appropriations bills in 1985), which prohibits funding to any organization that "supports or participates in the management of a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization," and by pointing to the presence of a UNFPA country program in China, where human rights abuses have occurred, as grounds for denying funding. Conversely, the lawyers in President Clinton's State Department employed a different and more narrow and proper interpretation of the statute to allow U.S. funds to flow to UNFPA during his tenure. Whether or not the next president wants to fund UNFPA will determine how the Kemp-Kasten amendment is interpreted and whether the United States will rejoin the more than 180 nations that now contribute to UNFPA.

(The next president might go even further by expanding the application of the Kemp-Kasten amendment, following through on the threat of the Bush administration to defund other organizations working in China with the same Chinese government institutions which they have judged to be the enforcers of the "one-child" policy.)

The president has wide discretion in the conduct of foreign policy. So unless Congress explicitly prohibits or restricts something, the president enjoys broad latitude in choosing how to implement legislative

directives and in establishing policy guidance for the programs the executive branch administers. This separation of powers will enable the next president to choose how to interpret and implement various reproductive health-related provisions contained in the recently-passed reauthorization of the president's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Such provisions include the anti-prostitution pledge requirement and abstinence funding reporting requirement as well as whether the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator will explore ways to better integrate FP/RH activities into HIV prevention programs, such as prevention-of-mother-to-child transmission and voluntary counseling and testing.

As the old aphorism goes, "The president proposes, Congress disposes." On the question of funding for FP/RH programs, the president can also exert considerable influence over the amount appropriated through the request level in his annual federal budget proposal, but ultimately Congress has the power of the purse. Nevertheless, a low request from the president such as the 25 and 29 percent cuts to FP/RH proposed by President Bush in the last two fiscal years, taxes the ability of family planning champions (especially the chairs of the House and Senate State-foreign operations appropriations subcommittees) to find additional funding and to balance many important competing priorities within a limited overall budget ceiling within which they have to work.

Bottom line, whether it is policymaking or funding for U.S. involvement in family planning and reproductive health programs around the world, the president matters—and matters greatly.

Source: *RH Reality Check* 9/29/08
<http://www.rhrealitycheck.org/>

Top Censored Stories for 2007-08

Peter Phillips

Project Censored has just announced the release of the 32nd annual yearbook Censored 2009 from Seven Stories Press, featuring the top twenty-five most important news stories not covered by the corporate mainstream media in the United States. "In modern society censorship is any interference with the free flow of information," said project director Peter Phillips. "We are faced with a Truth Emergency in the United States that will require a renaissance of independent media to correct." A full on-line review of the most censored stories is available at: www.projectcensored.org.

#1. Over one million Iraqi deaths caused by US occupation

Over one million Iraqis have met violent deaths as a result of the 2003 invasion by the United States. According to a study conducted by the polling group, Opinion Research Business (ORB) the human toll exceeded one million as of August 2007. In addition, according to the United Nations Refugee Agency and the International Organization for Migration, in 2007 almost 5 million Iraqis had been displaced by violence in their country, the vast majority of which had fled since 2003.

Source: *Is the United States Killing 10,000 Iraqis Every Month? Or Is It More? After Downing Street*, 7/6/07

2 Security and prosperity partnership: militarized NAFTA

Leaders of Canada, the US, and Mexico have been meeting to secretly expand the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to form militarized tri-national Homeland Security force.

Source: *Deep Integration—the Anti-Democratic Expansion of NAFTA*, Center for International Policy, 5/30/07

3 InfraGard: the FBI deputizes business

More than 23,000 representatives of US private industry are working with the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

to collect information on fellow Americans.

Source: *Exclusive! The FBI Deputizes Business*, *The Progressive*, 2/7/08

4 US international law enforcement academy is restarting dirty wars in Latin America

A resurgence of US-backed militarism threatens peace and democracy in Latin America. In 2005, US military aid to Latin America had increased by thirty-four times the amount spent in 2000.

Source: *Exporting US Criminal Justice to Latin America*, *Upside Down World*, 6/14/07

5 War protesters assets can be seized by the Treasury Department

President Bush has signed two executive orders that would allow the US Treasury Department to seize the property of any person perceived to, directly or indirectly, pose a threat to US operations in the Middle East.

Source: *Bush Executive Order: Criminalizing the Antiwar Movement*, *Global Research*, 7/07

6 The homegrown Terrorism Prevention Act

The Violent Radicalization and Homegrown Terrorism Prevention Act (H.R. 1955) passed the House on October 23, 2007, by a vote of 404–6. Author of the bill Jane Harman (D-CA) explains, "We're studying the phenomenon of people with radical beliefs who turn into people who would use violence." Civil liberty and religious freedom groups and grassroots activists helped to stall passage of the Violent Radicalization and Homegrown Terrorism Prevention Act in the Senate but some members of Congress continue to push for Internet censorship and racial profiling as necessary to prevent "homegrown terrorism."

Source: *Bringing the War on Terrorism Home*, *Independent*, 11/16/07

7 Guest Workers Inc.: fraud and human trafficking

Human rights advocates warn that the guest worker program in the United States victimizes

immigrant workers. Labor organizers, lawyers, and policy makers say that the H-2 visa program has locked thousands into a modern-day form of indentured servitude.

Source: *Close to Slavery: Guestworker Programs in the United States*, *Southern Poverty Law Center*, March 2007

8 Executive orders can be changed secretly

On December 7, 2007, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, as a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, disclosed on the floor of the US Senate that he had declassified documents that state, "An executive order cannot limit a president. There is no constitutional requirement for a president to issue a new executive order whenever he wishes to depart from the terms of a previous executive order. Rather than violate an executive order, the president can instead modify or waive it. And the Department of Justice is bound by the President's legal determinations."

Source: *In FISA Speech, Whitehouse Sharply Criticizes Bush Administration's Assertion of Executive Power*, *Senator Sheldon Whitehouse website*, December 7, 2007

#9 Iraq and Afghanistan vets testify

Over 300 Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans have come forward to recount the brutal impact of the ongoing occupations. The Winter Soldier hearings in Silver Spring, Maryland, in March 2008, organized by Iraq Veterans Against the War, Soldiers presented multiple testimony of atrocities they witnessed or participated in directly.

Source: *Winter Soldier: Iraq & Afghanistan Eyewitness Accounts of the Occupations*, *Iraq Vets Against the War*, 3/13–16/08

10 American Psychology Association complicit in CIA torture

In 2005 news reports exposed the fact that psychologists were working with the US military and the CIA to develop brutal interrogation methods.

Source: *The CIA's torture teachers*, *Salon*, 6/21/07

11 El Salvador's water privatization and the global war on terror

El Salvador's new Anti-terrorism Law—based on the USA PATRIOT Act—criminalizes political expression and social protest.

Source: *El Salvador: Water Inc. and the Criminalization of Protest*, *NACLA—Upside Down World*, 8/24/07

12 Bush profiteers collect billions from No Child Left Behind

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) is a huge success in the realm of corporate profiteering, but has had little positive impact on public education.

Source: *Bush Profiteers Collect Billions From NCLB*, *Diatribune and Daily Kos*, 3/30/07

13 Billions of dollars lost in Iraq

The United States Federal Reserve shipped \$12 billion in US currency to Iraq at the beginning of the war. At least \$9 billion is unaccounted for due to a complete lack of oversight.

Source: *Billions over Baghdad*, *Vanity Fair*, 10/07

14 Mainstreaming nuclear waste

Radioactive materials from nuclear weapons production sites are being dumped into regular public landfills, and being used as recycled metals.

Source: *Nuclear Waste in Landfills*, *Nuclear Information and Resource Service*, 5/14/07

15 Worldwide slavery spreads

Twenty-seven million slaves exist in the world today, more than at any time in human history.

Source: *From Sex Workers to Restaurant Workers, the Global Slave Trade Is Growing*, *Sojourners*, 3/15/07

16 Annual survey on trade union rights

The first Annual Survey of Violations of Trade Union Rights documents enormous challenges to workers rights around the world.

Source: *2007 Annual Survey of Violations of Trade Union Rights*, *International Trade Union Confederation website*, 9/07

17 UN's empty Declaration of Indigenous Rights

In September 2007, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The resolution called for recognition of the world's 370 million indigenous peoples' right to self-determination and control over their lands and resources.

Source: *UN Adopts Historic Statement on Native Rights*, *One World*, 9/14/07

18 Cruelty and death in juvenile detention centers

In states across the country, child advocates have harshly condemned the conditions under which young offenders are housed—conditions that involve sexual abuse, physical abuse, and even death.

Source: *13,000 Abuse Claims in Juvie Centers*, *Associated Press*, 3/2/08

19 Indigenous herders and small farmers fight livestock extinction

Industrialized livestock production is causing the worldwide destruction of animal diversity.

Source: *Conference Agrees Steps to Safeguard Farm Animal Diversity*, *Trade BioRes*, 9/21/07

20 Marijuana arrests set new record

Marijuana arrests in 2006 totaled 829,627, an increase from 786,545 in 2005.

Source: *Marijuana Arrests Set New Record for Fourth Year in a Row*, *Marijuana Policy Project*, 9/27/07

21 NATO considers "First Strike" nuclear option

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) officials are considering a first strike nuclear option to be used anywhere in the world.

