

connections

PRICELESS

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October 2007

SAVE THE DATES

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PEACEFUL HOLIDAY FAIR

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Health care reform: waiting for single payer

Sen. Sheila Kuehl

Mr. President and Colleagues:

As you know, I have been working to secure real healthcare reform in California for a number of years now. Along with my continuing authorship of SB 840, the single payer universal health care bill, I've also actively participated with other authors trying to craft incremental attempts to reform the health insurance market.

This year, as the chair of the Senate Health Committee, I've seen my mission as making certain that everything got appropriately vetted and discussed, while at the same time, continuing to build support for 840. Activists, supporters, organizations, and the panoply of more than 700 organizations, those that the press refers to as the "grassroots", have done a magnificent job in building support for single payer.

This year, as I watched leadership and the administration try to craft a plan different from SB 840, an alternative health reform plan that might expand coverage this year, while preserving the role of insurance companies, the experience taught me why health reform has actually been so difficult to do over the past few years, and why every

proposed solution just seems to bring out new and often even bigger problems.

The attempts fail because, until we squarely face the fact that premiums imposed by the insurance companies are rising 3-4 times faster than wages every year, all the reforms that keep those insurance companies firmly in place are doomed to failure. The same is true of AB 8, which we are considering today.

As currently drafted, it doesn't pencil out in terms of money, it doesn't pencil out in terms of who's paying what, and, frankly, it definitely doesn't pencil out for consumers.

Our failing health care system has often been compared to the Titanic, and I've said in the past that attempts at reform are nothing but attempts to rearrange the deck chairs. AB 8, for a change, is actually trying to turn the boat. But some of you may know that, in fact, had the Titanic faced the iceberg head on, it would have survived, at least long enough to save most of its passengers. Turning the ship only partially was actually its downfall. It's clear to me that that is also the problem with AB 8.

Our health insurance company driven system has responded to runaway health care spending by

Gro Harlem Brundtland, former prime minister and climate change expert, coming to Stockton

October 18, 2007

6:30 pm Faye Spanos Concert Hall

Dr. Gro Brundtland, will present the Fall, 2007 Gerber lecture on October 18 at 6:30 pm in Faye Spanos Concert Hall. Dr. Brundtland was the first female Prime Minister of Norway, authored the path-breaking Brundtland Report on the global environment in the 1970s, was Director-General of the World Health Organization and is currently leading a UN Committee on Climate Change. Her talk will focus on the twin global challenges of health and climate change. The Gerber lecture is free and open to the public. For more information please call 209 946 2650



dismantling the entire system. The only questions they ask are "How many people can we turn away; how many of our clients can we kick out, how many people can we underinsure?" Rather than working to contain spending in a patient-centered manner, they've created huge profits for themselves by raising premiums, cutting benefits, and limiting access in countless ways.

So the governor was quite correct to say "Let's have a year of health reform." Unfortunately, however, it became more of a

Year of Magical Thinking, with apologies to Joan Didion for stealing her title. All the Governor has really done is to say, "I am sure we can solve this in nine months. Let's hurry up and do it".

To the credit of the authors of AB 8, they have worked and worked to try to do a good bill within the context of keeping the insurance companies in place.

They have said we will cap what employers have to pay and we will cap what employees have to

(continued page 2)

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A long line of crooks

Bruce Giudici

The process of entering your second half century and of preparing for a comprehensive history test sets one to reflect on the past and to project into the future. In reviewing the last fifty years of this nation's history, one is struck by the repeated duplicity of the executive branch of government. Perhaps due to the Cold War, or just to people of bad moral character, we have seen a procession of presidents who, while perhaps no different from those that preceded them, were, nonetheless, ethically challenged to say the least. Starting with a womanizing Kennedy (blackmailed by a manipulative FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover into wiretapping Martin Luther King, Jr., among others) who invaded Cuba and started us into Vietnam, we follow with a long list of liars who, by the way, have dishonestly spent so much more than they have brought in that now interest

on the national debt is the third most costly budget item, behind social security and "defense."

Let's see. Johnson poured bodies and treasure into Vietnam, over the protests of hundreds of thousands. Nixon—well, we only have so much space. Ford pardoned the Crook to "spare the nation" the pain of an impeachment. Carter allowed CIA funding of the Afghanistan religious zealot Taliban (coming home to roost 9/11). Reagan's operatives delayed an Iran hostage release so as to ensure his 1980 electoral victory, plunged the nation further into debt once elected, and oversaw a Nicaraguan Contra arms for hostages crime fit for impeachment—for which Congressional leaders thought they would "spare the nation" (Reagan's litany, like Nixon's, would (and has) filled many books). The first Bush subsequently pardoned Iran-Contra criminals, overlooked the

savings and loan criminals (which included one of his sons) and raised social security taxes on us working folks (starting a savings fund for his son began to loot as President not 12 years later) after getting elected on a pledge to not raise taxes. Clinton's avoidable bombing of Bosnia, ill-conceived and cruel 1996 election-year welfare reform and pandering to every monied interest on the planet led to the current resident's "victory" in 2000. How else could Bush 2000 beat "peace and prosperity"—unless you cheat? Once in, fear has ruled the country, with Bush fanning the flames, Cheney supplying the napalm.

The only way a George W. Bush becomes even a nominee for president is when viewed through the lens of what it means to be "presidential." As we look through the past 50 years, Bush fits. Each of his failings—the budget imbalance, invasions,

Bruce Giudici, editor



bombings, lies to Congress—it's all been done before. Only now, fittingly with the times, it's on steroids. And again, we look to the impeachment option for crimes committed. And again, we are told that we must "spare the nation" the trauma that would take hold if we actually held our "elected" president to the basic standard of not breaking the law.

The more we let them get away with, the more brazen they become. It has to stop somewhere. What would it hurt to hold criminals accountable—and not just for signalling a stranger in the adjacent toilet stall? Call your Senators and Representative to see what they have to say. And happy autumn.

Health care *(continued from page 1)*

pay. What remains uncapped are the premiums that the companies can charge for all this reform.

We have been told there is no individual mandate in this bill, but that is incorrect. If an employer pays into the pool, as their choice of how to spend their 7.5% of payroll contribution, then their employees must buy insurance from the pool. Only if the healthcare costs of those same employees would exceed 5% of their gross income can these employees be let out of the requirement to buy it, and what happens then? They are simply either uninsured or they can "choose" to pay the inflated premiums that might be heaped on them. For those employees whose employer puts 7.5% of payroll into insurance for his or her own employees, those employees are then required to "take up" the employer's insurance offer.

And again, if "accepting" the employer's insurance plan will cost them more than 5% of their wages, they don't have to take up the offer which means they're not going to be insured either,

if they can't afford the higher premiums.

The bill has come a long way, even since it went through the health committee, and I can understand why many of the unions are now in support of the bill because of the affordability provisions added to the bill.

Coverage problems

But there are still also major problems with the coverage provisions. Your employer might offer you a plan that costs you a little bit less than 5% of your gross income for the year, and you would have to buy it, but it might not cover what you need. It might be a minimal plan, a catastrophic plan. It might not have the drugs that you need for the condition you have—for cancer, for AIDS, etc. As we've seen in the last few months, it might not even cover pregnancy. AB 8 also has an entirely separate insurance pool for an undefined group of people with "serious" conditions. We don't know if that's chronic conditions, we don't know who will be in that pool. And frankly

there's no protection for them in terms of what they might have to pay.

So I see a number of real flaws in this much improved bill.

I continue to believe that the movement that's been building for single payer, a movement that has seen support for a single payer universal healthcare system more than double over the last six months alone, will continue to build in '08, in '09, and in 2010. Then, with a new governor, perhaps there might finally be a chance to get a signature on the bill that is actually the best solution for businesses, for employees, and for all the people in California. Because if you take the insurance companies out of the system, and they are the only entity that adds no value at all to the provision of healthcare, the overall costs for healthcare in California drop \$19 billion in the first year alone, simply because we're finally not paying their inflated overhead and profit.

So I am a no vote on this bill.

I praise those who have been

working on this bill for trying. But I encourage those who believe this bill is deeply flawed to join me in voting no. I know that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have problems different from my own and will not vote for it. For those who will vote for it on my side, I understand you are voting your hopes. Many of you also have told me you know that 840 is the only real solution.

So I'm also asking you to stay with me on SB 840; it's not going to the Governor for a veto. Next year we'll continue to develop it, hold it up as the right standard for California, and work with everyone we can, until the day when we understand that facing the iceberg head on is the only way we are going to save everyone on the ship. For more info, contact Office of Senator Sheila Kuehl, State Capitol Room 5108, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 651-4023.

Source: Senate Floor Statement from Senator Sheila Kuehl Re: Assembly Bill 8, 9/10/07

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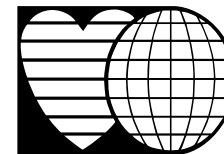
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SJ County Health Care Coalition forms and acts

A new coalition has been formed to address the critical need of health reform with an emphasis on San Joaquin County. A wide assortment of groups, including labor, faith and clergy, and community advocates, has been meeting for about six months. The common goal is to push the state to act decisively on reforming what everyone sees as a broken "system" of health care.

The Coalition is made up of:

- California Service Employees Union, (CSEA)
- League of Women Voters
- Health Care for All San Joaquin
- People and Congregations Together (PACT)
- Stockton Teachers Association
- Its Our Healthcare (IOH)
- Community Partnership for Families
- Lao Family of Stockton
- Catholic Diocese of Stockton
- Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE)
- California Association of Retired Americans (CARA)
- El Cuncilio
- California Childrens Health Initiative
- BWOPA
- California Nurses Association
- NAACP Stockton Branch
- Peace and Justice Coalition
- SEIU 1021

How many people in our county does this list represent. Probably tens of thousands.

What does a varied group like this have in common? Each group has constituents that are now being hurt by having no health insurance or at too high a cost. Each group has committed itself to work with each other to push our state legislators to provide real help this year.

What has been accomplished? A great deal, actually. Look at this list of sponsored activities this past summer.

June

A meeting at St Paul's Methodist Church in Stockton brought out

Representative Jerry McNerney as well as representatives from our state legislators to speak to a crowd of two hundred. Those assembled heard Rep McNerney support universal health care. They heard the stories of those hurt by lack of insurance and they listened to Sara Rogers, of Senator Shiela Kuehl's office, speak to SB 840, the single payer legislation passed last year (vetoed by the Governor) and reintroduced this year.

July

A large group of 400 met at Central Methodist Church to confront our state representatives about their willingness to support real health care reform. The legislators who showed up were, Senator Machado, and Assemblymembers Aghazarian Nakanishi. Assemblymember Galgiani didn't attend.

Those legislators in attendance were presented with a list of principles that the Coalition developed and were asked to sign off on supporting them.

The principles that were displayed and discussed during the July meeting were:

1. That as a basic human right every person living in California — man, woman or child, employed or not, retired or not — can receive appropriate and affordable medical attention from a doctor in his/her office, a hospital, or a clinic without emotional or financial duress regardless of race, creed, financial status or physical condition and that this right is not attached to insurance;

2. That any proposal developed supports a patient's freedom to select and keep their own doctor or licensed medical provider, so they have access to the care they need and dignity in the way care is provided;

3. That employers and government must join workers in sharing responsibility and risk;

4. That any proposal developed include a greater transparency and oversight to better contain healthcare costs, protect benefits and prevent increased financial barriers to care; and

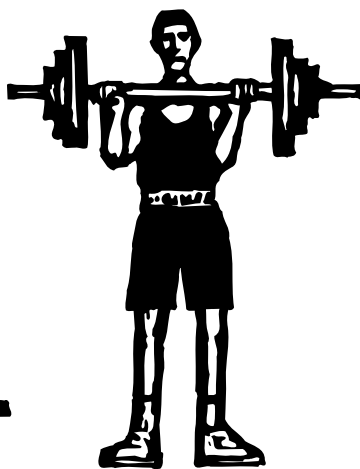
5. That any health care reform must include a plan to cover all California children.

Of our representatives, only Machado signed off on them. Aghazarian would only commit to his own definition of reform and Nakanishi said he would support the concept, but not the principles themselves. This contorted dance around commitment by the last two was seen as the definition of political double talk.

August

Health Care for All San Joaquin sponsored a faith-based weekend teach-in on health reform. Temple Israel, Central Methodist Church, St Anne's Episcopal Church and the Unitarian Universalist Church all allowed speakers to educate their congregations on the benefits of a single payer health system.

ACTION: The San Joaquin County Health Care Coalition is providing information and education to community groups, local and state elected leaders and anyone else interested in health reform issues. If your group, congregation or club wants to learn more, contact the Coalition through one of the above groups or call or email Rose Roach, CSEA, Stockton.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We're on the web too!