Source: *Pre-emptive nuclear strike a key option*, *NATO told*, *The Guardian*, 1/22/08

22 CARE rejects US food aid

In August 2007, CARE, announced that it was turning down \$45 million a year in food aid from the United States government.

(continued next page)

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Projecting an Obama victory

Norman Solomon

Projection is a psychological hazard of politics. What's "obvious" to some doesn't occur to others. So, these days, it's hardly reassuring when some progressives roll their eyes at the latest McCain-Palin maneuver and express confidence that few voters will be swayed by the latest slimy attacks on Barack Obama.

The poll numbers so far this month, combined with ample media hype, have fostered the belief that the current economic crisis is close to dooming the McCain campaign. But any crystal ball that offers assurance of an Obama victory is a piece of junk.

Twenty years ago, presidential nominee Michael Dukakis emerged from the Democratic National Convention with a 17-point lead in a Gallup Poll. One of the main reasons that the lead disappeared was a scurrilous TV ad, linking Governor Dukakis to a prisoner who committed a rape during a weekend furlough. The commercial included an ominous photo of the African-American convict, Willie Horton.

Now, a "Willie Ayers" ad is getting plenty of media attention, and Sarah Palin is accusing Obama of "palling around with terrorists." The McCain campaign is eager to implement desperate measures for its desperate times—making preposterous claims to link Obama with terrorism—scraping toward the bottom of the barrel and heaving larger quantities of mud. Any confidence that such tactics will have scant effect on the electorate is misplaced.

There's also the matter of race—and, more to the point, racism. "Many older Democrats quietly admit they will not vote for Mr. Obama because they fear he would put too many blacks in power, or be hamstrung in office by racial opposition." The New York Times reported from Florida on October 4. This fall, no one knows exactly how much we'll see of the "Bradley effect"—named after the defeat of the black mayor of Los Angeles, Tom Bradley, who received conspicuously fewer votes from whites than election-eve polling had predicted when he ran for governor in 1982. Polls involving a black nominee "have tended to undersell the level to which race negatively impacts voting—particularly among whites," political reporter Chris Cillizza wrote on washingtonpost.com four months ago. "That is, a black candidate tends to underperform his or her polls on Election Day, as some voters who may have told a pollster they would support an African-American candidate ultimately decide against doing so." The Bradley effect has a long history, Cillizza noted. "In other races involving a black candidate—most notably Charlotte Mayor Harvey Gantt's candidacies against Sen. Jesse Helms in 1990 and 1996 as well as L. Douglas Wilder's victorious run for the Virginia governor's mansion in 1989—the Bradley effect came into play." Some political analysts say that the Bradley Effect has diminished and will have little or no impact on Obama. Maybe they're right. But I doubt it.



Along with throwing mud and benefiting from racism, McCain stands to gain from the fact that the national Republican Party now has a lot more money in the bank than the Democratic Party does. And in many states, a wide range of anti-democratic measures—including purges of voter rolls and very unreasonable requirements for voter ID on Election Day—will work to the benefit of the McCain-Palin ticket. Overall, the polls showing Obama with a sizeable lead should be taken with a box of salt. The count on election night could be close. In the meantime, McCain can only benefit when progressives assume he'll lose.

Such rosy assumptions are dangerous. They're apt to result in overconfidence, reducing volunteer energy and voter turnout for Obama. Assume that the economic crisis has doomed the McCain campaign? He hopes you will.

Norman Solomon's book, "War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death," has been adapted into a documentary film of the same name. For information, go to: www.normansolomon.com

Source: *truthout* Perspective www.truthout.org 10/6/08

(continued from previous page)

Source: *Mutiny Shakes US Food Aid Industry*, *Inter Press Service*, 7/23/07

23 FDA complicit in pushing pharmaceutical drugs

Drug companies are making false, unsubstantiated, and misleading claims in their advertising, often withholding mandated disclosure of dangerous side effects.

Source: *FDA Complicit in Pushing Prescription Drugs*, *Ad Critics Say*, *NewStandard*, 4/20/07

24 Japan's parliament questions 9/11 and the global war on terror

Testimony in the Japanese parliament, broadcast live on Japanese television in January 2008, challenged the premise and validity of the Global War on Terror. Parliament member Yukihiisa Fujita insisted that an investigation be conducted into the war's origin: the events of 9/11.

Source: *Transcript Of Japanese Parliament's 9/11 Testimony*, *Rense.com* and *Rock Creek Free Press*, 1/14/08

25 Bush's real problem with Eliot Spitzer

The exposure of New York State Governor Eliot Spitzer's tryst with a luxury call girl was the result of his being a target of a White House and Wall Street operation to silence him.

Source: *Predatory Lenders—Partner in Crime*, *Truthout*, 2/08

Interview

Chris Eley, Stockton City Council District 4 candidate

John Morearty

Chris Eley arrived for this interview on his ten-speed; we sat in my garden and he began talking about Stockton. "Stockton is my home, it's where I'm living out my life," he said. "At some point, one has to take responsibility for managing the place. The grass isn't greener on the other side of the fence; it's greener where you water it. Part of being an adult is that you step up and do things at the community level, in government or some other way. That's what democracy requires. I'm 56, I waited to do this till my youngest graduated from Chico; being a father taught me a lot about the livable community kids need—endless hours I spent with their soccer, or swim meets.

"My grandfather was mayor of Stockton back in the twenties; he went back to Washington to get money to deepen the channel, so Stockton could be a real port. The water downtown is an under-used resource. The new marina is being built, I hope for visiting boats as well as storage. Instead of an expensive bridge across the channel, there's talk of water taxis—how fun would that be? Maybe private money would donate a 150 foot water-jet fountain; it would be very attractive and help aerate the water. Rowing is becoming a big thing, races could be held down there, fun to watch. And I'd like to see mid-range housing built, maybe shops and businesses on the first floor or two, with living space above. People like to live by water. I love working downtown; you can walk....

"But our greatest potential in Stockton is probably all these different cultural strains floating around. Think about all the restaurants on Pacific Avenue, and that wonderful Buddhist temple out there. As a kid I learned judo, and I helped get a docent society established for the lovely Japanese tea garden in Micke's Grove. I went to a performance on the Miracle Mile recently, there were four guys in the band: two Hispanics, a Samoan, and a redhead who looks

Irish. That's Stockton!

"Peoples' ideas and experience are a tremendous resource. It's not realistic to expect council-people to know everything, and I've learned some humility, walking precincts and hearing questions and suggestions. We could draw on all that wisdom in a couple different ways. One would be the Neighborhood Councils program, which is in a trial run now in my own neighborhood, south of the University. Another would be through the internet. I've been collecting email addresses, and I'll be passing on ideas that people give me and asking, 'What do you guys think of this?' People wouldn't have to make an appointment or come out to meetings. This would be part of an open community dialogue, and the city council needs to become one hub or center in a community of learning."

Eley graduated from Stagg High School and has been an attorney in Stockton since 1979, specializing in real estate, wills and trusts. He served on the city planning commission for eight years, and teaches property law at Humphreys College; he's been a board member of Habitat for Humanity and the Downtown Stockton Alliance. He says his expertise would help on the council to grasp the legal dimensions of problems. "I just gave a lecture on the Brown Act, and understand the importance of openness in government; I've been through four or five negotiations on salaries."

He advocates working with the county board of supervisors to expand the jail; "the average length of stay now is seventeen days." He believes the threat of a longer jail sentence would be leverage to get addicts to choose residential treatment programs, typically six months: "that would really do them some good, and do the community some good."

To bring in new businesses he says we have to foster literacy, working with school districts, after-school programs, and the library. The building permit center should be make it easier to do



business here. He tells the story of a client who was remodeling a motel, and the city wanted to penalize him every day there were no numbers on the doors—even though there were no doors.

He likes the new general plan settlement which requires a "climate action plan": a housing advisory committee of labor, environmentalists, builders and taxpayers could suggest more modest-sized, affordable housing, and innovative green construction. Eley is taking no campaign contributions from developers Spanos, Grupe or Arnaiz, "unlike my opponent Diana Lowery." He spent about \$25,000 in the district primary, which he won, and expects to spend about \$40,000 on the general election; "they told me I'd need \$70,000 for November alone. That's why we're walking door to door. Plus, it's better that way—I'm meeting people I'm going to listen to."

I asked if he'd like to be mayor like his grandfather, and he laughed out loud. "No thank you, eight years of this will take a lot, it will be enough. I have a boat moored out at Comanche, I haven't seen it in months." The candidate got on his bike and headed downtown.

Full disclosure: Years ago, when this writer was a carpenter, Chris Eley hired me to build ten feet of fence at his house, and install baseboard in one room of his law office. I also walked precinct for him in this election for about an hour and a half, till my hip began to complain.



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Green jobs for a better future

The American economy is in trouble. Unemployment is on the rise, and gas prices are soaring. The health of our planet is also threatened. It's at risk from global warming and our addiction to oil. There's one good way to tackle all these problems: invest in the clean energy solutions that create green jobs.