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

<http://www.pjnsjc.org>



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Save Our Strength, Save Old Stockton

Joy Neas

Stop needless demolitions in Stockton. Please write the City Council before October 15 and ask them to save all the historic downtown hotels scheduled for demolition negotiating with developers to preserve them for needed housing and inclusion in the entertainment district being planned. All the hotels have been nominated to be included on the National Register of Historic Places which will be decided by the State Office of Historic Preservation on November 9, 2007. Stockton's Campaign for Common Ground is requesting that an impartial study of parking needs be undertaken and made public before any hotels are demolished. They are also asking that the feasibility of restoring each hotel be studied before they are written off as expendable.

ACTION: Ask the City Council to preserve the hotels so that they can be part of the national register and heritage tourism in the City of Stockton.

Letters can be addressed:

Attention: Stockton City Council
(or your own representative)
City Hall
425 N. El Dorado
Stockton, CA 95202



Let the City Council know that saving the hotels is a top priority.

Express your outrage at the proposal to demolish 385 housing units in downtown Stockton for 130 parking spaces.

Demolition of the hotels will not result in a gain of any parking

spaces since construction of the new county building on the corner of San Joaquin and Weber will be removing 130 parking spaces.

The City Council meeting to decide the fate of the eight downtown hotels is scheduled for sometime in October. The date and time will be announced.



Insurance money has governor's ear

Stanley Thomas

Our nation's founders established our constitution, in part to "promote the general Welfare." However, in our time, many American citizens from all walks of life have lost sight of some of the fundamental principles in the world's oldest written constitution.

One way to "promote the general Welfare" is to spend the "common wealth" (raised through fair and equitable taxation) for the "common good." This is how every resident, rich or poor, white or non-white, native-born or immigrant, is provided with police protection in a city, paid for by fair and equitable taxation. The same is true of fire protection. These safety and security services are rights provided to every resident.

The business of government is to "establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity." On the other hand, the business of business is profit. But when it comes to health care, the majority of Americans think and act as if they've been infected with a deadly virus. That deadly virus is the false premise that the business of business includes providing health insurance to all of their employees. The corollary of that is that the field is left wide open to a badly-regulated, predatory health insurance industry. The well-heeled health insurance industry with its hundreds of lobbyists nationwide (four health insurance lobbyists for every legislator in Washington D.C.) has Americans by the throat. Almost every Californian can tell horror stories of the consequences of this disastrous arrangement.

In Sacramento, Senator Sheila Kuehl reintroduced SB840 "OneCareNow" in February.

SB840 is a single-payer, universal coverage health insurance system for all Californians. If this bill became law, health services would continue to be provided by the private sector. Essentially, the system would be financed by fair and equitable taxation. Every other industrialized democracy in the world has some form of a single-payer health care

system. As a consequence of our "privatized" health insurance system—compared with every other industrialized democracy—our infant mortality is far worse (the U.S. at #42 scores lower than Cuba) and our blizzard of health-care-related personal bankruptcies is at a level unknown to those with a single payer system. The World Health Organization ranks the U.S. 37th in overall health performance; in the fairness of health care, we're 54th. The citizens of all these other countries enjoy greater longevity (we're #35) and the health care cost per capita is barely more than a third of ours (\$2,307 vs. \$6,280 in 2004). And by now, who among us doesn't know that nearly 50 million Americans are without health insurance because of our privatized health insurance system?

SB840 passed both houses of the California legislature in August of last year. Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed the legislation. The California health insurance industry had successfully bought and paid for the governor.

Insurance interests

Not long before the 2006 veto of SB840 by Governor Schwarzenegger, Peter Nicholas of the Los Angeles Times wrote an article that was published in

The Record (9/24/06) headed "Insurance Has Governor's Ear, Analysis Shows." Dear reader, go to your local library and look up the story. Excerpts from the article read:

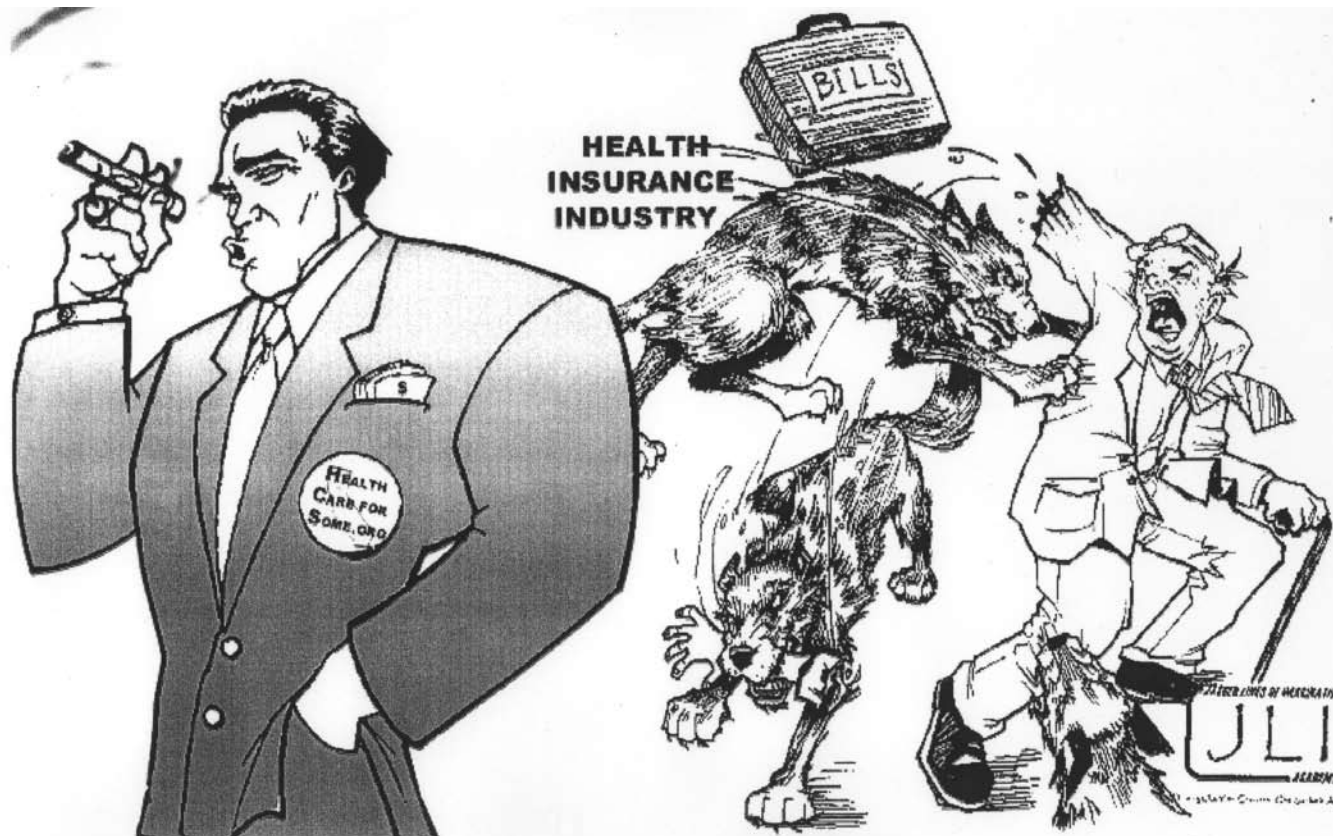
"With a one-time State Farm official and a former insurance lobbyist in top staff jobs, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is repeatedly siding with insurers in legislative battles as they maneuver to fend off fees, fines and concessions to policyholders.... A veteran insurance lobbyist, Dan Dunmoyer, is the governor's deputy chief of staff, helping to craft his entire policy portfolio. Former State Farm official Kathleen Webb is Schwarzenegger's insurance adviser, vetting insurance-related bills and recommending which he should sign into law...Both have given the insurance industry special access to Schwarzenegger's government and taken positions that protect insurers' financial interests. Webb, in particular, has met continually with industry trade groups and attended private meetings where insurance lobbyists plot strategy and discuss ways to push their agenda, her calendar shows. She has not recorded a single meeting with a consumer representative."

Further on in the article, Peter Nicholas adds, "Meanwhile,

insurance money has poured into Schwarzenegger's campaign accounts. Since he jumped into the recall campaign in 2003, he has collected about \$4.4 million in donations from insurance interests."

The California media refuses to acknowledge the existence of SB840. There is a host of organizations in support of SB840. I plead with them to mobilize

their constituency. Get the media to start telling the story of SB840 on the front page, often, fairly and completely. The Governor has every reason to repeat last year's veto when the opportunity comes. Stop him. Start now. Flood his office with phone calls and letters and e-mails (Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814; 916/445-2841)



Stop making excuses

"We have to stop making excuses for ourselves. That's the key. We have to multiply our own civic energies with our neighbors, our relatives, our coworkers, our friends. When that happens, when word of mouth takes over as the prime communications system in this country, nothing can stop it. We have to replace big talk with small talk. And we have to make it apparent to millions of people that striving for justice is one of life's greatest gratifications. In fact, outside of the family, it is the greatest gratification. Without justice, there's no such thing as liberty and freedom, there's no such thing as fulfilling life's possibilities."

—from an interview with Ralph Nader by Amy Goodman on Democracy Now, July 9 2007. <http://www.democracynow.org/article.pl?sid=07/07/09/131226>



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2007 Initiative update

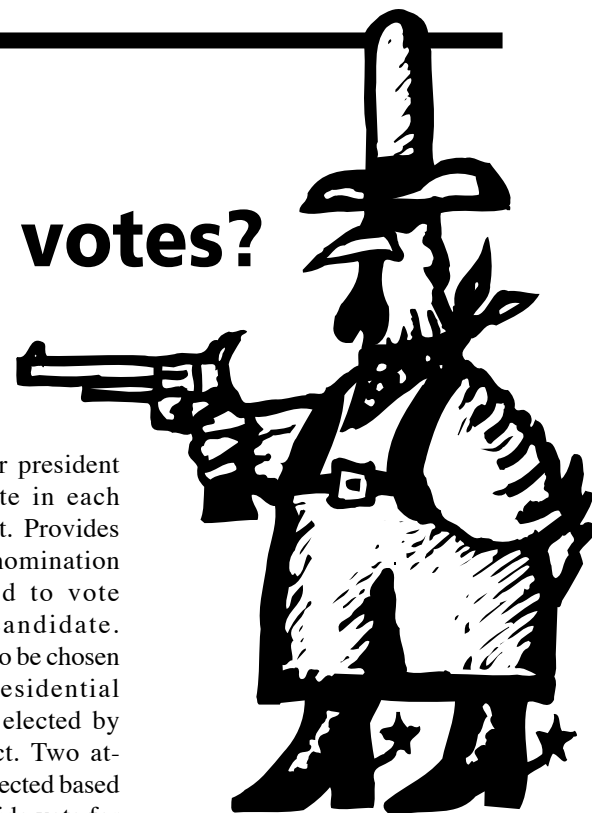
GOP to steal our votes?

An initiative now circulating would change how electors are selected for the 2008 Presidential election. By allocating electoral votes district-by-district (rather than the current method of taking the state as a whole), Californians would be contributing up to 22 additional electoral votes to the Republican candidate—a total equal to the state of Ohio. Absent such "reform" nationwide, the proposal appears to be a highly partisan power grab. The initiative follows:

Presidential Electors. Political Party Nomination and Election by Congressional District. Statute. Summary Date: 9/5/07 Circulation Deadline: 2/4/08 Signatures Required: 433,971 Proponent: Thomas W. Hiltachk (916) 442-

7757.

R e q u i r e s California to join two other states in selecting electors for president by the plurality vote in each congressional district. Provides for political party nomination of electors pledged to vote for that party's candidate. Independent electors to be chosen by independent presidential candidates and also elected by congressional district. Two at-large electors to be selected based on plurality of statewide vote for president. Mandates that electors vote for candidate for whom they are pledged. Eliminates \$10 compensation and 5 cents per mile reimbursement of electors. Summary of estimate by



Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Reduced state expenses of less than \$10,000 every four years. (Initiative 07-0032.) (Full Text)

Voter purging: how Republicans win elections

Steven Rosenfeld

The Department of Justice's Voting Section is pressuring 10 states to purge voter rolls before the 2008 election based on statistics that former Voting Section attorneys and other experts say are flawed and do not confirm that those states have more voter registrations than eligible voters, as the department alleges.

Voting Section Chief John Tanner called for the purges in letters sent this spring under an arcane provision in the National Voter Registration Act, better known as the Motor Voter law, whose purpose is to expand voter registration. The identical letters notify states that 10 percent or more of their election jurisdictions have problematic voter rolls. It tells states to report "the subsequent removal from rolls of persons no longer eligible to vote."...

The 10 states receiving Voting Section purge letters are Iowa, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Carolina, Rhode

Island, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Vermont. Since 2005, the Section has also sued six other states or cities—Indiana, Maine, New Jersey, Philadelphia and Pulaski County, Arkansas—where purging voter rolls was part of the resulting settlement. Only Missouri fought a Voting Section suit, winning in federal court, although that decision has been appealed...

The voter roll purges are part of an unprecedented effort at the Justice Department to eliminate "voter fraud," which, as defined by Republican activists, is an assumption that Democratic political operatives or sympathetic political organizations have filed fake voter registrations or encouraged supporters to vote more than once to win elections. These claims have been investigated by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and academics and found to be without merit. However, the Bush administration's Justice Department, starting under former Attorney General John Ashcroft,

has devoted considerable resources to prosecuting "voter fraud." The effort to pressure states to additionally purge voter rolls is a trickle-down effect of these policies.

Voter roll purges, if incorrectly done, can be a factor in determining election outcomes—particularly in tight races. Unlike most of the "voter fraud" cases cited by GOP activists, where a handful of registrations—usually in the single digits—from big voter registration drives are found to be erroneous, purges can affect thousands of voters. In Florida and Missouri in 2000, a total of 100,000 legal voters were incorrectly removed, according to academics and local election officials. In Cleveland in 2004, voter purges were a factor behind long lines and people leaving without voting as poll workers dealt with people who did not know they had been removed from voter lists, various media reported.

Source: *Alternet* 9/11/07 <<http://www.alternet.org>>.

Iraq—moving out, slowly

The Iraq Study Group Implementation Act (S. 1545), would require the U.S. to transform its first, tentative moves to negotiate with Iraq's neighbors and warring factions into a full-court diplomatic press in the region and inside Iraq. The bill already has seven Republican and seven Democratic sponsors in the Senate, and substantial bipartisan support in the House. It would create irresistible pressure for the withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from Iraq.

This legislation will not end the war in Iraq tomorrow. But it would

establish a radical new framework of multilateral engagement for U.S. policy to de-escalate and withdraw U.S. troops from Iraq, tamp down extremism, and re-stabilize the region. This is also the only legislation that could win the approval of a strong, bipartisan majority in the Senate. Approval of this legislation would be a first step toward compelling the president to change policy in Iraq. If the Senate can put politics aside in September and vote on the ISG bill, it will be taking the first step to make a real change in U.S. policy on Iraq.

ACTION: Urge your senators to cosponsor the Iraq Study Group Implementation Act (S. 1545) and to offer that legislation as an amendment to the military authorization bill when it comes to the floor in September. Ask them to let you know what happens after the vote. Ask two friends to do the same.

Source: *Friends Committee on National Legislation alert, 9/1/07. FCNL, 245 Second St NE, Washington, DC 20002 800-630-1330 www.fcnl.org*

Path to Iraq peace

Sixteen Iraqis from feuding factions met recently in Helsinki Finland with leaders who brought peace to two of the world's most troubled lands, South Africa and Northern Ireland.

Fifteen years ago, the nonviolent resistance of Nelson Mandela and Bishop Desmond Tutu brought an end to apartheid in South Africa, without a bloodbath. Five years later, South Africans took the northern Irish under their wing and shared how they'd made peace; just this year, Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland,

who had feuded and killed each other for 400 years, formed a joint government.

Now the Irish and the South Africans are sharing their hard-won lessons with the suffering Iraqis. The dramatic and hopeful story is all over the British press; go online and search the Guardian and the Independent.

Someone said, hope always comes from the fringe. Have the poor South Africans and Irish something urgent to teach the world?



All the news that fits, we print...

	% following situation in Iraq "very closely"	% of national news hole devoted to Iraq war	% Gap
July 1-6	36	3	33
July 8-13	25	4	21
July 15-20	28	6	22
July 22-27	28	3	25
July 29-August 3	29	5	24
August 5-10	36	5	31
August 12-17	33	5	28
August 19-24	34	5	29

While Americans remain interested in news from Iraq, mainstream media covered it little over the summer. Concerning the Iraq war, the above graph shows a gaping difference between public interest (between 25% and 36% of the public followed the Iraq war closely) and news coverage (media filled between 3% and 6% of their news space with Iraq news). The result? By not reporting the bad news, Americans have less reason to support withdrawal; only information from "trusted" military is reported; the war continues.

Source: *Media Matters for America, 9/5/07 <http://mediamatters.org/columns/200709050002>*

Democrats can stop this war now

Following a pattern set when Congress passed supplemental funding for the Iraq War last May (FAIR Media Advisory, 6/1/07), major media outlets continued to "explain" the politics of the war in incomplete and misleading ways. The point made by these media outlets again and again is that the Democrats have little power to affect policy in Iraq because it would be difficult to pass legislation over a potential Republican filibuster, and even harder to pass a bill over a presidential veto. This sentiment is also voiced by many Democratic politicians, many of whom consider themselves opponents of the war. But passing a filibuster—or veto-proof bill is not their only option...

The problem with these accounts is that Congress does not have to pass legislation to bring an end to the war in Iraq—it simply has

to block passage of any bill that would continue to fund the war. This requires not 67 or 60 Senate votes, or even 51, but just 41—the number of senators needed to maintain a filibuster and prevent a bill from coming up for a vote. In other words, the Democrats have more than enough votes to end the Iraq War...if they choose to do so.

The Democratic leadership may believe—rightly or wrongly—that such a strategy would entail unacceptable political costs. But that's very different from being unable to affect policy. To insist, as many media outlets have, that the Constitution makes it impossible for Congress to stop the war obscures the actual choices facing the nation—by confusing "can't" with "won't."

Source: *FAIR release 9/13/07 <<http://www.fair.org/index.php?page=3177>>*

The Center is ours...please help

The Peace & Justice Center is a tangible expression of our commitment to a just and peaceful world.

While PJN operates on a shoestring, the Center requires a bigger shoestring. Our costs are simple: rent, lights, phone, insurance. We believe the benefits to our community are well worth the cost.

Consider a monthly pledge. That is a big help. Or a one-time donation of \$100,000...whatever you are comfortable with.

Thank you for being part of this great adventure.

Black Americans under attack

Amaad Rivera

People of color and the poor of this country are under attack, and they are losing. It is a fact that must move us toward collective action and a call for accountability on the part of our government.

Forty years ago, Martin Luther King declared that the Vietnam War was, in actuality, a war on the American poor. He eloquently stated, "It seemed as if there was a real promise of hope for the poor—both Black and white—through the poverty program[s]. There were experiments, hopes, [and] new beginnings. Then came the buildup in Vietnam and I watched the program broken and eviscerated as if it were some idle political plaything of a society gone mad with war, and I knew

that America would never invest the necessary funds or energies in rehabilitation of its poor so long as adventures like Vietnam continue to draw men and skills like some demonic destructive suction tube."

Looking at the current situation in our country, the war in Iraq—we must come to a similar conclusion. Muhammad Ali's statement resonates today as it did during the Vietnam era: "If I thought going to war would bring freedom and equality to 22 million of my people, they wouldn't have to draft me. I'd join tomorrow."

King articulates in later speeches that war is not the only activity that damages the foundation of the American dream for the most disfranchised—the poor and

Black. It is aided and abetted by economic exploitation and racism. In essence, the poor and the Black are under attack by a triple threat.

With an eye on the past and a vision for the future, we have to look at the current political and social climate of this country with holistic criticism and calls for change. At this moment, we have spent \$384 billion on the war in Iraq. This summer we saw the dismantling of the historic Brown v. Board of Education court decision. This year we heard the housing bubble pop with one of the highest foreclosure rates in history. And today we feel the effects of having the largest disparities between the wealthy and the poor since the Great Depression, 78 years ago.

In the aftermath of these attacks—by high war spending, structural racism and economic exploitation we can see that the economic well-being of the poor and Blacks is the greatest casualty.

The exorbitant amount of money spent on the war in Iraq is draining our country's ability to provide quality anti-poverty programs to alleviate the growing economic stresses on the poor. This war is happening at the cost of our most marginalized people and our future generations.

As a country, we need to look at the structural racism that persists in our legal system and public policies. Two years after Katrina, many homes are still not rebuilt. Individuals and families remain displaced. Promises made by our government have not been kept. Diversity policies in colleges are being eliminated and only three percent of the poorest of this country attend the wealthiest top universities, even though more have appropriate qualifications. Only 30 percent of Blacks go on to college. Blacks are six times as likely as whites to have been imprisoned at some point in their lives; according to the 2004 State of the Dream report issued by United for a Fair Economy, one out of three Black males will be imprisoned during their lifetime. The weapon of structural racism in our legal and public policy system is incredibly destructive.

It continues to limit the economic mobility of people of color.

Often not mentioned as a weapon in the arsenal of the war on the Black and poor, is the economic exploitation that is ingrained in our country. Economic exploitation has slowly, and begrudgingly, become part of recent political discourse. While it struggles to rise to the forefront of mainstream discourse, it moves swiftly and unquenchably in communities of color and poverty across the nation.

Poverty rates nationally have more than quadrupled in communities of color, compared to their white counterparts. For every \$1 of white wealth, Blacks have 15 cents. Less than half the Black population owns homes, and 40 percent of those homes have sub-prime mortgage loans. These loans offer low rates, but after an initial period, typically 1-3 years, the mortgage payments skyrocket, for some to levels twice that of the initial monthly payment. These predatory practices leave families with mortgages they cannot afford and homes that will eventually undergo foreclosure. We are currently dealing with the greatest foreclosure rates in recent business history.

Homeownership is a keystone of the American dream and accounts for the largest percentage of wealth held by families and individuals in this country. Due to the triple threat, it is receding further from the grasp of the poor and people of color. Exploitation is cleaving the American dream in half, creating two dreams—Black and white, rich and poor, economically secure and economically strapped.

There is a war going on, but it's not in Iraq, it's in this country. Not only is it a war on the poor and Black, but it's also a war against the foundation of equality and liberty that this country was built upon. The triple threat has begun and continues to shake the foundation of our country, leaving in its wake those who have voices but are not heard. War, racism and economic exploitation continue to erode and destroy the path for the poor and Black to get merit for their work and obtain the wealth they deserve, promise of which our constitution holds out so enticingly.

This is not a Black issue, nor is it just a person of color issue; it is a United States issue. Inequality hurts everyone and continues to infect our society. Let us call for the antibiotic of truth, accountability and fairness. Let us create a healthy country, all of whose people thrive. When we allow our country to dismantle the dreams of its people, what will we lose next?

In the words of Langston Hughes:

What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up

like a raisin in the sun?

Or fester like a sore --

And then run?

Does it stink like rotten meat? Or crust and sugar over --

like a syrupy sweet?

Maybe it just sags like a heavy load.

Or does it explode?

Source: *Black Agenda Report via Alternet, 9/5/07.*



Contact Your Reps

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The exorbitant amount of money spent on the war in Iraq is draining our country's ability to provide quality anti-poverty programs to alleviate the growing economic stresses on the poor.

Support better community-police relations

Mark Schlosberg & Alicia Walters, ACLU of Northern California

In August 2006, the California Supreme Court—in a case called *Copley Press v. Superior Court*—issued a decision that has had the effect of closing off all public access to critical information regarding citizen complaints about police misconduct and discipline stemming from such violations. The decision shuts the public out from key information about the police department and has done great damage to community-police relations. The time is now for a legislative fix.

Access to records of police misconduct has a long history in California. Since 1974, the Supreme Court has affirmed the need for access to records of misconduct in order to determine an officer's credibility as a witness in criminal cases. In response to this decision in *Pitchess v. Superior Court*, several police departments including Los Angeles chose to shred this important information despite the ruling. The legislature responded with a compromise—records had to be held for 5 years, but internal police records had to be kept confidential.

The law, however, was never

intended to apply to independent and external agencies—civilian review boards and civil service commissions. For the past 30 years, such entities have provided important windows into how police complaints and discipline are handled in communities in California.

When egregious cases of police misconduct occur, communities deserve all pertinent information in order to begin healing. While most police officers do a great job often in difficult circumstances, there are those who engage in racial profiling, neglect certain communities over others, and resort to discriminatory or otherwise unacceptable behavior. Public access to the relevant information in cases of police misconduct builds greater trust between police and the communities they serve and increases a department's credibility.

A big step backwards

The recent *Copley Press* decision, however, did away with such gains in community-police relations, casting the same veil of secrecy over these oversight bodies as existed many decades ago. Now, unlike for all other public employees, lawyers, and doctors, the public is prohibited from knowing if an officer has been disciplined—or even terminated—for serious misconduct.