What's a green job? One that helps develop and support clean, new technologies that harness renewable energy and move America beyond oil. To accomplish that, the nation will need workers from all facets of the economy. Building wind turbines will mean more jobs for steelworkers; construction workers will be needed to install solar panels. Truck drivers, carpenters, electricians and inspectors will all be central to the effort. Shifting the nation's focus from fossil fuels to clean energy will create millions of new jobs and help protect the environment by curbing global warming pollution.

Benefits of Green Jobs

Green jobs will provide an immediate boost to the nation's bottom line because many of the occupations needed for the new economy are already familiar to workers. Trained welders, plumbers and engineers can use their skills to develop renewable energy, sustainable agriculture and green buildings. Green jobs incorporate workers from every socioeconomic background and will help lift many out of poverty. And these new jobs will replace many that have moved overseas or been lost in the economic downturn.

Green jobs are local jobs—they exist in every community and can't be outsourced. They're good for the environment because they focus on clean, renewable sources of energy, which will help curb global warming and America's dependence on foreign oil.

Here's how green jobs will help put America on the right path:

* Jobs in the green economy include installing solar panels,

retrofitting buildings, creating wind farms, improving mass transit systems and refining waste oil into biodiesel.

* In 2006, renewable energy and energy efficient technologies generated 8.5 million new jobs, nearly \$970 billion in revenue, and more than \$100 billion in industry profits.

* An investment of \$100 billion dollars in clean energy would create two million green jobs nationwide over two years.

* The \$100 billion investment would create four times the number of jobs—and triple the number of jobs paying at least \$16 per hour—as the same investment in the oil industry.

By investing in energy efficiency and sustainability, we can solve America's energy crisis, the climate crisis and the economic crisis at the same time. For more information, visit Green for All <http://www.greenforall.org/> or This Green Life <http://www.nrdc.org/thisgreenlife>.

Source: Natural Resources Defense Council website This Green Life <<http://www.nrdc.org/thisgreenlife/> 9/26/08

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Governor rejects recycled water law

In the long list of good environmental policies that died by Governor Schwarzenegger's pen this year, the veto of AB 2270 (Laird/Feuer) is especially disappointing—and surprising. AB 2270 would have helped Californians access the enormous potential of recycled water, broadly seen as a drought resistant, cost-effective, and environmentally sustainable water source for California. According to the Department of Water Resources, increased development of recycled water could produce an additional 1.4 million acre feet of water for California by 2030.

AB 2270 called for more aggressive statewide targets for the development of recycled water and directed state agencies to take a more active role in promoting water recycling. In addition, the measure would have removed

a barrier to the development of recycled water by empowering local agencies with the authority to reduce the use of water softeners where salinity has been identified as a significant problem. (Water softeners contribute to higher concentrations of salt in wastewater, which increases the cost of treating recycled water and in some regions contributes to water quality violations.)

The Governor's veto message acknowledges the importance of recycled water but states that potential limits on water softeners compelled him to reject the measure. The veto of AB 2270 is perhaps most surprising given that the Governor has repeatedly asked for solutions to California's water problems. In fact, the Governor's concern over

water supplies compelled him to declare a statewide drought earlier this year and he continues calling for the state to increase its debt by nearly \$10 billion for another water bond. Given this concern and California's water outlook, it's unfortunate that the Governor saw use of water softeners as a higher priority than advancing the development of reliable and sustainable water resources around the state.

Source: PCL Insider, 10/10/08. The Planning and Conservation League, 1107 9th Street, Suite 360, Sacramento, CA 95814 www.pcl.org



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Environmental wins, losses and toss-ups

Renewable energy wins

On October 3rd, the House voted 263-171 to approve a modified version of the Wall Street rescue package they rejected earlier in the week. The new plan, which President Bush signed later that day, was adjusted by the Senate to attract additional votes—it now includes a \$17 billion energy tax

package to provide the much sought-after renewable energy tax extensions:

- * Eight-year extension of credits for investments in solar projects

- * One-year extension of production tax credits for wind projects

- * Two-year extension of production tax credits for other alternative energy projects, most notably

those involving geothermal and biomass

- * Removal of \$2,000 cap on residential solar credits

- * Extension of credits for installing alternative fuel pumps at gas stations

- * \$1.5 billion in credits for advanced coal projects to control carbon emissions

- * Credits for underground carbon sequestration on a per-ton basis

- * Incentives for green technology and innovation, including biofuels, plug-in vehicles, and energy efficient buildings and appliances

Had the incentives been allowed to lapse, as many feared they would, many alternative energy projects would have been stalled or abandoned. The bill pays for the energy tax breaks in part by limiting oil industry tax incentives—estimates indicate that the largest oil industry revenue-raiser will raise \$4.9 billion over a decade. Although the industry

argued against these cuts, warning that they could slow investment in domestic oil projects, many other fossil fuel credits remain, including incentives for refinery projects to process oil shale and oil sands.

Offshore oil drilling moratorium ends

On September 30, President Bush signed off on a \$600 billion continuing resolution (CR). The package, which Congress passed days prior, will fund most federal agencies at existing levels through March 2009. Under intense political pressure and with November elections looming, Democrats allowed the offshore drilling moratorium, which is renewed annually as part of the appropriations process, to lapse this year. As a result, federal waters along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, as well as parts of the eastern Gulf of Mexico, are now without protections that have, in many cases, existed since the early 1980s. Drilling in newly unprotected areas is many years away, however, so Congress and the next president could work to have the bans reinstated. House Natural Resources Chairman Nick Rahall (D-WV) said his committee would keep a close eye on the drilling situation next year, and that he would hold a series of hearings on lifting the moratorium.

The CR does contain some additional funding, most notably:

- * \$7.5 billion to launch a \$25 billion loan program to help automakers and their suppliers manufacture advanced technology vehicles

- * \$5 billion for low-income energy assistance and

- * \$910 million for emergency federal firefighting funding

Supreme court—big decisions coming

This fall, the Supreme Court will weigh in on several important environmental cases. "This is a banner year for environmental issues, and the justices aren't done granting [new cases for review] yet," said Jody Freeman, director of the Harvard Law

School Environmental Law Program. There is some concern, however, that the string of new cases may pose trouble for environmentalists, who had been on the winning side in the lower courts. "Generally speaking, the Supreme Court is where environmental protections go to die, and this term hasn't promised to be any more favorable," said John Echeverria, director of the Georgetown University Law Center's Environmental Law and Policy Institute. Among the most significant cases are:

Winter v. Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

Arguably the most high-profile environmental case of the new term, the conflict centers on whether the Navy can be barred from conducting sonar training exercises that may pose a threat to whales off the coast of Southern California. In March 2007, NRDC sued to block the Navy from using "mid-frequency active" sonar, arguing that it harms marine mammals, and thus violates several environmental laws. In January, the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California sided with NRDC and issued a preliminary injunction. In response, President Bush and the Council on Environmental Quality stepped in and exempted the Navy from the injunction, contending that it jeopardized "the Navy's ability to train sailors or Marines for wartime deployment during a time of hostility." After the exemption was rejected by U.S. District Judge Florence-Marie Cooper and the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, the Navy and the Bush administration sought Supreme Court intervention.

Summers v. Earth Island Institute

The Earth Island Institute accused the U.S. Forest Service of violating the Appeals Reform Act by enacting regulations that severely limited the rights of notice, appeals, and public comment on its timber management decisions. At stake, according to the Environmental Law Institute's Jay Austin, is not

just the integrity of Forest Service regulations, but the precedent for how lawsuits from environmental groups are handled. "In our view," he said, "the government has taken the position that environmental groups and other kinds of public interest groups aren't allowed to challenge a rule on its face. A bad ruling from the Supreme Court would require environmental and other public interest groups to bring dozens or maybe hundreds of lawsuits every time there's a timber sale—rather than one lawsuit to address a Forest Service regulatory problem that should be struck down going forward."

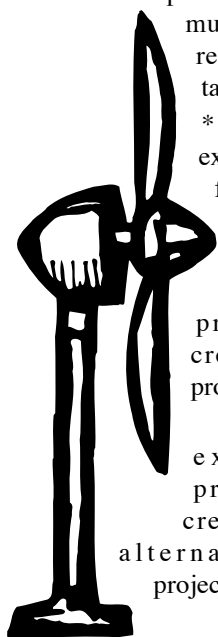
Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Co. v. U.S.; and Shell Oil Co. v. U.S.

This case addresses the Superfund law, and whether it allows the government to hold companies responsible for environmental cleanup costs even if the companies were not directly responsible for contamination. In this dispute, the 9th Circuit ruled that Shell Oil Co. and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corp. should be held jointly responsible for cleanup costs at a chemical distribution plant near Bakersfield, California. Although the chemical distributor, Brown & Bryant Inc. was ultimately responsible for the contamination, the rationale behind the ruling was that Shell manufactured the two chemical contaminants and that Burlington Northern leased the property to the distributor.

Coeur Alaska Inc. v. Alaska Conservation Group

Later this fall, the court will also hear a suit over whether the Army Corps of Engineers has the authority to issue permits for dumping waste into waterways, without satisfying all of the pollution restrictions set out under the Clean Water Act. The Corps granted Idaho-based gold mining company Coeur d'Alene Mines Corp. a permit to dump 4.5 million tons of rock waste into a lake in Alaska's Tongass National Forest.