If a police officer is found to have engaged in excessive force, racial profiling, or an improper arrest, the public will never know or be able to learn what, if any, discipline occurred as a result. This has severely hurt communities in many ways. For instance, relatives of individuals killed by the police cannot find out the details of their loved one's death—as is the case with Steve Salinas in San Jose, who died after being hit with Tasers by the police. In another case—where a 13 year-old boy was killed by Los Angeles police officers, the Police Commission concluded that the shooting was out of policy while the department's investigation cleared the subject officer. Los Angeles Police Chief William Bratton wanted to be able to share this information with a public that was outraged, confused, and

distrustful of the department. Because of this decision, he was prevented from doing so and called for the legislature to fix this mess.

Fortunately, Senator Gloria Romero (D-Los Angeles) has authored Senate Bill 1019 (SB 1019), which would overturn *Copley Press* and restore public access. It would provide communities the flexibility to develop procedures at the local level for the independent evaluation and public review of police complaint and disciplinary information, restoring a measure of accountability that is sorely needed.

A broad coalition of individuals and organizations (ranging from civil rights organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Union, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, and the California First Amendment Coalition to progressive law enforcement leaders including the Chiefs of Police in Oakland, Los Angeles, East Palo Alto, and Newark) has come together to support SB 1019. Dozens of newspapers throughout the state have editorialized to support its passage.

Current status

SB 1019 passed the Senate, but is being held in the Assembly Public Safety Committee after members there—including Greg Aghazarian—refused to allow the measure to be voted on. SB 1019 has now become a two year bill and will be back before the Committee next year.

Police play a critical role in our community and we all should have a right to know about the few officers who are abusing the badge and whether or not the police department is taking appropriate measures to discipline them.

ACTION: There are several ways to get involved in the campaign to pass SB 1019. To hear more about what you can do, attend the October 4th gathering of Stockton's Peace and Justice Network where a speaker from this coalition will be present to talk about how we can ensure healthy community-police relations now and in the future. Also, you can receive alerts of upcoming actions in support of the bill and the movement for police accountability, by signing up for our e-alert list. Simply email Alicia Walters at awalters@aclunc.org. Together we can work towards more transparent, accountable, and effective policing.

Don't fail freedom: stop warrantless wiretaps

When Congress passed a bill allowing for massive, untargeted collection of international communications—without court order or meaningful oversight by either Congress or the courts—they crossed the line and played into the hands of the Bush administration. Instead of restoring our freedoms, they actually handed the administration vast new powers to invade our privacy with no meaningful oversight from the courts or Congress.

Though the law expires in 6 months, momentum is quickly building to pass a permanent FISA "modernization" bill very soon. This is a critical time to keep pressure on Congress to fix

the flawed FISA law. If we leave a vacuum for even a moment, the debate will be defined by selective and politically motivated intelligence leaks that skew the debate, and by fear of appearing "soft on terrorism" during election season.

ACTION: Contact your Representative and Senators demanding they protect and defend the Constitution, starting with immediate fixes to the outrageous FISA legislation that made warrantless NSA spying on Americans legal.

Source: ACLU alert 9/6/07. ACLU, 125 Broad Street, 18th Floor New York, NY 10004 <http://action.aclu.org/>

A note from your government



Sorry we missed you ...

While you were out, agent _____ stopped by on behalf of ...

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CIA | <input type="checkbox"/> DEA | <input type="checkbox"/> Dept. of Homeland Security |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FBI | <input type="checkbox"/> IRS | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Security Admin. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NSA | <input type="checkbox"/> FAA | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Total Information Awareness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INS | <input type="checkbox"/> SEC | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ATF | <input type="checkbox"/> FDIC | <input type="checkbox"/> Your local police department |

Because you were out, we decided to ...

- Ask your __neighbors__ children __spouse about you.
- Inspect your __garden__ garage __car__ pets.
- Let ourselves into your __residence__ business.
- Read your __mail__ diary __Rolodex__ daily planner.
- Place a wiretap on your telephone.
- Install __video__ audio surveillance equipment.
- Inspect your __computer__ books __spice rack__ fridge.
- We're sorry, this information is privileged in accordance with the Patriot Act.

As a result of our visit ...

- You should feel safer, knowing that your government is doing all it can to protect you.
- You are considered a "person of interest" and may be subject to monitoring, media harassment, etc.
- You are under arrest and are advised to turn yourself in immediately to local law enforcement authorities.
- You are wanted for questioning. Please call 800 555-5555 to arrange a convenient time to be interrogated.

Again, we are sorry that we missed you, but rest assured, we know where you live.

INFOWARS.COM

A democracy academy proposed: seeds of peace

Jim Walsh

"If we do not teach our children peace, someone else will teach them violence."

—Coleman McCarthy, author of *I'd Rather Teach Peace*

Goals

To construct a new model for democratic community learning that will develop active, peace minded citizens. To make peace development programs available to any interested youth throughout San Joaquin County.

Mission

To provide education to address the greatest needs facing our communities.

"The Peace & 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."

Sample week:

Monday

- The Journey of Crazy Horse Audio CD w/discussion
- Democratic Therapy

Tuesday

- Team building, personal empowerment
- Community Gardens

Wednesday

- Freedom Writers
- Writing and Journaling
- Digital Video Prod.

Thursday

- Youth for Freedom
- A Teach Peace program
- Website Design
- Internet Research
- Computer Literacy

Friday

- JoJo White Our Hope/Video
- Violence Awareness
- Gun Violence/Video
- Violence Awareness

Mission Implementation

We help people acquire sufficient background for their role as citizens of a democracy. We help transform traumatized individual youth into a functioning cohesive force for non-violent change. We promote transparency and democratic processes by addressing the issues that are often considered by schools and other organizations to be controversial.

The idea

For many years now, Peace and Justice activists have lamented the lack of youth within our ranks. As the progressive community ages, it becomes absolutely imperative that we develop methods to reach out and draw young people into our movements. At the same time, programs for youth development and empowerment have failed to keep pace with the needs of our young population. Instead, programs have grown designed more to demonize and separate our youth population from the greater public by use of incarceration within the crime and punishment model. There is a better way.

For this new democracy academy, several organizations will be used as models, for resources and program ideas. The Highlander folk school, founded by Myles Horton in the early 30's, was based on a philosophy of the folk schools in Denmark, where curriculum was developed according to the needs of the student. According to Frank Adams, author of *Unearthing the Seeds of Fire: The Idea of Highlander*, "I believe education should foster individual growth and social change and nourish the fundamental value of complete personal liberty while encouraging thoughtful citizenship in community. I believe that education must be born of the creative tension between how life is lived and how life might be lived in a free society."

Teach Peace was founded by a group of concerned citizens including some PJN members led by David Dionisi of Davis, CA. Originally named Freedom From War, the organization underwent some growing pains as it developed. They surveyed

members and researched strategies, developed business plans and success strategies and through an open source website, have offered all of this valuable work to others to adapt and utilize. They have also already researched available programs and assembled them into appropriate curriculum.

Who's involved

Youth Matters brings with it a successful track record with existing and ongoing youth programs. Organizational affiliations with ESPINO, Youth In Focus, Prison Moratorium Project, and others make Youth Matters well-connected within the youth movement. Two Youth Matters advocates recently attended the US Social Forum in Atlanta and brought more requests for affiliations with national organizations. Youth Matters is led by Sammy Nunez, who founded the organization on the principles of nurturing the empowerment of youth.

The Peace and Justice Network of San Joaquin County has a twenty-five year history of social activist work and has built a wealth of resources through existing affiliated activities. PJN and Youth Matters currently collaborate on three endeavors:

Connections Newspaper—a monthly publication produced by PJN. Youth Matters participants have already published two articles, with many more to come. Soon to begin a regular youth section, Youth Matters participants have begun to assist with distribution of *Connections*.

Talking it Through—weekly 30 minute cable access TV talk show. Currently produced and hosted by Sammy Nunez, director of Youth Matters and sponsored by PJN, Youth Matters provides intern camera operators training and experience with television production. Digital video camera and editing equipment is being sought to expand this program.

Peace and Justice Center—Seeds of Fire will use the Center as a classroom, a mentoring and peer-to-peer counseling office, and an administrative office. Youth participants will gain access to the affiliated organizations of PJN and the



vast array of community leaders that support the PJN mission with programs designed to benefit both youth participants and the entire Stockton community.

Current programs

Some programs that are being implemented are:

JoJo White—Our Hope/Gun Violence in the US program: Taught with video and workbooks, a violence awareness and recovery program that has already begun with classes at Stagg High School is facilitated by Jim Walsh as part of the El Joven Noble program in a collaboration with Youth Matters.

Youth For Freedom: A Teach Peace program designed to engage youth in peace issues, including all elements of society necessary for a peaceful existence for humankind. Included with this program is an opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. in February 2008.

A Force More Powerful: A six-part video series depicting successful non-violent struggles for change from throughout history.

Freedom Writers journaling/writing program: The goal of the Freedom Writers Institute is to prepare teachers to use the Freedom Writer Method in order to improve the academic performance of their students. Led by Erin Gruwell, with support from original Freedom Writers

and other educators, the Institute is a year-long program centered on a five-day seminar designed to equip teachers with the tools they need to reach and empower their students. We would like to send teachers from throughout San Joaquin County to receive this 5 day training.

For the future

Some program ideas that need development and/or funding include: Website Design; Computer Literacy; Internet Research; Digital Video Production; Digital Audio Production; Democratic Therapy; and Creative Conflict Resolution. We are also seeking input and program suggestions from creative educators and social service professionals.

Scheduling will build and grow as we go. This should be a deliberate but flexible process. We will begin with a few incubator programs. Classes will not be confined to the PJ Center. Classes could be convened at CYA, Peterson Juvenile Hall, high school campuses, the Women's Center and other places where youth are. We will consider our entire county our classroom. The following sample schedule reflects a development goal for the rest of this year. Programs should be available to transport to remote locations and public facilities.

Learning and empowerment programs will seek to be action-

(continued next page)

A poverty quiz

1. What percent of poor children are in families with at least one working parent?
a) 20%, b) 45%, c) 65%
2. About what portion of U.S. jobs pay too little to keep a family of four out of poverty?
a) one tenth, b) one quarter, c) one third
3. For large metropolitan areas in 1999, the number of poor individuals was split almost evenly between central cities and their suburbs. Since 1999, the number of poor individuals has grown faster in:
a) central cities, b) suburbs, c) rural areas
4. If your income is below the poverty line in the U.S., are you most likely to be:
a) White, b) Black, c) Hispanic (of any race), d) Asian, or e) American Indian or Alaskan Native?
5. Which racial or ethnic group has the highest percentage of people living in poverty?
a) White, b) Black, c) Hispanic (of any race), d) Asian, or e) American Indian or Alaskan Native?
6. In 2005, 37 million people were officially considered "poor." About how many of those people were living in extreme poverty - with incomes below half of the poverty threshold?
a) 15 million, b) 10 million, c) 5 million
7. About what portion of elderly people in the U.S. would be poor if they didn't receive Social Security benefits?
a) 10 percent, b) 25 percent, c) 50 percent
8. About what portion of elderly people in the U.S. are poor, even though they receive Social Security benefits?
a) 10 percent, b) 25 percent, c) 50 percent
9. At the 350 largest public companies, the average CEO total direct compensation was \$11.6 million in 2005. How long does it take the average CEO to earn the annual pay of a full-time minimum wage worker?
a) 2 hours, b) six hours, c) 1 day

For more information on the answers to this quiz, visit <http://www.fcnl.org/issues/issue.php?issue_id=145>.

Answers to the poverty quiz:
1) c; 2) b; 3) b; 4) a; 5) e; 6) a; 7) c; 8) a; 9) a

Source: Friends Committee on National Legislation, 245 Second St NE, Washington, DC 20002 www.fcnl.org

Democracy Academy *(continued from page 10)*

based and sometimes peer led. For instance, working with the Community Gardens program will build skills and enhance knowledge of agriculture and at the same time advocate for a Community Gardens program to spread throughout the city and county. The Freedom Writers program will seek to train teachers and eventually publish excerpts from journals in Connections, create a video documentary and perhaps a publish a book. Digital Video Production will yield video documentaries on issues relevant to our community and, at the same time, develop marketable skills for youth to take into the job market. Field trip and travel programs will also be explored through Teach Peace and perhaps Global Exchange in SF.

Issues

Youth Matters currently works on issues affecting youth (youth incarceration, profiling, youth resources, etc.). PJN will lend its vast network of affiliations

to open opportunities for youth to work with other organizations working on a broad array of progressive issues. Some of those affiliated organizations with PJN are:

Health Care For All, a group working to bring single payer universal health care to all Californians; Restore the Delta, a coalition of organizations and individuals serving as watchdog over our inland estuary; Campaign for Common Ground, working for smart urban growth and affordable housing; City of Stockton, co-sponsor with PJN of annual Earth Day Festival; League of Women Voters; Interfaith Council of San Joaquin County; Sierra Club; Teach Peace; American Civil Liberties Union; and many more.

Needs

What we need now is the rich pool of experienced people in the Stockton area to come forth with program ideas, organizational collaboration suggestions,

funding sources and finally an 8-10 member founders committee that will share their skills and expertise as "active, peace-minded citizens." We need people who have worked for years for the common good and will rejoice at the opportunity to pass on their learning and their love to our youth. Besides a "start up cost analysis," an "operational budget" and a fundraising plan to accommodate these needs, we need active volunteers to facilitate classes and assist in transportation needs. We need class facilitators who can develop a lesson plan and design course work. We need to identify sources for youth referrals. This entire program needs to resemble a web of interconnectivity between the PJN community, our at-risk youth and the public social service community that will be serving their needs.

If you wish to be part of this exciting new project or if you just have some sage advice, call Jim Walsh at 981-0544.



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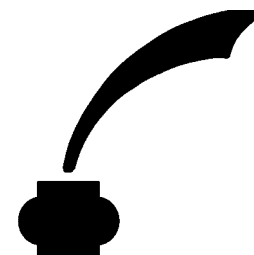
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A garden blooms in south Stockton neighborhood

Adrian and Karen Nickols

Tucked into the northwest corner of Stribley Park, in what would otherwise be labeled as a rough neighborhood here in Stockton, lays a glimmer of hope—a large bountiful garden patch that is the Stribley Community Garden. The garden has survived for over twenty years and for most of that time Lucille Cooper, 72 years old, and her husband Carl who is 82 years old, have managed the garden. We were lucky enough to be able to talk to Lucille on her front porch one pleasant, late-summer day.

“It fell into our laps”, Lucille said, describing how she and her husband became responsible for managing the garden. There was something timeless about our conversation with Mrs. Cooper on that breezy summer afternoon—she has lived in this neighborhood for most of her life and despite all of its changes, one could see by talking with her that Mrs. Cooper feels deeply rooted in this community; it is still home.

The Stribley garden is made up of 27 plots, each measuring 20 feet by 30 feet. Walk around the tall chain-linked fence that protects the garden and you will see pale yellow okra flowers, raspberries turning red, and purple beans spilling over the fence line. Once inside the garden, nearly every inch is planted except for narrow dirt paths and a few shady spots underneath the trees.

The garden consists of a collage of peppers, tomatoes, sugarcane, corn, squash, cucumber, nopales, peanuts, berries, and some medicinal herbs. For each plot, gardeners pay \$32 a year in order to cover the water bill. Otherwise, gardeners are left pretty much to themselves in how they plant and in which techniques they use to cultivate their vegetables. One of the few problems at the garden is that sometimes the water gets left on all night. According to Cooper, “they (the gardeners) know that if the water is left on they will be thrown out.” The only problem with stealing, added Cooper, are kids occasionally jumping over the fence.



From speaking with some of the gardeners and Mrs. Cooper, it becomes clear that gardening at Stribley Park is not a hobby; it is a way for the people in that neighborhood to help feed their families. There is a waiting list for people that would like a plot at the garden, but the plots are often passed down from elder family members to younger ones. Through planting successive crops and using fertilizers, the gardeners get the most that they can out of the land. Some families work their plots from six in the morning to six in the evening.

Certain gardeners bring their grandchildren to help with the harvest. Others share the responsibility of the plot with the entire family. Over the years people have brought in old chairs and placed them under the few shade trees in the garden that provide respite from the sun and heat. When I asked Mrs. Cooper about the chairs, she responded by saying that they were for people like her husband—elderly people who need to take a break while tending their plot. Evidently, a good number of the gardeners at Stribley fall under the category “elderly”. Like my grandfather who just turned eighty-five and still works his orchard of walnuts and cherries in Linden, these people’s spirit is tied directly to the land they work.

Mrs. Cooper said that the neighborhood around Stribley

used to be known as “Little Italy” because of the many Italian families that lived there. These families had illustrious gardens and many families raised chickens. There was even one family that had a cow in their backyard. Just as the Italian farmers before them, the mostly Asian and Latino farmers at the Stribley Community Garden understand and respect the potential a small piece of land can provide for a family to sustain itself.

The city owns the land on which the Stribley Community Garden sits and they have a written agreement with Lucille and Carl Cooper that puts them in charge of the garden. The city takes care of the green waste from the garden. Mr. Cooper maintains all of the water pipes. Entities like the San Joaquin County Agricultural Office and the American Friends Service Committee have helped in the past with funding, along with other individual community donors. The glue that holds the garden together, however, is Lucille and Carl Cooper. Their care for the people in their community is evident in seeing how much heart they have put into the garden.

If you would like to help the Stribley Community Garden to continue to flourish, please, send your donations to Carl & Lucille Cooper, 1647 E. Sonora, Stockton CA 95205.

Introducing our sustainability editors

Dear Readers,

We are grateful for the opportunity given to us to serve as co-editors for the new “Sustainable Agriculture” section of the *Connections* newspaper. We are grateful to be able to work in this capacity on a subject matter that we are both so passionate about.

Between the both of us, we have a few years of experience in sustainable agriculture. Adrian first became interested in farming while attending Humboldt State University and while volunteering at the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Farm in Bayside, CA. He then spent a summer in Washington State where he worked on various organic farms. Karen first became involved in farming at the age of 16, when she got a job at an organic farm in Ripon, CA. After graduating from Humboldt State University, she joined the Peace Corps, working with farmers in El Salvador as an Agro-Forestry Volunteer. Most recently, Adrian and Karen worked together with other volunteers on the Rose Marie Community Garden here in Stockton.

We believe that a strong community rests upon its ability to provide for itself. It is our mission to provide you with local examples of people doing exactly that. There is reason to be hopeful. In the San Joaquin Valley, there are creative, compassionate people doing good work in the area of sustainable agriculture.

Like any good farmer, we learn and grow with each year. In order for this page to grow and for us to continue learning, we need your advice, questions, ideas, and other feedback. We look forward to hearing from you. Please send correspondence to agconnections@sbcglobal.net

Sincerely,

Adrian and Karen Nickols



Local Sierra Club response to climate change

Stanley Thomas

Soon after Earth Day 2007 in Stockton, the 1,000-member Delta-Sierra Group (covering San Joaquin County) created a new "Green" sub-committee. At its formation meeting, the sub-committee named itself "Stocktonians for Ecological Prosperity."

Nationally, the Sierra Club is calling for a "Manhattan Project" (sub-committee chairman Stan Thomas prefers the term "Apollo Project") to dramatically reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions. The Sierra Club's ambitious goal is to reduce GHG Emissions by 80% below 1990 levels by 2050 and to reduce the use of coal and oil to zero.

Delta-Sierra's "Green" sub-committee has committed itself locally to play a significant role in Sierra Club's Apollo Project. The Green sub-committee has connected with Campaign for Common Ground (CCG) during the public hearings on the EIR for Stockton's 2035 General Plan. During the time for individual comments, chairman Stan Thomas offered the following comments to the Stockton Planning Commission:

Chairman Jones, members of the Planning Commission; Mr. Niblock, planners and consultants; members of the audience, Good Evening.

My name is Stanley Thomas, I reside within sight of the tower and sound of the bells of UOP.

This past fall, UOP president DeRosa interviewed Walter Cronkite in front of a packed house at the Faye Spanos Concert Hall. During the question and answer period, Cronkite told the audience that in his opinion, global warming was the greatest danger facing all of mankind. Our local Sierra-Delta Group of the Sierra club concurs. I am speaking this evening as the chairman of a newly-formed "Green" committee of that group. When Cronkite was the anchor of the CBS Evening News, he was known nationwide as "the most trusted man in America." I think we would all be wise to pay very close attention to what Walter thinks.

Bill McKibben, in the 2006 edition of his book *The End of Nature*, points out the U.S. alone now pours out nearly 15 percent more CO2 into the atmosphere

than it did when the book was first published in 1989. We Americans are fewer than 5% of the world's population, yet we produce an unconscionable 30.3% of the world's greenhouse gases. McKibben says, "we're not getting it. It is the contrast between the pace at which the physical world is changing and the pace at which human society is reacting that constitutes the key environmental fact of our time."

Global warming is here, it is now, it is bad, and it's going to get a lot worse. July last year [2006], California experienced a 12-day "heat storm" of triple-digit weather. Officially, 148 people died of the heat. (A recent study estimated that, in fact, more than three times that number died of the heat). More than a dozen of our neighbors right here in Stockton died of the heat (I have their names right here with me; I have a couple of the obituaries in hand). San Joaquin county's largest agricultural commodity is dairy and our local dairymen lost more than 1,000 valuable dairy cows. Carcass disposal presented a crisis and the dairymen had to obtain waivers from the state to dispose of the carcasses expeditiously. A study completed a few weeks after the heat wave estimated that San Joaquin county's agricultural losses were in the neighborhood of \$70 million.

How much worse the future will be depends in part upon all the people right here in this room—the planners and consultants, the Planning Commission members, and those activists and potential activists in the audience.

There are numerous ways to frame the issue before us. One way is to ask three questions: Where are we now? Where do we want to go? How do we get there?

Where are we now?:

Here in Stockton we have a sprawling, low-density urban area encroaching like a cancer on the richest agricultural land on the face of the Earth and destroying our community values and quality of life in the bargain. Our use of fossil fuels to heat, cool, and

light our buildings and to move our people and goods is worse than profligate. Our slowness to take conservation seriously and to develop non-fossil fuel energy with all deliberate speed is tragic. If we are paralyzed, if we behave as if we are impotent and don't act to break out of the status quo, our children and children's children will suffer like New Orleans' post-Katrina refugees. At the moment, this bumper sticker applies to us: "We are spending our children's inheritance."

But, as it now stands, the EIR for the 2035 General Plan appears to be completely oblivious to the reality of global warming/climate change.

Where do we want to go?:

Stockton's General Plan for 2035 needs to explicitly recognize the reality of global warming/climate change. It needs to demonstrate a firm commitment to meet or exceed the goal of the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement — signed by Mayor Chavez — of reducing GHG Emissions 7% below 1990 levels by 2012 and to meet or exceed Governor Schwarzenegger's goal in AB32 to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 25% below 1990 levels by 2020. I have a summary of the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement here with me.

In short, "we need to dramatically decrease our dependence upon fossil fuels by greatly increasing our energy efficiency and our use of renewable energy sources" (Sierra magazine, Jan/Feb '07). The aim is that simple.

How do we get there?:

A city's General Plan, crafted with intelligence and integrity, and implemented with all deliberate speed, is a powerful, powerful tool. Quite some time ago Mayor Chavez signed the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. So far, most Stocktonians don't even know this. From Stockton's officialdom we have some talk and, to date, not yet much action. City government needs to learn which American cities are on the cutting edge of climate protection.

Then, we can ask what the City of Stockton can do to emulate the best that's already taking place elsewhere?

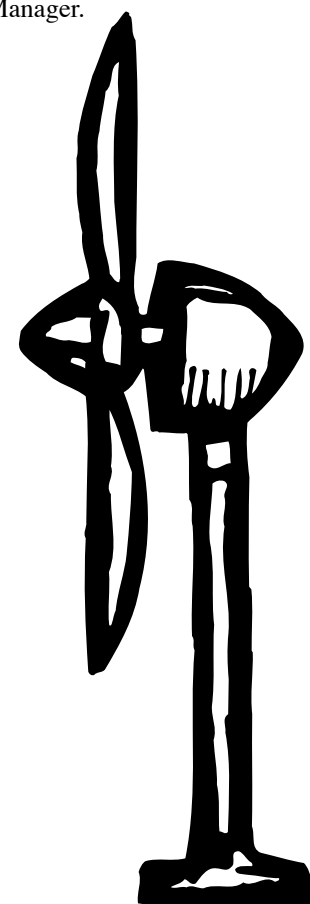
The city's planners and the Planning Commission would do well to read and digest the contents of "Our Changing Climate: Assessing the Risks to California," a summary report from the California Climate Change Center. Also, listen—really listen—to the Morada Area Association and their lawyer, William Yeates; to the Campaign for Common Ground; and to the Sierra Club's Eric Parfrey. In your minds, connect their comments with the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and with Governor Schwarzenegger's environmental legislation.

Then, for us Concerned Citizens. We need to bombard the Mayor and the City Manager with the question, "How do you plan to incorporate Stockton's attack on Greenhouse Gas Emissions into the General Plan 2035 and how fast?" Phone or e-mail The Record's David Siders (209/943-8580; dsiders@recordnet.com), asking him to share with the reading public the answers from the Mayor and the City Manager.