Source: ESA Policy News 10/7/08 www.esa.org



Bush's EPA declares SJ Valley air clean

Recently, the U.S. EPA announced that it had designated the San Joaquin Valley air basin to be in attainment with national ambient air quality standards for coarse particulate matter, known as PM-10. The decision will relieve the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District from needing to adopt more stringent measures to reduce dust and smoke emissions, even when air quality monitors have recorded violations to the national standards, especially in the southern region of the valley.

The announcement was deeply troubling, particularly because PM-10 in the San Joaquin Valley accounts for over 2,000 deaths per year and nationwide accounts for more deaths than homicides and automobile accidents combined. Other health impacts include lung and heart disease and asthma.

Despite the U.S. EPA claim,

efforts to clean up the San Joaquin Valley's air continue. Governor Schwarzenegger recently signed SB 1548 (Florez) which will clarify the process by which San Joaquin Air District board members are selected and AB 2522 (Arambula) which institutes a vehicle fee to fund air quality programs.

However, much more is needed. Right now the financial burden of dirty air falls on the residents of California while polluters get a free ride. The State needs more resources to improve its poor air quality and that means making all polluters pay their fair share. To find out more about ways to clean up the Valley's air, contact PCL's public health program manager, Rene Guerrero.

Source: PCL Insider, 10/10/08. The Planning and Conservation League, 1107 9th Street, Suite 360, Sacramento, CA 95814 www.pcl.org

No "bailout" for the world's poorest

Thalif Deen

As a spreading financial crisis threatens to deepen the economic recession in the United States, the news of an unprecedented 700-billion-dollar bailout package reverberated through the corridors of the United Nations last September as over 100 world leaders gathered in New York for the annual talk-fest: the 63rd session of the General Assembly. At a time when the United Nations is seeking increased financial assistance from rich nations to help developing countries meet the faltering Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including a 50-percent reduction on extreme poverty and hunger by 2015, the current U.S. economic crisis and its predictably negative fallout overseas is expected to be a major setback.

Addressing delegates last week, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon warned that the current

gloomy outlook threatens the well-being of billions of people, "none more so than the poorest of the poor."

"This only compounds the damage [already] being caused by much higher prices for food and fuel", he added. Ban has called for 72 billion dollars per year in additional external financing to achieve the MDGs by 2015. As one Asian delegate put it: "The 72 billion is peanuts compared to the 700 billion the White House wants to dish out to save some of the Wall Street firms from going belly up. And the urgent needs of developing nations will now be the least of the priorities of the United States and other Western donors."

Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockman of Nicaragua, the newly-elected president of the General Assembly, warned that the current financial crisis will have "very serious consequences"

that will impede the significant progress, "if indeed any progress is made", towards the targets established by the MDGs, "which are themselves insufficient".

"It is always the poor who pay the price for the unbridled greed and irresponsibility of the powerful," he said, taking a passing shot at the staggering 700-billion-dollar bailout proposed by the administration of President George W. Bush to save the high-stakes investment banks of New York from bankruptcy and collapse. Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg told delegates that "money doesn't seem to be a problem, when the problem is money. Let us look for a moment at what is happening on Wall Street and in financial markets around the world. There, unsound investment threatens the homes and jobs of the middle class." There is something fundamentally wrong, he argued, "when money

seems to be abundant, but funds for investment in people seem so short in supply".

As the economic meltdown in the United States continues, the casualties are piling up both among commercial and investment banks: Bear Stearns, Lehman Brothers and Washington Mutual (allowed to collapse with no government bailout); American International Group, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley (allowed to survive with emergency financial assistance, including some from the government); Merrill Lynch has been folded into Bank of America and Wells Fargo has taken over Wachovia Bank.

The outrage against Wall Street, described as the world's financial capital, is also directed at the high salaried chief executive officers and the middle rung bosses who make multi-million-dollar salaries, with stock options and perks that set them up in a privileged class by themselves. According to one report, the lowest salary on Wall Street was around 280,000 dollars a year in a country where the average low or middle class employee would go home with a pay packet of 50,000 or 75,000 dollars per year. In 2007, the chief executive officer (CEO) of Goldman Sachs, Lloyd Blankfein, was paid 68.7 million dollars—described as "the most ever for a Wall Street CEO."

As the entire U.S. economic edifice is in danger of collapsing, the White House has been called upon to save some of the biggest financial institutions in the country and, at the same time, redress the excesses of Wall Street business tycoons who earned multi-million-dollar salaries and extravagant bonuses. The greed factor in the crisis is that these same tycoons, who are responsible for mismanaging their companies, still insist on continuing with their same lavish lifestyles and lofty salaries even after the massive taxpayer-funded bailout.

Addressing the 192-member General Assembly last week, the President of Brazil Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said the economy of any country is "too serious an undertaking to be left in the hands of speculators". Ethics must also apply to the economy, he said. But, unfortunately, in the race for profits, the ethical factor has ceased to exist. The president quoted the Brazilian economist Celso Furtado who once said: "We must not allow speculators' profits always to be privatised, while their losses are invariably socialised." And as a postscript, the Brazilian president added: "We must not allow the burden of the boundless greed of a few to be shouldered by all."

Source: *Inter Press Service* article 9/29/08 <http://www.ipsnews.net/news>

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Solar funding passes... finally

It is finally time to celebrate. Congress just passed a long-term extension of the solar investment tax credit. An 8-year extension of both the commercial solar tax credit and the residential solar tax credit (with removal of the monetary cap), passed the Senate (74-24), the House (263-171) and was signed by the President as part of the bank bailout bill. Thanks to this law, over 440,000 jobs will be created in the solar field in the next 8 years, and over \$232 billion of investment will be pumped into our economy. Now that's economic stimulus.

The solar investment tax credit,

and the rest of the clean energy tax incentives, passed as part of the 'Economic Stabilization' bill. Like you, we would have preferred a clean stand-alone renewable energy bill. The reality though is that federal politics is rarely a clean process. The renewable energy tax incentives have been held hostage to a larger political debate all year—with 15 previous votes and no results—and this latest iteration is no exception.

Source: *Vote Solar Team* release 10/3/08 *The Vote Solar Initiative*, 300 Brannan St, Ste 609, SF, CA 94107 www.votesolar.org

McCain's plan compounds economic pain

Nomi Prins

Somewhere between box-office hit and policy wonk mentality is the real world. Here, "Country First" should represent more than military prowess; it should mean economic stability. A country can't be strong if the personal economies of its citizens are weak. Yet, under McCain's economic strategy, individual financial security is under attack.

Grandiose notions of combat don't pay for adjustable mortgages, sneaky credit card fees and rate hikes, health care premiums, tuition, gas or food. They don't regulate a banking system gone mad that has already commandeered billions of dollars of bailouts (from Bear Stearns to the cost of "effectively nationalizing" Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac).

McCain's main economic promises are cutting taxes,

creating jobs and balancing the budget (aka removing pork). All commendable, except when you consider the details. His policies would result in a higher deficit, a lower dollar, more jobs leaving the country, and a reduction in Social Security, Medicare, education and other entitlement programs.

Taxes

Let's start with tax cuts. The "pro-growth" plan on his Web site centers on corporate taxes, which he would cut from 35 percent to 25 percent to "help American companies compete and keep jobs from going overseas." But his cuts won't actually be tied to job creation. Already, corporations don't pay a lot of taxes, and that hasn't kept jobs from heading east. According to the U.S. Government Accountability Office, two-thirds of U.S. corporations paid zero federal taxes during the past

decade. Almost three-quarters of all foreign corporations between 1998 and 2005 didn't either.

Citizens pay the bulk of the \$2.5 trillion federal tax revenue. Our income taxes contributed 43 percent of it and Social Security taxes 37 percent. Corporate taxes only accounted for 13 percent. If McCain was truly a "reformer" bent on "fighting" for us, he'd go after the \$20 billion of executive compensation sliding through loopholes, or the \$100 billion of annual offshore tax dodges. Instead, American citizens effectively wind up subsidizing this.

Jobs

As for jobs, McCain said, "We're going to help workers who've lost a job that won't come back find a new one that won't go away." He didn't specify how, even though the unemployment rate of 6.1 percent is a five-year high, and we have lost more than 600,000 jobs this year. When he talks about jobs going overseas, McCain means China. Between 2001 and 2007, 2.3 million jobs were lost or displaced (two-thirds of those jobs came from the manufacturing sector, the rest from the tech sector), as the trade deficit with China tripled. He didn't say how he would change that. In his acceptance speech, McCain pretended to acknowledge the pain of voters—in swing states. "Bill and Sue Nebe from Farmington Hills, Michigan ... lost their real estate investments in the bad housing market. Bill got a temporary job after he was out of work for seven months. Sue works three jobs to help pay the bills."

Now, I don't know Bill or Sue, but they probably own fewer homes than McCain does. This characterization of the homes of millions of Americans as "investments" rather than actual residences comes from a man who, like Bush, is against regulating the lending industry or helping homeowners, though he considered the \$30 billion bailout of Bear Stearns "necessary to protect the economy." Other than that, he didn't address the foreclosure crisis. The percentage of homes in foreclosure doubled this quarter versus last year, 30

percent of subprime loans are now in foreclosure, and 5.35 percent of prime ones are. McCain has no plan to deal with this.