Food for thought

The following came to us from Full Belly Farm from friends who clipped it from their local paper, the Herald News, in South Devon England:

"Staff at the UK Headquarters of biotech giant Monsanto will be eating only non-genetically modified products on their lunch breaks. Foods containing genetically modified soy and corn are no longer available in the company cafeteria. Granada Food Services, which maintains the canteen, is said to be concerned about health risks. Monsanto's press department contends the action was not the result of a boycott initiated by the worried employees of the US multinational. Monsanto is one of the leading developers of corn and soy genetically modified organisms, or GMOs as they are known."



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Iran: no time for war

Joe Volk

The U.S. campaign to force Iran to halt uranium enrichment through threats and sanctions has produced no results and, arguably, has made things worse. After months of attempts to intimidate Iran into complying with U.S. demands, the United States is no closer to easing tensions and ending the stalemate with Iran over that country's nuclear program; U.S. allies in Europe have become more resistant to the U.S. approach; and Iranian leaders are backing away from earlier offers to agree to unconditional talks with the United States....

The continuing administration chorus about the possibility of U.S. military action through what seem to be weekly off-the-record briefings or public comments suggesting that "no option is off the table," including military action, increase Iran's threat perception—not its inclination to talk....

Adding fuel to this fire, administration officials in late August told major newspapers that the U.S. is planning to characterize Iran's Revolutionary Guard, an elite wing of the Iranian military, as a terrorist organization. The U.S. says the Revolutionary Guard is arming militias in Iraq and Afghanistan. This would be the first time a unit in the military of a sovereign nation has been placed on the list of terrorist organizations, and it would send a clear message to Iran that the U.S. is seriously considering military action to halt the Iranian nuclear program....

Congress has recently stepped up efforts to pressure Iran into compliance. Legislation imposing new, unilateral sanctions on Iran already is cosponsored by 324 representatives and 68 senators....

Election politics have led candidates from both parties to promote additional sanctions and articulate direct threats of military action. Presidential candidates who have said they would meet with the Iranians without setting preconditions for talks have been ridiculed by their opponents, just as some were ridiculed in 2002 and 2003 for cautioning against the "coercive diplomacy" that led to the Iraq war.

This hard-line approach is foolish, not only because it brings

to a halt any diplomatic momentum gained through the recent Baghdad talks between the U.S. and Iran, but also because it undermines progress that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and European governments have made in discussions with Iran. Iran recently offered to make more transparent both past nuclear energy research and current efforts to develop nuclear technology, and the UN Security Council has resisted U.S. pressure to enact new sanctions against Iran until after the IAEA releases its report on the Iranian nuclear program in September....

The consensus among U.S. allies in Europe and the Middle East is in favor of direct, face-to-face diplomatic talks with Iran. But the U.S. administration continues to rely on threats and coercion to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue despite the clear failure of that approach to end the current stalemate between our two governments. Like the decades long failed U.S. embargo on Cuba, the administration's strategy on Iran will actually unify Iran's national body politic and close its political space to opposition movements for political change....

The time has long passed for the U.S. to abandon all preconditions for open dialogue. Insistence on obtaining its own objectives before negotiations even start is just one version of the full spectrum domination strategy that has so damaged U.S. security and world image. The time has come to sit down with the Iranians to reach an agreement that is acceptable to both parties.

In May 2003 Tehran made a secret offer, facilitated by the Swiss, for a comprehensive deal that could answer all U.S. demands but one, the demand for the Islamic Republic of Iran to be replaced by another government. That U.S. demand is imperialist and unreasonable, but, worse, it actually props up the current regime in Iran. The U.S. did not just reject that proposal. This administration ignored it, and chastised the Swiss for even bringing the secret proposal to its attention. We cannot expect Iran to take that initiative again. The ball is in the U.S. court.

Our government should show good will toward Iran by publicly backing off its call for regime

change and by reciprocating Iran's 2003 offer. Even though four years have passed, that framework for a new U.S.-Iran relationship is still viable, if the U.S. wants a deal. The problem is that this administration—as in the case of Iraq—is in bed with expatriate Iranians who want a return to the monarchy. They don't want a deal with this regime; they want an end to this regime, and they want to use the powers of the U.S. to depose the current government of Iran. The president, the vice president, and many members of Congress have failed to learn one of the lessons of the Iraq war, namely, it's a pipe dream and won't work.

Congress can move the U.S. in the direction of open diplomacy with Iran with no strings attached. Instead of imposing additional unilateral sanctions, Congress should insist that the U.S. sit down with the Iranians and work with the international community to resolve the dispute. Congress could also send a message of good will to the Iranian government by passing legislation introduced by Sen. James Webb (S. 759) and Rep. Walter Jones (H.J. Res. 14) that would require the administration to seek congressional approval before attacking Iran.

War is not the answer to the U.S.-Iran Conflict, but peace between our two countries is possible through peaceful, non-military means. The Iranians do not need to be forced to the negotiating table by sanctions or threat of force. Since 2003, they've been begging to sit at the table with the U.S. to make a new deal. Four years is a long time to be snubbed, but Congress could resurrect that Iranian dead letter by breathing new life into U.S. diplomacy. Congress could save a lot of lives and national treasure by doing so. If they don't, and instead open the door for "Unspeakable Horror in the Middle East, Part II," the voters should know what to do. The voters should, in the words of Harry Truman, "give 'em hell" if they don't take this opportunity now.

Joe Volk is Executive Secretary of the Friends Committee on National Legislation.

Source: FCNL release 8/21/2007, FCNL, 245 Second St NE, Washington, DC 20002 800-630-1330 www.fcnl.org

A billion here, a billion there

"I add up to a Republican Senate and Republican House. You may end up with a different math but you are entitled to your math. I'm entitled to THE math."

—Karl Rove

Remember back in October of 2006 when Karl Rove claimed to possess THE math, a math that, as he saw it, predicted a Republican-led Congress in the following month's elections? As we say goodbye (and good riddance) to Karl Rove this month, it makes me wonder what other damage his math might have done?

Perhaps Rove's math is the reason that the U.S. budget deficit will likely rise from \$158 billion this year to \$244 billion next year, and is predicted to reach \$400 billion in 2011. Faulty math aside, the primary reason for this astounding deficit increase is the astounding level of spending on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. What else might Rove's math bring us?

With Congress back from their August recess, President Bush will soon be paying them a visit to ask for \$50 billion in additional funding for Iraq and Afghanistan—when he hasn't even started spending the \$147 billion already approved in a pending supplemental appropriations bill—that's nearly \$200 billion! And that's on top of the \$460 billion defense budget for fiscal year 2008.

Now, I like numbers—I was a math major in college. But even I can't wrap my head around what \$200 billion dollars a year buys these days.

Let's start by talking about what it could be buying us.

According to the National Priorities Project (NPP), Iraq war spending in fiscal year 2007 will total \$137.6 billion. Instead of spending that money on a tragic war and failed reconstruction efforts, we could have funded:

- * Health care for 58 million children or 30 million adults, or
- * Scholarships for 23 million college students, or
- * 2 million elementary school teachers, or
- * 1 million affordable housing units

And that's just with one year of war costs.

I live in Maryland, and according to NPP, Maryland taxpayers have paid \$2.7 billion for the war so far this year. For that chunk of change, we could have provided health care for nearly a million children, or built 14,000 public housing units. Want to check out the numbers for your state? The calculator is at: www.nationalpriorities.org.

How about some other ways we could spend taxpayers' hard-earned dollars - ways that actually make people's lives better? The Violence Against Women Act, signed by President Clinton in 1994, hasn't been fully funded for years - yet it would cost only an extra \$175 million to fully fund VAWA programs—less than one day in Iraq.

And then there's child care. The Child Care and Development Block Grant Program is the federal program that provides child care assistance to low-income women. The number of children served has been declining steadily, and \$720 million would offset years of neglect and under-funding. That's a lot of money, nearly a billion dollars, but it's less than we spend on Iraq in four days, or even fewer by some estimates!

Now, a billion here, a billion there, and pretty soon you're talking about real money. In fact, defense spending accounts for 59 percent of the budget for fiscal year 2008. Maybe you could argue the point without repressing a laugh if the money was (a) being spent wisely or (b) being used to achieve reasonable and measurable goals. But it's quite another when it's being squandered and, largely, given away to administration cronies.

Michael Brush, writing for MSN Money <http://www.now.org/>, recently examined the top 10 contractors making money in Iraq. It should come as no surprise that the company KBR, Inc., which was a subsidiary of Halliburton, topped the list. Between 2003 and 2006, the company raked in a over \$17 billion in revenues related to Iraq. Did they earn that money the old fashioned way, by delivering the goods on time and for a fair

price? Maybe some of it, but a fair bit of it resulted from fraud, testified Bunnatine "Bunny" Greenhouse, the highest-ranking civilian contracting officer in the Army Corps of Engineers, before a congressional committee in 2005. Greenhouse was demoted soon after, ostensibly for performance reasons. An employee of KBR, Julie McBride, testified that she knew officials to have double- and triple-padded the number of soldiers using their facilities. After voicing her concerns, McBride was kept in seclusion and specifically told not to speak to any member of the U.S. military.

More and more stories are coming to light, about whistleblowers being demoted (or worse) for speaking out about fraud and corruption among U.S. contractors in Iraq and yet the administration remains mum about their friends.

Finally, the media is taking note of these accounts of fraud and corruption. Perhaps the most detailed account of the money-wasting comes from, of all places, Rolling Stone magazine. Kudos to reporter Matt Taibbi for telling it like it is in irreverent style: "Operation Iraqi Freedom, it turns out, was never a war against Saddam Hussein's Iraq. It was an invasion of the federal budget, and no occupying force in history has ever been this efficient. George W. Bush's war in the Mesopotamian desert was an experiment of sorts, a crude first take at his vision of a fully privatized American government."

There's long been a stereotype that women are bad at math, but we can't hold a candle to Karl Rove's "special" math. It's time to stop the bleeding in more ways than one, and bring our troops home quickly and safely. Take a minute right now to urge Congress to vote for "No More Money, No More War."

<<http://www.now.org/congress/issues/alert/?alertid=10267531&type=CO>>

Source: *Below the Belt: A Biweekly Column* by NOW President Kim Gandy, 9/5/07 www.now.org

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Edwards goes after the "corporate Democrats"

Joshua Holland

Is this a turning point for his campaign?

Last week, John Edwards fired a broadside against corporate America and, more significantly, "corporate Democrats," the likes of which hasn't been heard from a viable candidate with national appeal in decades.

Edwards is en fuego right now, and if he keeps up the heat, his candidacy will either be widely embraced by the emerging progressive movement or utterly annihilated by an entrenched establishment that fears few things more than a telegenic populist with enough money to mount a credible campaign.

"It's time to end the game," Edwards told a crowd in Hanover, New Hampshire. "It's time to tell the big corporations and the lobbyists who have been running things for too long that their time is over." He exhorted Washington law-makers to "look the lobbyists in the eye and just say no."

"Real change starts with being honest—the system in Washington is rigged and our government is broken. It's rigged by greedy corporate powers to protect corporate profits. It's rigged by the very wealthy to ensure they become even wealthier. At the end of the day, it's rigged by all those who benefit from the established order of things. For them, more of the same means more money and more power. They'll do anything they can to keep things just the way they are - not for the country, but for themselves."

"[The system is] controlled by big corporations, the lobbyists they hire to protect their bottom line and the politicians who curry their favor and carry their water. And it's perpetuated by a media that too often fawns over the establishment, but fails to seriously cover the challenges we face or the solutions being proposed. This is the game of American politics and in this game, the interests of regular Americans don't stand a chance."

It's a structural argument, and Edwards didn't pull punches in calling out his fellow Democrats, saying: "We cannot replace a group

of corporate Republicans with a group of corporate Democrats, just swapping the Washington insiders of one party for the Washington insiders of the other." The rhetoric was a clear signal that Edwards is going to beat the drums of reform as a contrast to Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton in the primaries.

About a third of the speech focused on the trade deals that Bill Clinton championed, and his argument that those "wedded to the past" can't provide the answers was a barely-veiled rebuke of the Clintonian arm of the party, and the media's chosen "front-runner" for the nomination.

If Democrats are engaged in an existential struggle between the party's establishment and its grassroots, Edwards is obviously betting that the grassroots' passion and energy will trump the Machine Democrats message' apparatus - this was a speech that was not written by the usual coterie of Beltway consultants.

Taking power from the powerful

The most striking aspect of Edwards' speech was his implicit argument that class still exists. For years, both parties have obscured the divisions that are so prominent in modern American society, painting a picture of a country in which we're all part of an entrepreneurial class with more or less similar interests—a key ingredient in the false "center" to which politicians and Beltway pundits kow-tow. "Let me tell you one thing I have learned from my experience," Edwards said last week. "You cannot deal with them on their terms. You cannot play by their rules, sit at their table, or give them a seat at yours. They will not give up their power - you have to take it from them."

It was an explicit rebuke of Obama's "new politics"—Obama recently told the Washington Post that "the insurance and drug companies can have a seat at the table in our health-care debate; they just can't buy all the chairs." Obama's approach to "cleaning up Washington" is not bad, but ultimately tinkers around the edges of a corrupted legislative

system.

Edwards is not so conciliatory on the subject. "For more than 20 years, Democrats have talked about universal health care," he said. "And for more than 20 years, we've gotten nowhere, because lobbyists for the big insurance companies, drug companies and HMOs spent millions to block real reform."

Contrast that naked confrontation of corporate power with the tepid appeals to working Americans that were a trademark of John Kerry's 2004 campaign. In announcing his candidacy, Kerry offered a bit of demagoguery about CEOs—he segued from bashing Cheney and Halliburton—and boldly promised to end tax breaks "that help companies move American jobs overseas." Also in his plan for corporate accountability: "No more contracts for companies, no matter how well-connected they are, until they decide to do what's right."

Clinton leads in record support from lobbyist-fundraisers

With more than a year left until the 2008 election, presidential candidates already have signed up two-thirds as many lobbyist-fundraisers as they did for the entire 2004 campaign season.

According to a study Public Citizen released early September, candidates already have signed up 92 federal lobbyists, compared to the 136 lobbyists who raised money for 2004 candidates. And the candidates' army of lobbyist-fundraisers will likely grow because 70 percent of the 2004 lobbyist-fundraisers are still on the sidelines.

In-house, or salaried, lobbyists particularly appear to be holding back until front-runners emerge. While dozens of in-house trade association

and corporate lobbyists signed up as fundraisers—mostly for Bush—during the 2004 campaign, only four have signed up so far for the 2008 race, according to

Hillary Clinton's economic proposals track with the thinking popular among the ostensible "progressives" at the DLC and the Third Way - policies that give Americans the "opportunity" to save for retirement, a decidedly centrist approach to spiraling college costs and other familiar policies from the 1990s. She's not a fair trader nor a free trader, she says - she's for "smart trade," "pro-American" trade.

Edward's speech about the economy isn't the only time that he's strayed from the bounds of "respectable" discourse in Washington. In May, he said that the "war on terror" was a political "bumper sticker" that the administration used to "justify everything [Bush] does: the ongoing war in Iraq, Guantanamo, Abu Ghraib, spying on Americans, torture."

Edwards isn't the only candidate in the race making such bold statements, of course. Rep.

Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) has long spoken of economic issues in the kinds of terms Edwards used last week. But John Edwards was the vice presidential nominee on a presidential ticket that won 59 million votes and he's raised \$23 million in the current cycle (20 times what Kucinich has raised), and that means that corporate media is forced to cover him. So far, they've mocked him, written stories about his haircuts, pushed shadowy innuendo about his personal business dealings and suggested his focus on poverty is disingenuous or hypocritical, but they simply can't write him off as a member of the fringe. Unlike Kucinich, they can't ignore him.

John Edwards is becoming a very different kind of candidate, and his growing message of empowerment and attack on the corporate class may prove to be the most interesting story of campaign 2008.

Source: *Alternet* 8/26/07 <<http://www.alternet.org/story/60748/>>

available information. Those who have signed up are mainly from lobbying firms.

"It is stunning with so many serial fundraisers holding back that the number of 2008 lobbyists is already approaching 2004 levels," said Laura MacCleery, director of Public Citizen's Congress Watch division. "It's just another sign that the unhealthy, symbiotic relationship that binds politicians and lobbyists continues in force."

Republican John McCain and Democrat Hillary Clinton each have enlisted more than twice as many lobbyist-fundraisers as any candidate in their

respective parties, according to information available. Clinton's showing was not a surprise given that her two top competitors, Barack Obama and John Edwards, have policies of not accepting federal lobbyists' help, although a handful of their bundlers registered

as lobbyists in years past.

Public Citizen's study found that 10 of the bundler-lobbyists are former members of Congress, including Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas, a McCain supporter; Rep. Bob Livingston of Louisiana, a Fred Thompson supporter; and Rep. and Gov. James J. Blanchard (D-Mich.), a Clinton supporter.

Source: *Public Citizen* release 9/6/07, www.citizen.org/

Shameless
Self-Promotion
We're doing great
work! Contribute to
PJN.



Sawznhammers

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

The dead have names

John Morearty

Stockton, Labor Day weekend, 2007—The "Stockton Eight for Peace" recited the litany of deaths each noon, this scorching week.

"Sergeant Patrick McCaffrey of Tracy, killed June 22 2004; Naim Rahim Yacoubi, 37 year old father, fishmonger killed by suicide bomber near the Baghdad airport January 30 2005; Private First Class Victor Fontanilla of Stockton, killed May 17 2007; Majbal Adnan Latif al-Alawi, 39 year old political party member, probably tortured to death in Baghdad February 13 2005."

Diesel buses, trucks, fire engines and Humvees rocketed past, echoing under the stucco portico where we stood. We read names without ceasing every day from 11 to 1, on the sidewalk by Congressman Dennis Cardoza's office in the old Stockton Hotel along Weber, across from Hunter Square fountain and the courthouse where justice holds up her scales.

Cardoza's office person, Ellen Powell, gave us bottles of cold water, and gave us our challenge: a copy of Cardoza's statement: "I ... support ... the responsible redeployment of U.S. troops within 120 days and complete redeployment by April 1, 2008. In addition, troops could remain in Iraq for the limited purposes of fighting terrorism or to train Iraqi forces."

No, we said, no more. No more killing our sisters and brothers for empire and oil, basta ya! We walked back and forth with homemade signs: "Cardoza: ALL" and "ALL! troops home NOW"; "No more warmongering," and a big black "Oil," whose O was a grinning face, the letters dripping blood.

And still they came:

"From Ione California, Private first class Jay-D Ornsby-Adkins, killed April 28 2007; Sheik Saad Kamil, Shiite cleric, killed by gunfire as he arrived at the Kaldemain Mosque in Baghdad, March 4 2005; from Opelika Alabama, Specialist Stephen D. "Dusty" Hiller, killed April 4 2004; Dhari Ali al-Fayadh, an 87 year old father and National Assembly member, killed by suicide car bomb in Rashidiya, northern Baghdad, June 28 2005; from Lathrop California, 1st Lieutenant Michael W. Vega, killed March 20 2004; Ulla Tahir, a nine year old girl, killed by airstrikes and gunfire, Karabila near Qaim, June 17, 2005...."

A young man with soft hands sauntered by: "I'm afraid I can't agree with you." A Vietnam vet confronted me: "Yeah, we had those Commies beat, if only the protesters back home hadn't made us stop." A bright-eyed brown-skinned little old lady said, "Thank you for what you're doing." Another, Marilu, joined our vigil:

"I'm Stella Lopez's sister, she just died and I'm doing this in honor of her." Elegant women office workers nodded and smiled. An enthusiastic young Black guy took our leaflet, which showed red blood dripping from the stripes of the American flag. A bus driver beeped thumbs up. Three worker dudes in a big white SUV roared by, honking shouting and shaking their fists—were they with us or against?—till a minute later they rounded the corner again, and the guy at the window shook his fist and yelled above a hairy armpit "Yeah! out of Iraq!"

The litany went on, little towns in America where the jobs have fled, and young men believe in serving their country: Hanford California, Winkelman Arizona, Evening Shade Arkansas, Wheat Ridge Colorado, Rocky Face Georgia.

"From Willows California, Specialist Thai Vue, killed June 18, 2004; Mina, Sabbad and Sajaa Haitham, eight ten and twelve years old respectively, killed by mortars in Baghdad on June 1, 2005; from Manteca California, Corporal Charles O. Palmer II, killed May 5, 2007; two farmers, cousins of Latif al Mejwal, found blindfolded, tied, tortured and shot in the head near Baghdad, May 5 2005; from Stockton California, Specialist Mark R.C. Caguioa, killed May 24, 2007; Mohammed and Hussein Ali, two brothers, both musicians at a wedding, killed by air strikes at Makr al-Deeb, May 19, 2004...."

As the week and the names went on and on, I remembered litanies in the church where I grew up; we would call out names of the faithful dead, and respond, "pray for us." I began saying silently, "Patrick McCaffrey, pray for us; Naim Rahim Yacoubi, pray for us; Dusty Hiller, Ulla Tahir, Charles Palmer, Mina Sabbad and Sajaa, pray for us...." In the Latin American church they say



A war we cannot see

I'm 24, and I had a few thoughts on wars in general. My observations:

There has been so much strength drawn from floods of despair, tragedy and trauma. The ending paradox of desolation in the hearts of men. But what do we have when there is only light? Denial. And when there is only darkness? Despair.

Heroism and memory of wars entered and withstood say more to the minds of people than our monthly pay checks. Long-suffering people are becoming extinct and now the "worst evils" are naïve comforts that hasten us to a fire that hands us a reflection that poses as a destination. We are being led closer and closer to a paralyzed and disabled state of disaster and distress that will "swell your minds and amaze your souls." Who are a people that cannot put on armor to fight? Those who cannot see the enemy coming. We are in a war we cannot see. We are comforted by an evil that is masked in the things we believe to be real; they have no permanence.

Our challenges have been taken away and replaced by endless choices. We are manufactured feeble and weak, suckling. Our defenses taken away, we are being fed to the fire. Content and dumbfounded.

My generation yearns for heroes! Where are they?

So keep fighting the good fight. You are not alone in this.

God bless.

Handwritten letter given to the Stockton Eight for Peace, who were reading the names of the Iraq war dead in front of Congressman Dennis Cardoza's office, August 27-31 2007, written by M.A. Rodriguez

in litanies, "presente!" Those who are gone are present with us—if we keep their memory fresh.

Two passersby gave us words to remember. A 24-year old woman named M.A. Rodriguez wrote us a letter, by hand (see sidebar); she ended, "So keep fighting the good fight. You are not alone in this. God bless."

And Benny Almarez, about forty, looked up at the statue of Lady Justice in front of the courthouse. "They say justice is blind. The question I ask is, Will Justice lift her scarf?"

The second week, we read the names in front of Congressman Jerry McNerney's office, to encourage him in his pledge to bring all the troops home and close all the permanent bases. A man in his forties wearing camouflage fatigues and cap strode up and looked us in the face. Keen blue eyes. Now what?

"Thank you. I served alongside some of those guys in Iraq in 2004 and 2005. This war is stupid, and you can quote me. I'm from Fresno, a first sergeant in the California National Guard."

Statistics for U.S. war dead

Statistics for "confirmed" Iraqi dead from <http://www.iraqbodycount.org/>, a website which lists about 75,000 names; each name has been confirmed from at least two different sources. The total of Iraq dead is at least ten times as many.

On Sept. 1, Reuters reported that "civilian deaths from violence in Iraq rose in August, with 1,773 people killed, government data showed on Saturday, just days before the US Congress gets a slew of reports on President George W. Bush's war strategy. The civilian death toll was up seven percent from 1,653 people killed in July, according to figures from various ministries."

Source: <http://icasualties.org>.

"Awesome reading... a microcosm of the peace movement in the valley these 40 years"

—Dr. Tom Ambrogi, former regional director,
American Friends Service Committee

"A soulful reminder of the importance of thinking globally and acting locally"

—Prof. Peter Phillips, Director of Project Censored,
Sonoma State U

"Written with wicked Irish wit and the patience of a Sanskrit scholar"

—Donna K. Keuck, Ph.D.

Walking to Omega: Tales of a Peacenik Carpenter
memoirs by John Morearty

available at www.johnmorearty.com,
or from the author 209-464-3326, john@morearty.com

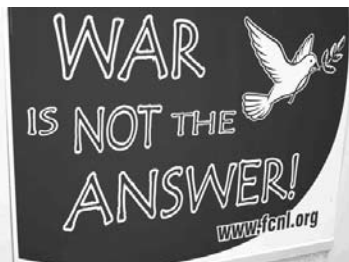
READINGS AND BOOK-SIGNINGS:
Barnes and Noble Weberstown, Thurs. Sept. 27, 7 PM
Cesar Chavez Public Library, Wed. Oct. 3, 6 PM

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



Beautiful PJN mugs!