Health

On health matters, McCain said he fights "for Jake and Toni Wimmer of Franklin County, Pennsylvania. Jake works on a loading dock, coaches Little League and raises money for the mentally and physically disabled. Toni is a schoolteacher, working toward her master's degree. They have two sons; the youngest, Luke, has been diagnosed with autism. Their lives should matter to the people they elect to office. They matter to me." Maybe their votes matter, but implementing McCain's health plan won't help them. McCain believes that competition will improve health insurance quality and lower prices and that "families should be able to purchase health insurance nationwide, across state lines."

His plan extends the carrot of a direct refundable \$2,500 tax credit for individuals and \$5,000 for families to offset the cost of insurance. Which sounds peachy, except that the average family cost of health insurance is \$12,000 (up from \$7,600 in 2001.) Plus, families won't be getting that \$5,000 directly; the money would be sent straight to insurance companies, which would make them very happy.

Of course, you can't get the credit if you don't have health insurance to begin with. Opening insurance companies to interstate competition will result in a strategy similar to that of credit card companies: Health insurance providers will consolidate through mergers and relocate to the states where they can charge the most and pay the least taxes, negating the potential positive effects of competition. This will not bring down the cost of insurance any more than it has brought down credit card rates and fees.

McCain says he will cut government spending, but the three top items of government spending are defense, social programs and interest on our debt. Since 2001, defense spending has risen from \$376 billion to \$587 billion. The debt owed by the U.S.

government has nearly doubled, from \$5.7 trillion in 2001 to almost \$10 trillion. Interest on that debt is \$401 billion per year, the third-largest line item in the federal budget. Foreign governments hold a record \$4.1 trillion of it.

He has promised to balance the budget by 2013. But, since he's not cutting defense and can't control our interest payments, and if he cuts corporate taxes further, debt and debt payments will rise, as they have during the past eight years, that leaves other entitlement spending on the chopping block.

Social security, education and its a wrap

Sure enough, his strategy for "reforming" Social Security, in shades of Bush, is propping it up with personal accounts. He has already voted to use the Social Security surplus to fund his corporate tax reductions. He will also "reduce the growth" of (read:cut) Medicare spending, at a time when 1.85 million Americans go bankrupt each year due to medical bills alone.

As for education, "the civil rights issue of this century," his plan for doubling the child tax exemption from \$3,500 to \$7,000 will surely help millions of American families, but they won't be able to afford college tuition, which has increased by 70 percent since 2001. It doesn't bode well that he voted against \$5 billion for grants to local educational agencies and against shifting \$11 billion from corporate tax loopholes to education.

McCain's policies would benefit corporations by reducing the tax burden they already shirk, ignore the need for regulation in the banking industry, and inject cash into an overcharging health insurance industry. He would fund this by subtracting from Social Security, Medicare, education and other entitlement programs. That's the only way the math works. The end result would be a federal government more in the hole to foreign governments, and a citizenship on shakier economic ground than it already is.

Source: AlterNet 9/908 <http://www.alternet.org>

Wall Street thieves

Jim Hightower

Willie Sutton, who said he robbed banks because "That's where the money is," had nothing on Richard Fuld. He's the Wall Street whiz who headed Lehman Brothers and moved the company heavily into gimmicky investment schemes based on risky subprime mortgages. When those home loans began going bad, so did Lehman Brothers — so bad that it collapsed into bankruptcy on September 15.

That was, of course, disastrous for Lehman's employees and for its shareholders. On paper, Fuld also lost money, for his stock options were vaporized in the crash caused by his own reckless policies. Unlike regular folks, however, the CEO had long enjoyed a fat salary, banking nearly half-a-billion bucks in compensation in the years prior to Lehman's demise. Indeed, last year alone, while his company was teetering, Fuld raked in about \$45 million in personal pay. That's more than \$20,000 an hour. For failure!

He got his, even though thousands of people suffered.

In fact, he's still presiding over the remnants of Lehman as it goes through bankruptcy. But what about all those other Wall Street greedheads we're now being forced to bail out? No problem, say the White House and Congress, for our bailout bill contains a populist provision to limit the pay of CEOs who get taxpayer funds. Good idea! But the actual language of the bill has a couple of supersized loopholes punched in the executive pay provision. First, the limit applies only to a few banks that the government will actually take over, not those it simply bails out. Worse, the CEO pay restriction doesn't affect existing pay arrangements. So top honchos who have been wallowing in obscenely-high pay packages, complete with golden parachutes, can continue getting those riches, even as they draw bailout money from you and me. Despite populist pretensions, Washington's "reformers" are still letting CEOs rob the bank.

Source: *Jim Hightower Lowdown 10/ 9/08* <http://jimhightower.com> & "Need a Job? \$17,000 an Hour. No Success Required." www.nytimes.com <<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/18/opinion/18kristof.html>>, 9/18/08

Moguls steal home while companies strike out

Bill Moyers and Michael Winship

From our offices in Manhattan, we look out on the tall, gleaming skyscrapers that are cathedrals of wealth and power—the Olympus ruled by the gods of finance, the temples of the mighty, the holy of holies, whose priests guard the sacred texts of salvation—the ones containing the secrets of subprime lending and derivatives as mysterious and elusive as the Grail itself.

This last couple of weeks, ordinary mortals below could almost hear the ripcords of golden parachutes being pulled as the divinities on high prepared for soft, safe landings—all this while tossing their workers like sacrificial lambs into the purgatory of unemployment.

During the last five years of his tenure as CEO of now-bankrupt Lehman Brothers, Richard Fuld's total take was \$354 million. John Thain, the current chairman of Merrill Lynch, taken over this week by Bank of America, has been on the job for just nine months. He pocketed a \$15 million signing bonus. His predecessor, Stan O'Neal, retired with a package valued at \$161 million, after the company reported an \$8 billion loss in a single quarter. And remember Bear Stearns's Chairman James Cayne? After the company collapsed earlier this year and was up for sale at bargain basement prices, he sold his stake for more than \$60 million.

Daniel Mudd and Richard Syron, the former heads of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac—aka the gods who failed—are fighting to keep severance packages of close to \$24 million combined—on top of the millions in salary each earned last year while slaughtering the golden calf. As it is written in the Gospel According to Me, when the going gets tough, the tough get going.

But let's change the metaphor for a moment and go to our sports desk, because if religion is no longer the soul of capitalism, as Max Weber once taught us it was, we have to venture somewhere else to try to understand the continuing follies of the new gilded age. And so, we

travel just a few miles north of Wall Street to the House that Ruth Built. Babe Ruth—the Sultan of Swat—who ruled Yankee Stadium and sired generations of princes after him: DiMaggio and Gehrig, Mantle, Maris, Berra and Jackson. Yankee Stadium, as fabled a place to Americans as Ilium was to the ancient Greeks, is about to be demolished and replaced next year by a brand new stadium.

On Opening Day in 1923, New York Governor Al Smith threw out the first ball and John Philip Sousa led a big brass band playing his famous marches. It was the Roaring Twenties, when the money flowed like bootleg whiskey, the pride before the fall. In 1930, the year after the market crashed, as the Great Depression began, Babe Ruth was taking home \$80,000 a year, more than the president of the United States, Herbert Hoover. "Why not?" Ruth asked. "I had a better year than he did."

Yankee star Alex Rodriguez had a better year than both of them. This season, A-Rod is making \$28 million, just part of an annual Yankee payroll of \$209 million, the richest in baseball. Their owner, George Steinbrenner, is among the Forbes 400, one of the country's richest tycoons.

But when it came to paying for the new, \$1.3 billion pleasure dome, the millionaires on the field and King Midas in his skybox came up with some razzle-dazzle plays to finance their new wealth machine—tax-free bonds, requiring ordinary citizens to subsidize the construction, and hundreds of millions more for new parking garages, a train station and parks that supposedly will replace the ones seized by the city to make room for the new stadium. The Little League games that used to flourish on sandlots just outside the old ballpark have been moved miles away, sent down to the minors on a long road trip.

That's O.K., you may think; there will be plenty of room in the new stadium for the tax-paying public to come root, root, root for the home team—even the Coliseum in ancient Rome had

bleachers for the commoners. But, in fact, there will be 5,000 fewer seats in the stands. And while the Yankees reportedly promise that half of what's left will cost \$45 or less, those seats that used to cost \$250, right behind the dugout, will now cost you \$850. And if you want to be near home plate, you'll have to cough up \$2,500—per game.

Meanwhile, there will be more luxury suites and party rooms where fat cats can gather, safely removed from the sweaty masses. Corporations and wealthy individuals will be able to rent the luxury suites for anywhere from \$600,000-\$850,000 a year—tax deductible—assuming they haven't filed for bankruptcy this week.

Why aren't the fans and taxpayers giving the Yankees a Bronx cheer? They did, but city officials rolled over them while making sure local politicians stayed in the lineup. The politicians are getting their own luxury suite at the new stadium for free—and first shot at buying the best available seats.

The new colossus will cast its majestic shadow across the South Bronx, one of the nation's poorest neighborhoods. The residents will watch from the outside as suburban drivers avail themselves of 9,000 new or refurbished parking spaces. Never mind all the exhaust, even though in this part of New York City respiratory disease is already so high they call it "Asthma Alley."

Not that the well-to-do in the infield seats will have to hear the wheezing. They'll have exclusive access to a private club, a private entrance and a private elevator, totems of this gilded age. Let the games begin.

Bill Moyers is managing editor and Michael Winship is senior writer of the weekly public affairs program "Bill Moyers Journal," which airs Friday nights on PBS. Check local airtimes or comment at The Moyers Blog at www.pbs.org/moyers <<http://www.pbs.org/moyers>>.

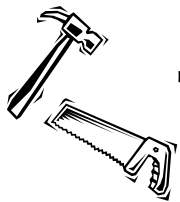
Source: [truthout.org](http://www.truthout.org) Perspective 9/19/08

Minority steals a watch: prison / Bank CEO's steal billions: obscene wealth

The following represents the compensation of the top managers of recently failed (or soon to fail) financial institutions. And yes, that's our own Henry Paulson topping the income list in 2006, just before agreeing to take the lead in the Bush Bailout Bonanza for Beatup Bankers.

YEAR	CEO	CASH SALARY	STOCK, OTHER PAY	TOTAL
Lehman Brothers				
2007	Richard Fuld	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 66,770,000	\$ 71,770,000
2006	Richard Fuld	\$ 7,000,000	\$ 55,323,679	\$ 62,323,679
2005	Richard Fuld	\$ 14,500,000	\$ 89,500,000	\$ 104,000,000
2004	Richard Fuld	\$ 11,000,000	\$ 24,300,000	\$ 35,300,000
Morgan Stanley				
2007	John Mack	\$ 800,000	\$ 16,431,500	\$ 17,231,500
2006	John Mack	\$ 800,000	\$ 6,321,000	\$ 7,121,000
2005	John Mack	\$ 337,534	\$ 30,000,000	\$ 30,337,534
Goldman Sachs				
2007	Lloyd Blankfein	\$ 27,600,000	\$ 15,500,000	\$ 43,100,000
2006	Lloyd Blankfein	\$ 27,800,000	\$ 15,700,000	\$ 43,500,000
2006	Henry Paulson	\$ 129,087,000	\$ 34,900,000	\$ 163,987,000
2005	Henry Paulson	\$ 600,000	\$ 3,363,422	\$ 3,963,422
2004	Henry Paulson	\$ 600,000	\$ 11,660,000	\$ 12,260,000
Bear Stearns				
2006	James Cayne	\$ 17,300,000	\$ 14,800,000	\$ 32,100,000
2005	James Cayne	\$ 12,900,000	\$ 10,300,000	\$ 23,200,000
2004	James Cayne	\$ 10,200,000	\$ 9,500,000	\$ 19,700,000
Merrill Lynch				
2007	John Thain	\$ 15,800,000	\$ 0	\$ 15,800,000
2007	E. Stanley O'Neal	\$ 584,000	\$ 161,000,000	\$ 161,584,000
2006	E. Stanley O'Neal	\$ 19,200,000	\$ 45,116,327	\$ 64,316,327
2005	E. Stanley O'Neal	\$ 14,800,000	\$ 3,120,000	\$ 17,920,000
2004	E. Stanley O'Neal	\$ 700,000	\$ 16,766,448	\$ 17,466,448
Washington Mutual				
2007	Kerry K. Killinger	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 3,468,625	\$ 4,468,625
2006	Kerry K. Killinger	\$ 5,100,000	\$ 17,153,715	\$ 22,253,715
2005	Kerry K. Killinger	\$ 4,600,000	\$ 8,876,608	\$ 13,476,608
2004	Kerry K. Killinger	\$ 2,900,000	\$ 12,335,416	\$ 15,235,416
AIG				
2007	Martin J. Sullivan	\$ 10,200,000	\$ 5,647,439	\$ 15,847,439
2006	Martin J. Sullivan	\$ 16,900,000	\$ 5,838,656	\$ 22,738,656
2005	Martin J. Sullivan	\$ 7,750,000	\$ 159,000	\$ 7,909,000
2004	Hank Greenberg	\$ 1,400,000	\$ 12,002,880	\$ 13,402,880
Fannie Mae				
2007	Daniel Mudd	\$ 3,200,000	\$ 5,200,000	\$ 8,400,000
2006	Daniel Mudd	\$ 4,400,000	\$ 2,290,000	\$ 6,690,000
Freddie Mac				
2007	Richard Syron	\$ 5,590,000	0	\$ 5,590,000
2006	Richard Syron	\$ 5,150,000	0	\$ 5,150,000

Source: ABC News, in collaboration with James F. Reda and Associates 10/7/08 <http://abcnews.go.com>



Sawznhammers

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

Trickle-down bailout trick

John Morearty

Last week the U.S. Senate shouted down taxing the rich. Are we surprised? The independent socialist Senator from Vermont, Bernie Sanders, urged his colleagues: "Let the rich bail them out.... If a bailout is needed, if taxpayer money must be placed at risk, if we are going to bail out Wall Street, it should be those people who have caused the problem, those people who have benefited from President Bush's tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires, those people who have taken advantage of deregulation who should pick up the tab, not ordinary working people."

Sanders proposed a five-year, 10 percent surtax on families with incomes of more than \$1 million a year and individuals earning over half a million to raise \$300 billion to help bankroll the bailout. But senators set aside the amendment on a voice vote. (Source: www.truthout.org)

Sanders voted against the final bill. Not so our Stockton "Representatives" in the House, Democrats Jerry McNerney and Dennis Cardoza, who voted for the bailout-twice. You'd have to ask them why.

I'm no economist, I'm a former philosophy professor and retired carpenter, married to a retired farmer, deli owner and schoolteacher. We're some of the lucky ones, our mortgage is paid. Editor Roberto Radrihan solicited my opinion on the bailout, so I wrote the following for his Bilingual Weekly, a strong independent English/Spanish paper in Stockton.

Banks or people?

Pity the poor bankers, and bail them out? Pay protection to the Wall Street sharks who rolled dice with our lives, houses and jobs so they could buy fuel for their jets, jewels and fine wines for their wives and concubines, steak to stave off hunger?

These are crooks. They tricked honest working people with fake low interest home loans, and then jacked up the rates. Plumbers and nurses, teachers and truck drivers, secretaries, technicians and toilers, cooks, cleaners and caregivers, people who work in the fields and try to raise their kids decently, people with dirt under their nails and sore backs at the end of the day—they believed the bankers and invested in a house. "A home of our own! The American dream!"

Then the bubble popped, it was all a lie. Millions of people have lost their jobs, people are walking away from houses that are worth less than the bankers say they owe; they're loading the kids in the car and going to live with grandma, or on the streets. And the bankers are stuck with a bunch of empty houses. Poor babies!

So they run to their pals George Bush and the Treasury Secretary, ex-Wall Street guy Henry Paulson, and they cry, "Help us, oh help us!" Hired experts go on TV in expensive suits and say, "The taxpayers simply must bail the bankers out, or they won't make any more loans!" Now there's a really interesting idea. No more mega-corporate predatory lenders?

Maybe We the People should buy them out.

Socialize not just the bad loans, socialize the banks themselves—lock, stock, and boardroom. Buy them on long-term credit, even pay interest—the same lousy interest rates they pay us. Then we would own the banks! We could immediately rent those empty houses back at modest rents to the people who were living in them (with an option to buy).

I'm sure we could figure out, through the democratic process, how to invest the rest of the banks' capital: create ten million green jobs, begin universal single payer health care (cheaper by far than the present HMO ripoff system), educate all our young-make up

your own list. There would be plenty of work for everyone. Even ex-bankers, if they feel like working.

It all reminds me of a song I learned years ago, from English and Australian democratic socialist friends—"socialism" is not a dirty word there: *The Banks Are Made Of Marble* (Words and Music by Les Rice, Copyright 1950 by Stormking Music Inc.):

I've traveled round this country
From shore to shining shore.
It really made me wonder
The things I heard and saw.

I saw the weary farmer, Plowing
sod and loam; I heard the auction
hammer, A knocking down his
home.

CHORUS: But the banks are
made of marble, With a guard
at every door, And the vaults
are stuffed with silver, That the
farmer sweated for.

I saw the seaman standing Idly
by the shore. I heard the bosses
saying, Got no work for you no
more.

But the banks are made of marble,
With a guard at every door, And
the vaults are stuffed with silver,
That the seaman sweated for.

I saw the weary miner, Scrubbing
coal dust from his back, I heard
his children cryin', Got no coal to
heat the shack.

But the banks are made of marble,
With a guard at every door, And
the vaults are stuffed with silver,
That the miner sweated for.

I've seen my brothers working
Throughout this mighty land; I
prayed we'd get together, And
together make a stand.

FINAL CHORUS: Then we'd
own those banks of marble, With
a guard at every door; And we'd
share those vaults of silver, That
we have sweated for.