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



Film review

Eleventh Hour

Reviewed by John Morearty

It is one minute to midnight; human time runs very short. So say 50-some earth scientists and sages—Stephen Hawking, Paul Hawken, former CIA head James Woolsey, Vandana Shiva—in Leonardo di Caprio's scary and radiant new documentary Eleventh Hour. "Previous major transformations of society took thirty or 40 years," says a voice as we see Martin Luther King marching, "but we don't have thirty or forty years." Ice caps are melting, a million poisonous gallons pour into waters every day, forests are falling, deserts expanding, cropland being poisoned. A "convergence of crises" threatens human life as we know it. We are running on ancient sunlight—coal, oil—and burning them chokes our lungs and cooks the planet.

"Of course," rumbles a native American elder, "the earth will survive and grow green again, and the rivers run clear. But human beings?"

The good news is, we have an astonishing opportunity to re-create life sanely and afresh.

Lifelong learning

Stockton Institute for Continued Learning (SICL) is a member-run organization for older adults through a partnership between San Joaquin Delta College and adults in our community. Fall semester classes include Financial Planning, Science, Digital Photography, Rejuvenating With Mandalas, Printmaking, Theatre Art, Brain Health, Speech, Music History, Sewing Studio, Singing for Fun, and Art and Artists (multi Media). Fall registration was held in August, but you may join anytime. Info: 478-7337, www.deltacollege.edu/dept/sicl.

Wind power, solar electricity and hot water, rooftop and building-side gardens, lovely ingenious green homes and public buildings, hybrid and hydrogen cars, hybrid diesel trains that cut pollution by 85%, bicycle cities, local food production in community gardens and farmers' markets, solar cookers, electricity from the tides, a dancehall floating on generators powered by leaping dancers—the future is limited only by imagination, and our will to act. As Mikhail Gorbachev says, "we must learn new ways of thinking."

In the emergency of World War II, the sluggish U.S. consumer economy was transformed. In three and half years, factories that once built Lincolns and Packards produced enough jeeps, tanks, armored carriers and airplanes to defeat imperial Japan, fascist Italy and Nazi Germany. Roosevelt's leadership

in the White House summoned our parents and grandparents to action, and they said Yes, this is truly an emergency. We Will Act.

"If humankind meets this planetary challenge," says the film, "future generations will say of us, This was their finest hour."

Two bits of wisdom not in the film. From Ralph Nader: "We have to stop making excuses for ourselves."

And from Thich Nhat Hanh: "If we are not united in peace, and if we do not practice mindful consumption, we cannot save our planet."

My wife and I saw this crucial and inspiring film at the Crest in Sacramento. To urge that it be shown in Stockton, go to <http://fandango.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/fandango.cfg/php/enduser/ask.php>, or call 866-857-5191.

Controversy not banned at public library, B&N

Longtime local peace activist John Morearty will talk about, read from and sign copies of his newly published memoirs *Walking to Omega: Tales of a Peacenik Carpenter* at two different events:

Barnes and Noble in Weberstown Mall, Thursday Sept. 27, 7 PM.

Cesar Chavez downtown library, Hazelton Room, as a feature of "Banned Book Week": Wednesday October 3, 6 PM.

Both events are free and open to the public.

The first chapter of *Walking to Omega* is available at www.johnmorearty.com.

Volunteers urgently needed!

...to distribute this paper to stores, offices etc. Routes are all set up, they'll be expecting you. Takes about an hour and a half a month, unless you like to stop and chat. Must have car. Call route coordinator John Morearty, 464-3326.

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October 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.

Sept 4 - 29

Open Studio Tour Artists' work on display including Henry Paine photography. M-F 10-5, Sat 11-3 Tidewater Gallery, 223 E. Weber Ave, Stockton. 463-4033

Oct 4 - Nov 1

Monica Van den Dool art show: Specters - Narrative Ceramic Tableaux. T 11-4, W-Th 11-6:30, F 11-1. LH Horton Jr Gallery, Shima Center, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. 954-5507

Sept 5 - 30

Best Little Whorehouse in Texas—Stockton Civic Theatre. 7:30 pm Thu; 8 pm Fri/Sat; 2:30 pm Sun. Stockton Civic Theatre, 2312 Rose Marie Ln. \$22 adult, \$18 senior, \$15 student, \$12 and under. 473-2424.

Mon - Wed, Sept 17 - 26

Young Rembrandts drawing program for children, Chavez Central and other county libraries. Ages 5-12. Call for times, location and to register 1-866-805-7323.

Fri, Sept 21

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

Sat, Sept 22

Kohl School fundraising dinner, 5:30 pm. Dinner and dance. Italian Athletic Club, Stockton. \$40. Advance tickets 933-7235.

Mon, Sept 24

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

Tue, Sept. 25

Candlelight vigil for peace, Annunciation Cathedral, N. Lincoln/Rose St. in Stockton, 7 PM sharp. "We pray to become people of peace, so that wars will end." All are welcome; bring candle and friend. 462-3340.

Thur, Sept. 27

John Morearty talks about and signs memoirs (p 18). Barnes and Noble Weberstown, 7 PM. Free. 464-3326. See article.

Sat, Sept 29

Van Buskirk community center grand opening. 10 am - 4 pm. 937-7358.

Sounds Great for Kids! at the Haggin Museum, 2-3 pm. Demos of instruments and performances by the Stockton

Symphony Brass ensemble. Free with Haggin admission. Haggin Museum, 1201 N Pershing Ave, Stockton. \$5/\$2.50. 940-6300.

Wed Oct 3

John Morearty talks about, reads and signs memoirs (p 18). Downtown Stockton Public Library, 6 PM. Free. 464-3326.

Thur, Oct 4

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

Yosemite Sound Series celebrates one year of experimental & improv music in Stockton. 8 pm. Blackwater Cafe, 914 N Yosemite. \$3, 943-6938.

Sun, Oct 7

Stockton Symphony Alliance presents Matinee Musicale. "All Jazzed Up", Food, music Chavez HS Titan Jaz Band, art by William Sarmiento. Amorosa Vineyards, 7889 E. Harney Ln, Lodi. 4-7 pm. \$40. 948-4778.

Black Country: An evening of story telling and music (blues/jazz), Valley Brewing Co, 157 W Adams, Stockton. \$10 donation. 470-5554 for time.

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

Tues, Oct 9

Delta Sierra Club and Audubon joint meeting, topic: Butterflies, 7 pm. Central United Methodist Church Fireside Room, 3700 Pacific Ave, Stockton. 7 pm program with social time following. All welcome.

Thu, Oct 11

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

Oct 11 - 14

The Man Who Came to Dinner comedy, presented by St. Mary's HS. 7:00 pm Thu; 8 pm Fri/Sat; 2:00 pm Sun. Stockton Civic Theatre, 2312 Rose Marie Ln, Stockton \$12 adult/\$8 students, children and seniors. 957-3340 x 250.

Oct 12 - 21

Scapino!, play directed by Harvey Jordan. Fri/Sat/Thur 8 pm, Sun 2pm. Studio Theatre, Locke Center, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave. \$12 adult, \$10 student, seniors. 954-5110.

Sat, Oct 13

Cheadle Center, s Community Health Fair & Bi-National Health Day, YMCA's Cheadle Center, 1304 S. San Joaquin St, Stockton. The day will be

filled with great community resources, activities and health screenings. Free T-Shirt to the first 200. 467-2446

Tue, Oct 16

SJ Delta College Festival of Bands, featuring the Delta College Symphonic Band. 7:30 pm. Atherton Auditorium, Locke Center, SJ Delta College, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$8 adult, \$5 student/senior. 954-5110.

Fri, Oct 19

Stockton Arts Commission Arts Awards Celebration, reception 6:30, awards 8 pm. Music, art and food will be plentiful. Bob Hope/Fox Theater downtown Stockton. \$25/\$35 adults, \$15 students. 337-7488.

Drinking Liberally - Promoting Democracy One Pint at a Time. An informal inclusive progressive social group—bring democratic discourse to

your local democratic space. Stockton Grand Hotel, 2323 Grand Canal Blvd, Stockton. Free to attend, support event host. 7 pm. 351-3397.

Sat, Oct 20

Audubon Experience exhibit and reception; keynote by Pulitzer author Richard Rhodes. 1 pm. Chavez Central Library, 605 N El Dorado St, Stockton. Free. 937-8221

Thursdays

Peace and social justice demonstration, many issues (p 18). Edge of Delta campus along Pacific Avenue just north of Yokuts. Bring flags, signs, banners. 5-6:30 every Thursday.

Fridays

Farmers market, Hunter Square & E Main. 9 am-2 pm. 464-5246

First Sundays

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

First Thursdays

Experimental & improv music, Blackwater Cafe, 914 N Yosemite, Stockton. 943-6938.

Third Thursdays

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

Fourth Saturdays

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

Pacific Theatre University of the Pacific

Fall 2007

FILM SCHEDULE



Blades of Glory — Fri. & Sat., Aug. 31, Sept 1



Zodiac — Fri. & Sat., Sept 7, 8



Tom Jones (Classic) — Thurs., Sept 13



300 — Fri. & Sat., Sept 14, 15



Duck Season (Spanish) — Thurs., Sept 20



Reign Over Me — Fri. & Sat., Sept 21, 22



Amen. (French) — Thurs., Sept 27



Days of Glory — Fri. & Sat., Sept 28, 29



Get Real — Wed., Oct 10



Once — Thurs., Fri., & Sat., Oct 11, 12, 13



Waitress — Thurs., Fri., & Sat., Oct 18, 19, 20



Throne of Blood (Japanese) — Thurs., Oct 25



The Descent — Fri., Oct 26



Rocky Horror Picture Show — Fri., Oct 26 (11:00pm)



Metropolis (Japanese anime) — Sat., Oct 27



Smoke Signals (Native American) — Thurs., Nov 1



Breach — Fri., & Sat., Nov 2, 3



Pirates of the Caribbean - At World's End — Fri. & Sat., Nov 9, 10



Painted Fire (South Korea) — Thurs., Nov 15



Knocked Up — Fri. & Sat., Nov 16, 17



Starter for 10 — Fri., & Sat., Nov 30, Dec 1



Shakespeare Behind Bars (Documentary) — Thurs., Dec 6



Tokyo Godfathers (Japanese Anime) — Fri. & Sat., Dec 7, 8



Spider-Man 3 — Fri. & Sat., Dec 14, 15

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

Pacific Students: FREE
Pacific Staff, Faculty, Alumni: \$3.00
General Admission: \$5.00

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Full page.....	\$425

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 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

SJTV: Stockton, Lodi and Manteca cable channel 26

EDUCATION • ENVIRONMENT • POLITICS • CULTURE

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

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

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

Seeds schedule

Sat. Oct 6th 9:00-11:00 a.m. Peace and Justice Center 231 Bedford Rd.

Presentation of the Seeds of Peace social activist academy. Jim Walsh will present the proposal up to date with discussion to follow. Educators and social service professionals welcome. Please RSVP 209-981-0544

Sat. Oct. 13th 9:00-11:00 a.m. Peace and Justice Center 231 Bedford Rd.

Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil Discussion to follow led by Jim Walsh Please RSVP 209-981-0544 Educators and social service professionals welcome. Part of the Seeds of Peace programs.

Sat. Oct. 20th 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. Peace and Justice Center 231 Bedford Rd.

Freedom Writers—Film with discussion to follow led by Jim Walsh. Educators and social service professionals welcome. Part of the Seeds of Peace programs. Please RSVP 209-981-0544

Sat. Oct. 27th 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Peace and Justice Center 231 Bedford Rd.

A Force More Powerful - 6 part video series on Non-violent movements throughout history. With discussion led by Jim Walsh. Educators and social service professionals welcome. Part of the Seeds of Peace programs. Please RSVP 209-981-0544

Weekly Iraq peace demonstrations return

Thursday afternoon peace demonstrations are back!

On the grassy lawn just north of the bus stop at Yokuts, from 5 to 6:30 every single Thursday. The "Stockton Eight for Peace," fired up after reading names of the Iraq war dead at Congressmen Dennis Cardoza's and Jerry McNerney's offices for two weeks, are spearheading the work. Bring flags, banners, and signs for peace and social justice issues. For info call Carol Holman, 478-3733; Suzy Arnett, 478-4191; Barry Reingold, 951-6691; or Harold Bell, 333-2353. Note: Delta police DO enforce parking regulations!

Become a PEACE PAL!

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

Monthly Giving Enrollment Form

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Yes, I accept your invitation to become a charter member of Peace Pals.

Here is my monthly pledge contribution of:

\$10 \$15 \$20 \$25 \$(Other) _____

I prefer to donate by one of the following methods:

U.S. mail; please send me envelopes
 Online donation through PJN website: www.pjnsjc.org (click on donation button)

Automatic Bank Transfer

I've enclosed a check for my first contribution. Arrangements will be made by me with my bank for future pledges.

Mail checks to: Peace and Justice Network, P.O. Box 4123, Stockton CA 95204

The Peace and Justice Network is a 501(c)3 non-profit educational corporation. Contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

connections

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