Bucking Wall Street

Jim Hightower

In a plaintive plea to get his rebellious house colleagues to vote for the establishment's Wall Street bailout bill, Rep. Spencer Bachus wailed that, "There are no other alternatives, no other choices." Sheesh, sir, if a \$700 billion giveaway to greedheads and boneheads is as far as your imagination will stretch, then you need to step aside and make room in Congress for someone with an IQ above room temperature.

You want choices? There was an excellent proposal that would simply allow bankruptcy judges to reduce the mortgage payments of distressed borrowers. Under current law, every kind of loan can be adjusted in bankruptcy court—except home mortgages. This common-sense change would provide quick relief to those who really need it, keep families in their homes, halt the downward tumble of housing prices—and cost taxpayers nothing. The banks would still collect mortgage payments and make a profit on their loans—they just wouldn't make a killing.

But wait, cries Bush & Company,

this is now a credit crisis, not just a housing mess. They tell us that banks aren't loaning to homebuyers and businesses, so we need to use taxpayer funds to get credit flowing again. Okay, but why give those billions to the very people who made the mess, especially when no regulations are being added to keep them from doing it again? Instead, the government could instill some real price competition in the increasingly monopolized lending industry by using that \$700 billion to make direct loans to borrowers, as it now does on loans to students, veterans, and others. Not only would this quickly pump credit into the stalling economy, but borrowers would get better terms on their loans and the money would go farther. The problem is not a lack of good alternatives, but that they don't come with Wall Street's seal of approval—and Congress critters like Bachus don't have the guts or gumption to buck Wall Street.

Source: Jim Hightower Lowdown 10/8/08 <http://jimhightower.com/sites/jimhightower.civicactions.net/>

Lawn signs, mugs, T-shirts

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



Free Trolley on the Miracle Mile

The Miracle Mile Improvement District and the University of the Pacific have partnered with the Stockton Sheraton, Downtown Stockton Alliance, Stockton Sports Commission and San Joaquin RTD to bring Saturday-evening Trolley service to the Miracle Mile, announced Miracle Mile Executive Director Emily Ballus. The Saturday night route will be known as the Pacific-Miracle Mile-Downtown Trolley Connector and is free to riders. The Pacific-Miracle Mile-Downtown Trolley Connector will officially begin service on Saturday, September 27. The hours of operation are from 6:00 pm to 12:00 am every Saturday evening through December 27, 2008. The Trolley will arrive at the following stops approximately every 20 minutes.

Southbound

UOP—Spanos Concert Hall
Pacific @ Alpine
Pacific @ Tuxedo
Pacific @ Walnut
Sheraton/Arena

Cineplex
Hope Theatre on event nights

Northbound

Cineplex
Sheraton/Arena
Pacific @ Alder
Pacific @ Pine
Pacific @ Alpine
UOP—Spanos Concert Hall

According to MMID Board President Kevin Dougherty, "The ongoing goal of all of the Trolley partners is to continue to showcase attractions in the Pacific-Mile-Downtown districts." With the convenience of free transportation between the City's hottest restaurant and entertainment destinations and our nationally recognized university, we anticipate the Trolley service will become a popular amenity for area residents, Pacific students, and out-of-town guests. For more information, contact Emily Ballus, Executive Director, Miracle Mile Improvement District, at 209-948-6453 or Emily@StocktonMiracleMile.com

Stockton Chorale presents

Ancient texts and modern melodies

During the 08-09 Season opener Sing the Mystery, the Stockton Chorale celebrates two musical giants, Zoltan Kodaly (1882-1967), prominent Hungarian composer/musician and Jazz Legend Dave Brubeck (1920-), Concord, CA. Two settings of "Pange lingua gloriosi" (Speak tongue gloriously) inspired both Kodaly and Brubeck to set a variation on the ancient verses. Also on the program are the Stockton Youth Chorale and the Master Chorale singing music

of Kodaly and Bela Bartok (1881-1945), another Hungarian composer. Bartok's selections will include, "Four Slovak Folk Songs" and "Ave Maria", an all women's piece.

For the second half, the Brubeck Institute Jazz Quintet, young musicians in residence at the University of the Pacific's Brubeck Institute, join the Stockton Chorale and Youth Chorale in Dave Brubeck's "Pange lingua gloriosi." This double performance will be held

7:30 pm on Friday, October 24, 2008 at the Quail Lakes Baptist Church, 1904 Quail Lakes Drive, Stockton and on Sunday October 26, 2008, 3:00 pm at St. John's Episcopal Church, 1055 S. Lower Sacramento Road, Lodi. Single concert tickets are \$20 for adults, and \$10 for students (17 yrs and younger). Season Tickets are \$75 for adults, \$37.50 for students (17 yrs and under). and tickets may be purchased by phoning the Stockton Chorale office at (209) 951-6494.

Sat, Oct 25

Mokelumne River cleanup

"There's nothing like spending a beautiful fall day along the Mokelumne with your family and friends," said retired teacher Karen Friis, coordinator of the 2008 Mokelumne River Cleanup. "Taking part in the Mokelumne River Cleanup is a great way to have fun while doing something good for our local river."


On Saturday, October 25, people who care about the Mokelumne River will gather at four sites for the 2008 Mokelumne River Cleanup. They will work along the river's banks removing trash accumulated through the summer months. Previous cleanups have cumulatively removed tons of trash and recyclables over the last 18 years. The cleanup benefits wildlife and water quality while keeping the river a beautiful place to visit.

The event will begin at 9:00 a.m. in three locations: the beach parking lot on Electra Road, the Bureau of Land Management parking area along the North Fork Mokelumne at Highway 26 (Red Corral Road), the Middle Bar takeout parking lot on Middle Bar Road, and the Mokelumne

River Campground below Salt Springs Dam. Coffee, juice, and breakfast snacks will be available. The cleanup will be canceled in case of rain. Participants should register in advance at

www.foothillconservancy.org/rivercleanup or by contacting Randy Berg at 209-295-4900 or randy@foothillconservancy.org.





Latest Edition Now Available

Stockton Alternative Guide to Wellness: Mind, Body, and Spirit

An 88-page holistic community directory containing articles on Self-Healing, local practitioners, healing opportunities, and healing affirmations.

Preview at www.lulu.com/content/4268467
\$10.00 for Paperback, Only \$3.00 to Download

Thinking of placing an ad?

Business card size (3.75 x 2)	\$35
3.75 x 4.....	\$65
3.75 x 6.....	\$96
1/2 page.....	\$220
Full page.....	\$425

Discounts for longer terms and nonprofits available.
Deadline: 7th of the month, for 20th of month publication.
If you submit your ad after this date, please allow one month before seeing your ad in Connections. Send camera-ready copy to: bgiudici@caltel.com or PJN, P.O. Box 4123, Stockton, CA 95204

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

SJTU: 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.

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November 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.

Thru Oct 29

Expressions in Paint—Steven Labadessa & Brandon C Smith, Delta Horton Gallery, 5151 Pacific. Free. 954-5507

Thru Nov 1

Alan Short Center student exhibit. M-F 10-5, Sat 11-3 Tidewater Gallery, 223 E. Weber. 463-4033 (see p 18)

Thru Nov 9

Juried Exhibition. Haggin Museum, 1201 N Pershing Ave. Wed-Sun 1:30-5 pm. 1st and 3rd Thurs 1:30-9 pm. \$5 adult, student/senior/youth age 10-17 \$2.50. Under 10 free. 940-6300 info@hagginmuseum.org (see p 18)

Thru Nov 29

Emptiness and the Space Within. Paintings by Leon Cao & pottery by Jessie Wong M-F 10-5, Sat 11-3 Tidewater Gallery, 223 E. Weber Ave. Reception July 11, 5-8 pm. 463-4033

Nov 1-Dec 14

Cinderella musical by Rogers and Hammerstein, Thu 7:30 pm, Fri-Sat 8 pm, Sun 2:30 pm. Stockton Civic Theatre, 2312 Rose Marie Lane, Stockton \$12-\$23. 473-2424.

Tues, Oct 21

Educator Workshop with Kati B. Musical Chairs Children's Concert Series. 7-9 pm, Scottish Rite Auditorium, 33 W. Alpine. \$15/\$20. 209-462-2536.

Wed, Oct 22

Memorial service for Reid Cerney, 11 AM, St. Anne's church in Lodi, 215 W. Walnut St. (209) 369-1907 (see p. 2).

Delta College Festival of Bands, 7:30 pm, Atherton Auditorium, Delta College, 5151 Pacific, Stockton. \$5 student/senior, \$8 general. 954-5110.

Fri, Oct 24

Stockton Chorale: Sing the Mystery, with Pacific Brubeck Institute Fellows. Works by Kodaly and Brubeck. Quail Lakes Baptist Church. \$20 adult/senior, \$10 under 18. 951-6494.

Sat-Sun, Oct 25-26

Studio@Central art show, the works of Helen Betz. 9 am-2 pm. Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Ave, Stockton. Free. 466-5046.

Sat, Oct 25

Afternoon of Bilingual Poetry and Music with Richard Rios and Rodolfo Garcia, 2:30-4 pm. Haggin Museum, Victory Park, 1201 N Pershing. Free to museum members and with admission (\$5 adults, \$2.50 age 10-17, free children under 10) 946-4400.

Sun, Oct 26

Stockton Chorale at St Johns Episcopal Church, Lodi (see Oct 24).

Stockton Opera previews The Barber of Seville with Peter Jaffe, 3-4 pm. Haggin Museum, Victory Park, 1201 N Pershing. Free to museum members and with admission (\$5 adults, \$2.50 age 10-17, under 10 free) 940-6315.

Mon, Oct 27

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

Tue Oct 28

Candlelight prayer vigil for peace, Annunciation Cathedral, Lincoln/Rose in Stockton, 7 pm sharp. "We pray to become people of peace, so wars will end." All welcome, candles provided. Ria deGroot, 462-3340.

Tue, Nov 4

ELECTION DAY. VOTE!

Wed, Nov 5

Meeting the Future II. Second town hall meeting sponsored by local cultural organizations. 1-2:30 pm, Chavez Public Library, Stockton. Sapce limited, RSVP. (see ad page 20)

Thu, Nov 6

Peace and Justice Network monthly meeting, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. 6 pm Board, 7 pm program. All welcome.

Fri, Nov 7

Hmong Culture Show. 5-9 pm at Civic Auditorium. Free (see ad this page).

Sat, Nov 8

Stockton in Postcards—Collecting Bits of History, discussion led by Alice van Ommeran and Ron Chapman. 2 pm. Chavez Central Library, 605 N El Dorado St, Stockton. Free. 937-8221

Nov 13 & Nov 15

Stockton Symphony featuring Patricia Shands clarinet: Copeland, Mozart, Franck. Thur 8 pm, Sat 6 pm. Atherton Auditorium, Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave. \$20-\$50. 951-0196

Tues, Nov 18

The Story Behind the Stockton Insane Asylum, discussion by Michael Wurtz. 6:30 pm. Chavez Central Library, 605 N El Dorado St. Free. 937-8221

Tues, Oct 21

Jose-Luis Orozco Children's Concert. Musical Chairs Series. 10 am and 7 pm, Scottish Rite Auditorium, 33 W. Alpine. \$8/\$10 209-462-2536.

Fri-Sat, Nov 21-22

San Joaquin Potters Guild Show and Sale, with Jeannine Calcagno Niehaus and the SJC High juried ceramics exhibition. Fri 5-9 pm, Sat 10 am-4 pm. St Basils Greek Orthodox Church, 920 W March Lane. Free. 477-4273

Sat, Nov 22

When Slaves Became Masters, a true life story of Pol Pot's Cambodia

presented by Rattana Pok. 2 pm. Chavez Central Library, 605 N El Dorado St, Stockton. Free. 937-8221

Fri and Sat, Dec 5 & 6

Peaceful Holiday Fair. Friday, Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Ave, Stockton, Free (see p. 20)

Thursdays

Peace demonstrations continue in October 5-6:30 pm. Beginning November 6, 4-5:30 pm. On grassy edge of the Delta College campus, north of stoplight at Yokuts. Signs provided. John Morearty, 464-3326.

Fridays

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

First Sundays

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

First Thursdays

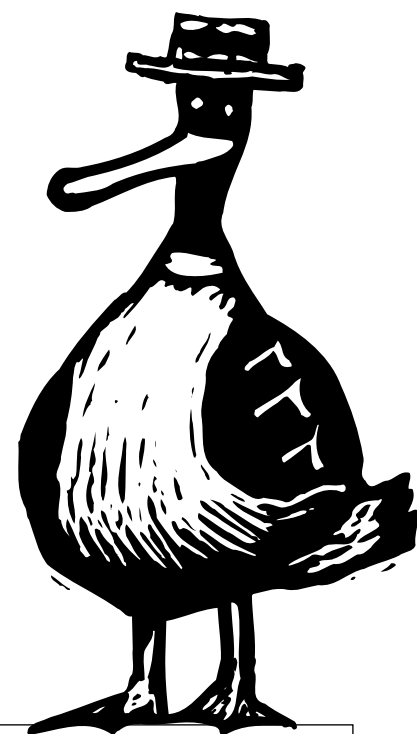
Experimental & improv music, 8 pm Blackwater Cafe, 914 N Yosemite, Stockton. \$3. 943-6938.


Third Thursdays

Hispanics for Political Action—HPA 6 pm at Cancun restaurant, downtown Stockton. 464-9205

Fourth Saturdays

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









HMONG CULTURE INSTITUTE

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Hmong Culture Show

Including: ♦ Culture displays ♦ Brief history of the Hmong
♦ Culture dances ♦ Folk songs ♦ Hmong music

November 7, 2008, 5:00 – 9:00 pm

Civic Auditorium
525 North Center St., Stockton, CA 95202

Free

For more information contact:

Wang Seng Thao (209) 969-5161

Kue Pao Thao (209) 430-8872

Dr. Ko Fang (916) 296-5089

Richmond Vang (209) 817-6160

Peace is Happening

Save the dates: December 5 and 6

Peaceful Holiday Fair promotes thoughtful gifts

Date and Time:

Friday, Dec 5, 4-9 pm
Saturday, Dec 6, 10 am-4 pm

Location:

Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton CA 95204

FREE admission



The Peace & Justice Network of San Joaquin County will present its 22nd annual Peaceful Holiday Fair on Friday and Saturday, December 5 and December 6.

This is a warm and friendly holiday event designed to encourage thoughtful holiday gift giving that reflects positive values and that benefits people rather than corporations.

As always, this alternative gift fair will have unique, nonviolent items for sale by local small businesses and nonprofit organizations. Vendors include local artists and craftspeople, artisans, local organizations, and international service organizations such as Concern. We'll be offering a variety of hand woven goods, artistic gems and jewelry, Native American crafts, items for children/infants, and Celtic imports.

The Peaceful Holiday Fair is a joyous event—an opportunity to meet friends, partake of refreshments, listen to music, and purchase gifts that are nonviolent and environmentally friendly. Please come and join us at Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton. You may contact 462-3489 for more information or to volunteer.



Gift giving requires special thought

Consider these questions before deciding on a gift:

- ☛ Does this gift reflect the values I want to share?
- ☛ Does this gift encourage conservation rather than consumption?
- ☛ Is this gift made of material that does not harm the environment?

- ☛ Does this gift stimulate spiritual, mental or physical growth?
- ☛ Who profits from my purchase of this gift?

The best gifts are:

- ☛ Appropriate for the person
- ☛ Especially thoughtful or sensitive to the person's needs
- ☛ Gifts of oneself

The worst gifts are:

- ☛ Oblivious to the person's real needs
- ☛ Reflective of negative values (violent, sexist, racist, etc.)
- ☛ Harmful to the environment
- ☛ Unsafe or socially irresponsible
- ☛ Pointlessly extravagant

“Meeting The Future II”

“Our approach to meeting the future must... be *systematic* (not piecemeal and divided into silos), *participative* (involving many people's ideas, energy, talent and expertise), and *emergent* (able to move and adapt nimbly in a minefield of uncertainty)” – Barry Boyce, Shambhala Sun, Sept.,2008



The SECOND Town Hall Forum
sponsored by
Stockton Arts Commission, SUSD Fine Arts Department
And
P.L.A.Y. Multi-Cultural Arts Organization.

“Meeting The Future 2”...

This is the 2nd convening of a growing list of community cultural organizations, policy makers, community and district level educational leaders and others for the purpose of **doing** “business in a new way”, **thinking** “outside of the box”, and **working as** “a unified community of diverse stakeholders” to make our community a better place to live for all.

-AGENDA BELOW-

WHEN: Wednesday, 5 November 2008
TIME: 1:00PM to 2:30PM
WHERE: Cesar Chavez Public Library (Stewart Hazelton Room), Stockton, CA

AGENDA/GOALS:

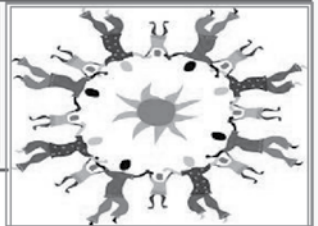
- Welcome—Introductions
- Network with new visitors & participants—individuals and organizations.
- Solicit/Brainstorm for willing panelist and speakers for Arts Building Communities Strong Conference of May 8th, 2009 - Stockton's first statewide conference on arts and education, community development through the arts and tackling the 21st century challenges facing local communities.
- Explore and identify viable opportunities to build on to current business and community development initiatives to better the quality of life for all, including infrastructural resources (facilities) to serve to enhance the cultural and arts sector of the city and county.
- Build community participation in developing local/regional cultural resources and economic opportunities.

Space limited to 70 participants...Please RSVP to....

Dean Gorby, Administrator for Visual and Performing Arts
Stockton Unified School District
EMAIL: dgorby@stockton.k12.ca.us

OR.....

Robert Rojas, Coordinator, Y.E.S.S. Multicultural Organization
EMAIL: coordinator@playmulticultural.com



P.L.A.Y. Multi-Cultural Arts Organization

STOCKTON
ARTS
COMMISSION



SUSD
Fine Arts
Department

connections

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Stockton, CA 95204 (209) 467-4455

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